



**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)**

INTRODUCTION TO THE 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.

Learning to see through each other's eyes is a valuable skill in our world of religious and cultural pluralism, and widens the circle of dialogue to include Muslims and the followers of other religions.

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.

The ICCJ conference in Germany 2017 will raise the following related questions:

What discoveries do we make in the shared interreligious re-reading of our Holy texts?

What values can be shared and treasured together even though we come from different religious communities in the service of a world that sometimes threatens to fall apart?

What reforms do we recognize as currently needed in our own religious communities, especially in light of current threats to our world?

For further information please visit ICCJ's website: www.iccj.org

Or register for the ICCJ-newsletter to receive new information and updates promptly by mail:

<http://www.iccj.org/Newsletter-Registration.4585.0.html>

The online-registration for participants in the 2017 ICCJ-conference will open mid-February 2017.