



**INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF CHRISTIANS AND JEWS (ICCJ)
INTERNATIONALER RAT DER CHRISTEN UND JUDEN**

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE – BONN 2017

BILINGUAL ENGLISH - GERMAN

July, 2 - 5, 2017

Reforming, Rereading, Renewing:

Martin Luther and 500 Years of Tradition and Reform in Judaism and Christianity

Reformieren, interpretieren, revidieren:

Martin Luther und 500 Jahre Tradition und Reform in Judentum und Christentum

IN COOPERATION WITH

**Deutscher Koordinierungsrat der Gesellschaften für christl.-jüd. Zusammenarbeit (DKR)
Evangelische Kirche im Rheinland (EKiR)**

CONFERENCE THEME

The year 2017 is marked by "500 years of Protestant Reformation" in Germany. Based on an intense study of biblical texts, Martin Luther developed a new approach to the central meaning of these texts: the critical examination of one's own religious awareness combined with the willingness to repent and renew. This biblical impulse started well before Luther and has continued in the 500 years since, inspiring at different times reformist ferment in both Christianity and Judaism. Only very recently has this impetus grown to include a long overdue renewal in the relations of the Christian Churches to Judaism. Here the first European Reformers were blind to their own sometimes violent anti-Judaism. Today the rediscovery of the "other" in the Jewish-Christian relationship also leads to a new, enriching reading of biblical texts in Jewish-Christian conversation through the perception of the religious value of the traditions of the Jewish or Christian other.

Today all religions are challenged to reinterpret their traditions for a diverse global context. They thereby experience a constructive tension between time-proven traditions and the need to reform. The history of the Protestant Reformation, other Christian and Jewish

reformations and renewals, and the history of religions in general demonstrate time and time again how reforms themselves can become traditions and how tradition has passed on the impulse to new reforms.

We are happy to invite you to learn and discuss with colleagues, friends and other conference participants from around the globe the questions and insights related to “reforming, rereading and renewing” and to examine the history and impact of reforms and reform movements in Judaism and Christianity and the complex relationship between tradition and reform in Jewish and Christian denominations.

At the first conference day (main theme: "Reforming") we will explore “Tradition and Reform” in both religions, Christianity and Judaism. But we will also consider non-theological factors in society and politics that may encourage and influence religious reform movements in a given time.

The second day (main theme: "Rereading") will focus on Liturgy and Prayer. How have the religious services been effected by reform and tradition?

At the third day (main theme: "Renewing") we will look to the future. Where do we stand within our respective faith traditions? What seems to be pressing for a change? What is still convincing and leading the way within the traditions we belong to? Where do we feel the need to change, to renew the given situation – especially when looking at the growing religious pluralism in our societies?

The panel discussions of each conference day will be accompanied by workshop sessions that partly take up the main themes of the day but will also offer a variety of current topics and trends in Jewish-Christian relations.

Come and share with us these questions within the 2017 Reformation-Jubilee year in Germany!

In addition to plenary sessions and smaller workshops we will have the wonderful opportunity to meet the “other” – Christians, Jews and also Muslims – from various countries over lunch and on trips as well as in sharing fellowship, music and meditative moments.

And all this in the city of Bonn located so wonderfully at the banks of the famous romantic Rhine River.

Liliane Apotheker

ICCJ

Friedhelm Pieper

DKR

Barbara Rudolph

EKiR