



55th International Ecumenical Seminar

Strasbourg, France, July 5 - 12, 2023

Language

The language of the Seminar will be English.

Dates

From July 5 to July 12, 2023.

Registration and Information

Registration until April 30, 2023

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COMMUNION OF CHURCHES



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In the Apostles' Creed, we confess that we believe in the "communion of saints." But we also speak of a "communion of churches." What this communion is based on and what it consists of, how it is realized and lived – this is a fundamental question of the ecumenical movement. It is a burning question because the churches give different answers to this question, not all of which are compatible with each other. And it is fundamental because it is about the aim of the ecumenical movement. There are countless communities who call themselves "churches" and who, thinking about themselves, claim that they belong to the one body of Christ. But what do they have to do with each other? What connects them to each other? When churches are at odds with each other, but also when they live indifferently side by side, there exists a contradiction between their belief in the one body of Christ and the experience of the separating diversity of churches. In the 20th century, which is considered the "century of ecumenism," more churches have come into being than ever before in the history of Christianity. Thus, is there any point in asking about the communion of churches? The seminar will take up these challenges and address both traditional and new answers to the question of the communion of churches.

Outstanding theological experts from different churches will present how their churches understand themselves as *communio* and how they see their relationship to other churches. In the seminar one does not only talk about churches, but enters into a dialogue with representatives of these churches. The presence of speakers of the Anglican, Lutheran, Orthodox and Pentecostal churches and the Roman Catholic Church allows the participants to gain a deeper insight into the churches' self-understanding



as well as into the opportunities and difficulties of their relations with each other. The presentation of regional church fellowships (Community of Protestant Churches in Europe, Porvoo) and worldwide church fellowships (Lutheran World Federation) as well as the World Council of Churches will show how differently communion between churches can be lived. More information about the program can be found on the website of the Institute.

In addition to the theological discussions, the Seminar fosters opportunity for conversation among the participants, reports of their own ecumenical or confessional experiences, the posing of questions and offering of responses. Since participants come from many different churches and countries, this exchange is always especially exciting and enlightening, both in the plenary sessions and in small group work. The conversation continues over delicious French food at the Stift's dining hall or a glass of wine in one of the charming restaurants in the old city of Strasbourg.

Costs

The cost of the seminar, including full pension in single rooms (students' residence hall) is EUR 800. Financial support may be granted through the participants' home churches or other institutions. We encourage participants to contact their church leaders in this regard. As in previous years, a small portion of the fees is used to cover the cost of participants from Eastern Europe and the Global South.

