

Summer Academy 2026, June 14 to 17

Program

Sunday, June 14

18:00

Interreligious & International Prayer for Peace

With: Rabbi Andreas Nachama, Imam Kadir Sanci, Bishop Christian Stäblein

Music: Albrecht Gündel vom Hofe and Assaf Levitin

Location: Chapel of Reconciliation, Bernauer Straße

Reception follows

Monday, June 15

Theme: Christian Identity and Our Social Mission Today

09:30 – Welcome and Morning Devotion

10:00 – **Keynote Lecture:** *Christian Identity and Our Social Mission Today*

Torsten Meireis, Professor, Humboldt University Berlin

10:30 – **Panel Discussion:** *Christian Identity and Society*

Carrie Call (USA), Torsten Meireis (Germany), Bishop Zwanini A. Shabalala (Eswatini)

Moderator: Karsten Wolkenhauer

12:00 – Midday Prayer

14:00 – **Workshops**

1. Faith and Social Mission – N.N.
2. Challenged Identities: Christian in Muslim Society / Muslim in Christian Society – Saher Youssef (Egypt) & Kübra Dalkilic (Germany)
3. Identity, Politics, and Religion in the USA – Jes Kast (USA)
4. *“I Was a Stranger and You Did Not Invite Me In”* – Josephine Furian & Elizabeth Ngari (Germany)
5. Gospel and Prosperity: How the Good News Shapes Our Identity – Gerhardus Bock (South Africa)
6. The Big Tent Approach – Carrie Call (USA)

16:30 – **Interfaith Panel:** *Populism & Right-Wing Extremism*

Gionathan Lo Mascolo, Andreas Nachama, Lydia Nofal, Armina Omerika (Germany)

Tuesday, June 16

Theme: Overcoming Polarization

09:30 – Bible Sharing / Scriptural Reasoning

10:30 – **Keynote Lecture & Q&A:** *Churches Against Populism*

Anne Gidion & Iman Reiman (Germany)

12:30 – Midday Prayer

13:30 – **Workshops**

1. Big Arguments in Bible & Quran – Ender Cetin, Andreas Nachama (Germany), Randall Zachman (USA)
2. A Bumpy Road: Good and Less Good Experiences with the Truth and Reconciliation Process in South Africa – Gerhardus Bock (South Africa)
3. From Enemies in War to Partners: The Churches' Contribution to Overcoming Polarization Between Germans and Poles – Grzegorz Giemza (Poland)
4. Active Reconciliation: The Peace Work of Parents Circle and Women Wage Peace in Israel-Palestine – Vered Berman and Jana Kaiser (Germany)
5. Resources of Religions – Tanja Berg (Germany)
6. Dealing with Right-Wing Populism – Gionathan Lo Mascolo (Germany)

15:30 – **Workshops continuing**

17:00 – Prayer and Closing of the Day

Wednesday, June 17

Excursion to Dessau and Wörlitzer Park

10:45 – Welcome and Devotion by Senior Church Councilor Matthias Kopischke

11:00 – **Keynote Lecture:** *“Addressing the Challenges of a Polarized Society: The Example of the Protestant Churches in Saxony-Anhalt”*

Senior Church Councilor Albrecht Steinhäuser

11:30 – **Discussion Groups with Local Stakeholders**

- Group 1: Superintendent Matthias Porzelle and Pastor Ina Killyen (Raguhn)
- Group 2: Pastor Martin Olejnicki (Köthen) and Pastor Johannes Lewek (Bernburg)
- Group 3: Representatives of Diakonie Mitteldeutschland (Campaigns *“Heart Instead of Hate”* and *“Places of Dialogue”*)

14:45 – Guided Tour of the Wörlitzer Park

16:15 – Picnic in the Park

17:00 – Returning to Berlin

19:00 – **Closing Ceremony at Berlin Mission & End of Conference**