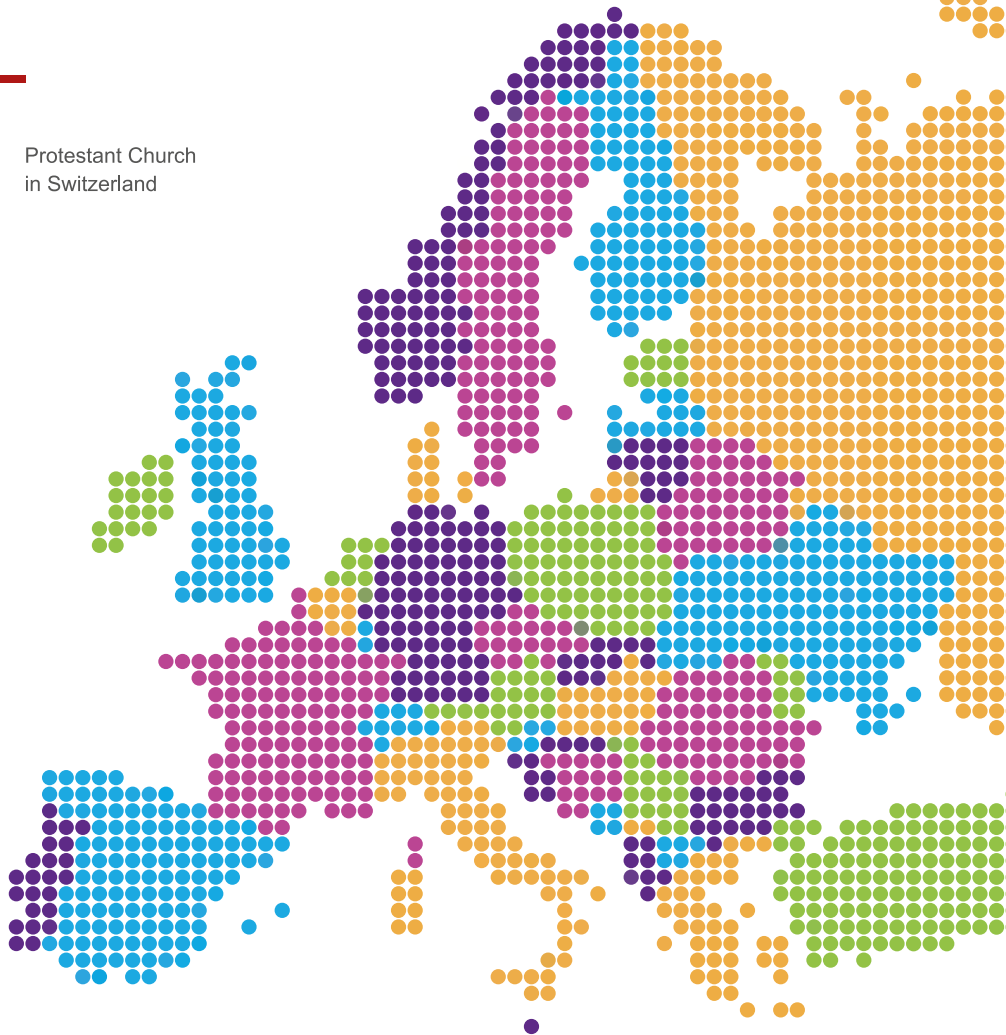




Protestant Church
in Switzerland



“Seek the welfare of the city”

(Jer. 29:7)

How can we work together in Europe? The ethical consequences of “reconciled diversity”

Jubilee conference of the Protestant Church in Switzerland to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Leuenberg Concord

3–5 November 2023, Bern



50 Years Leuenberg Agreement

Program

The CPCE's ecclesiological self-understanding as having "unity in reconciled diversity" has been strongly challenged by the political realities and developments faced by Europe today. From a point of view rooted in the Reformation, the Protestant churches cannot be content with an internal "reconciliation" within the communion of churches that does not correspond with broader politics of reconciliation as well. A large degree of disagreement prevails concerning political and ethical orientations and standards in the churches' statements and actions.

The key issues to be addressed at the conference are to be: How much plurality can the CPCE endure and how much commitment does the CPCE require in order to carry out its sociopolitical mission in Europe? What impact has increasing nationalism and conservatism in various European countries had on the values of CPCE member churches? What unifying theological-ethical potential lies in the understanding of the churches of the Reformation?



Participants

Rev. Rita Famos

President of the Protestant Church in Switzerland

Dr Sándor Fazakas

Professor for Social Ethics at the Reformed Theological University of Debrecen

Rev. Dr Mario Fischer

General Secretary of the Communion of Protestant Churches in Europe (CPCE), Vienna

Nik Gugger

National Councilor, member of the Swiss delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, Strasbourg

Rev. Dr Martin Hirzel

Director External Relations, Protestant Church in Switzerland

Dr Dieter Kraus

Référendaire at the Court of Justice of the European Union, Editor of the Swiss Yearbook of Church Law, Luxembourg

Rev. Dr h.c. Annette Kurschus

President of the Council of the Evangelical Church in Germany (EKD) and Praeses of the Evangelical Church of Westphalia

Dr Frank Mathwig

Titular professor for Systematic Theology & Ethics, University of Bern, Theology and Ethics Officer, Protestant Church in Switzerland

Rev. Dr Elisabeth Parmentier

Professor for Practical Theology, University of Geneva

Dr Miriam Rose

Professor for Systematic Theology, Friedrich Schiller University of Jena, Presidium Member of the Communion of Protestant Churches in Europe (CPCE)

Dr Christine Schliesser

Director of Studies at the Ecumenical Center of Faith and Society of Fribourg University and Senior Lecturer for Systematic Theology and Ethics at the Zurich University

Members of the CPCE Southeastern Europe Group

Friday

3 November 2023

5:30 pm **Welcome address and Opening of the conference**
Rita Famos

5:45–7:45 pm **Introduction**
Mario Fischer

The debate on European values with reference to Switzerland

Keynote: Dieter Kraus

Workshops on the conference theme | Break

8:00 pm Cocktail reception

Saturday

4 November 2023

Reconciled Diversity

9:00 am Prayer service: “Seek the welfare of the city”
(Jer. 29:7)

9.30–12:30 am **What unifying ethical potential lies in the understanding of the churches of the Reformation?**

Keynote: Christine Schliesser

“I was a stranger and you welcomed me” – The ethico-political discussion on migration issues

Keynote: Annette Kurschus

Discussion | Break

12:30 pm Buffet lunch

Conservatism and nationalism in Europe

2:00–7:00 pm **How does the increasing nationalism or conservatism shape the values of the CPCE member churches?**

Keynote: Sandor Fazakas

Response: Frank Mathwig

Workshops on the key topics of the day | Break

Sunday

5 November 2023

Plurality and commitment

9:00–12:00 am **How much plurality can the CPCE endure and how much commitment does the CPCE require to carry out its sociopolitical mission in Europe?**

Keynote: Elisabeth Parmentier

Panel discussion with members of the CPCE Regional Groups

Moderation: Christine Schliesser

12:00 pm **Final discussion und collection of conference results with a view to the 2024 CPCE General Assembly in Sibiu, Romania**

12:30 pm Buffet lunch

3:00 pm **Worship service at the Bern Minster**

Opening of the PCS Autumn Synod

Sermon: Rita Famos und Miriam Rose

Greetings: Nik Gugger

5:00 pm **End**

Conference languages

German and English (simultaneous interpreting not provided)

Costs

Participation in the event is free of charge. A voluntary contribution is requested to defray catering costs.

Event location

Kirchgemeindehaus Johannes, Wylstrasse 5, 3014 Bern, Switzerland

[Link to site](#)

Public transport

From Bern train station tram 9 (Wankdorf train station) or bus 10 (Ostermundigen) to Viktoriaplatz, bus 20 (Wankdorf train station) to Lorraine

Accommodations

The Bern Convention Office has reserved rooms for participants at different hotels within the city of Bern. The rooms can be booked using this [link](#) for the duration of the convention as well as for the duration of the Autumn Synod. Accommodations are at the participants' own expense.

Registration

Please register via e-mail or telephone **by 15 October 2023:**

Protestant Church in Switzerland, Marion Wittine, Administrative Assistant to the Director External Relations, marion.wittine@evref.ch, P +41 31 370 25 42

Contact and information

Protestant Church in Switzerland, Elio Jaillet, Theology and Ethics Officer, elio.jaillet@evref.ch, P +41 31 370 25 64

Further information is available at: www.evref.ch/CPCE_50