

Menno Simons Sermon Prize 2020 to Andrea Schneider

This year, on Sunday, November 1, 2020 the Center for Peace Church Theology (University of Hamburg) awards the Menno Simons Sermon Prize to Pastor Andrea Schneider, former Broadcasting Officer of the Association of Evangelical Free Churches (VEF) in Germany and advisor for "Worship/Service and Community Practice" at the Baptist Seminary in Elstal. The awarded sermon will be presented in the service of the Mennonite Church in Hamburg (10.00 am CET). Afterwards the public award ceremony will take place. Everyone who is interested in following the service and the ceremony is cordially invited to visit the YouTube- Channel of the Mennonite Church of Hamburg and Altona for the event's livestream. (<https://www.youtube.com/c/MennonitengemeindeZuHamburgUndAltona>).

Andrea Schneider gave the award-winning sermon on the words of Jesus: "You are the salt of the earth" (Mt 5:13) on September 6, 2019, the ecumenical "Day of Creation", at the National Garden Show ("Bundesgartenschau") in Heilbronn. In her sermon she unfolds the different aspects of salt; just as Christians are increasingly in a minority position, a small amount of salt works. The different properties of salt – seasoning and preserving, healing, supporting and melting – are important aspects of a Christian existence. Praising the Creator and preserving God's Creation is an important part of that, the theologian emphasized at the "Bundesgartenschau".



Andrea Schneider, born 1955, studied Protestant Theology and German Studies at the University of Hamburg and initially worked as a high school teacher. Since 1997

she has been a pastor in the Association of Evangelical Free Churches in Germany (Baptists). Until her retirement in July 2020, Andrea Schneider worked as a radio officer for the Association of Evangelical Free Churches (VEF) and has been the weekly TV-“Word to Sunday” (“Wort zum Sonntag”) spokeswoman on the General Broadcasting Channel in Germany (ARD) for many years. Schneider is also a consultant for service and church practice at the Baptist Seminary Elstal. She is married and has three children.

The Menno Simons Sermon Prize encourages and acknowledges sermons that explore the Biblical witness through the lens of the Anabaptist-Mennonite tradition, that promote the peace church tradition in the larger ecumenical context and that communicate in a manner that is effective, convincing and that strengthens the spirituality of the hearer. In addition, chosen sermons awaken and engage themes critical to the Anabaptist-Mennonite tradition, other ecumenical traditions and the world at large.

Dr. h.c. Annelie Kümpers-Greve (1946-2017), member of the Mennonite congregation in Hamburg, founded the annually-awarded prize in 2008. The Menno Simons Sermon Prize includes an award of € 2.000. Half of this money is given to the preacher; the remaining half is given to the Evangelical Academy Elstal to encourage scholarly Biblical reflection in the congregation’s context.

The jury includes Mennonite theologians, chaired by Prof. Dr. Fernando Enns (endowed professorship ‘Theology of Peace Churches’), Prof. em. Dr. Hans-Martin Gutmann (Practical Theology, University of Hamburg), who functions as an external expert. Other members of the jury are: Lukas Amstutz (Switzerland), Pastor Christina Duhoux (Netherlands), Pastor Birgit Foth (Ludwigshafen), Pastor Dr. Christiane Karrer (Netherlands) and Heinrich Wiens (Detmold).

For Questions:

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