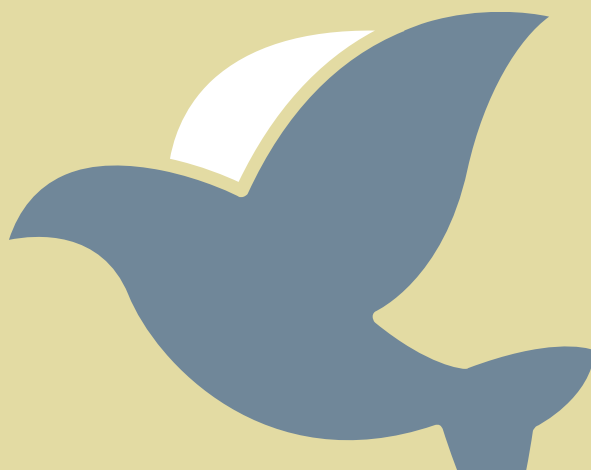




CENTER FOR PEACE CHURCH THEOLOGY

NEWSLETTER



Center for Peace Church
Theology
Department of Protestant
Theology
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E-Mail: friedenskirchen@uni-hamburg.de
Homepage:
<https://www.theologie.uni-hamburg.de/einrichtungen/arbeitsstellen/friedenskirche.htm>

FOREWORD



DEAR FRIENDS OF THE ATF,

In the last newsletter, we reacted to the Ukraine war. Now - half a year later - I am appalled by the supposed solutions proposed to end the war. For example, the presenter on Deutschlandradio asked her invited "experts" whether the German arms industry would be able to supply the necessary weapons in the required short time. Not once in the entire broadcast it was asked whether there might be other ways of resolving the conflict.

This makes two aspects clear to me: on the one hand, that peacemakers who do not rely on the logic of weapons and escalation are once again a minority, and on the other hand, how important it is to engage with a serious and well-founded theology and ethics of peace in order to remain capable of conversation and steadfast.

Therefore, I am very happy that we can further develop our ATF through the generous grant of a foundation. There will be in-depth offerings for students as well as continuing education and online seminars on Anabaptist theology and history and on peace ethics for active church staff and church members.

I am very grateful that through your support in the „Freundeskreis“, through additional funding and through the support of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Northern Germany, we are not only able to maintain our previous capacities, but even to increase them. This is a valuable and clear sign for ecumenism and peace theology in times of financial shortage and militarization in Europe and the world.

"Not by army or by might, but by the Spirit of God it shall be done." (Zechariah 4, verse 6)

Yours sincerely,
Bernhard Thiessen
Chair of the Board of Trustees of the ATF



PEOPLE



WE SAY GOODBYE TO: JULIA FREUND

Dear friends of the ATF,

A very formative and enriching time for me is coming to an end and a new chapter is beginning. In the last five years as a research assistant at ATF, I have especially appreciated the many seminars and events that I was able to help organize. I am grateful for the exchange, the learning together and the trust that was placed in me. All the experiences will accompany me in my next steps, first in the vicariate and also beyond. I will definitely stay connected to the ATF and I am very excited to read about the new developments here in the Freundeskreisbrief.

I greet you warmly

Julia Freund



PEOPLE

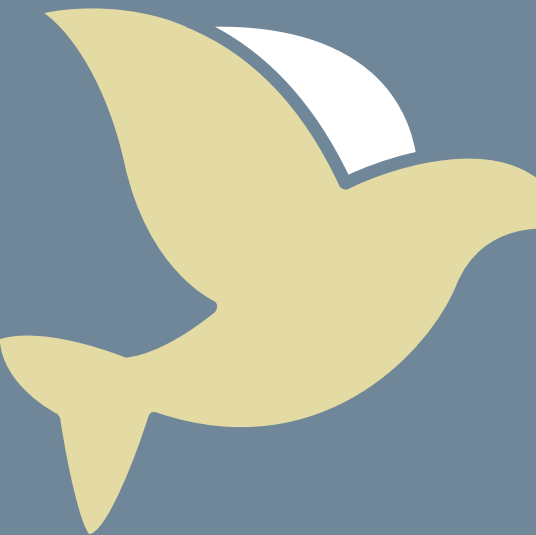


WE WELCOME AGAIN: FRIEDERIKE WILLHOEFT

Dear friends of the ATF,

after one year I come back - not only with a new last name, but also with many new ideas and inspirations, and I am looking forward to the time ahead! After my first year as a research assistant at ATF, I have now spent a year at the Center for Mission and Ecumenism preparing the Preconsultation - a pre-event to the WCC Assembly. Now I am looking forward to being back at the university with these experiences and to work together with the team on new projects and topics!

Friederike Willhoeft



PEOPLE



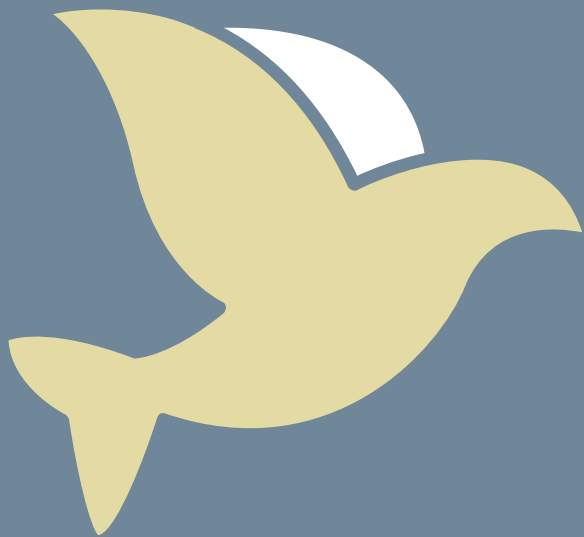
WE WELCOME: DR. ANDRÉS PACHECO LOZANO

Hello!

My name is Andrés Pacheco Lozano. I am a lecturer at the Doopsgezind Seminarium (Mennonite Seminary) at the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam. Here I successfully defended my doctoral thesis two years ago. In this thesis I present a "pilgrimage of reconciliation" through contextual Bible reading with congregations in Colombia. In addition, I work with F. Enns at the Amsterdam Center for Religion and Peace & Justice Studies. I also coordinate the Global Anabaptist Peace Network, which is rooted in Mennonite World Conference (MWC). For years I have been connected with ATF not only by content-related cooperation (joint seminars, summer schools, doctoral colloquia, etc.), but in the meantime also by deep friendships with the staff. I am very happy that I can now also work in Hamburg with 50% of my working time - with the other half I will stay in Amsterdam. Above all, I now want to concentrate on my habilitation thesis.

Andrés Pacheco Lozano





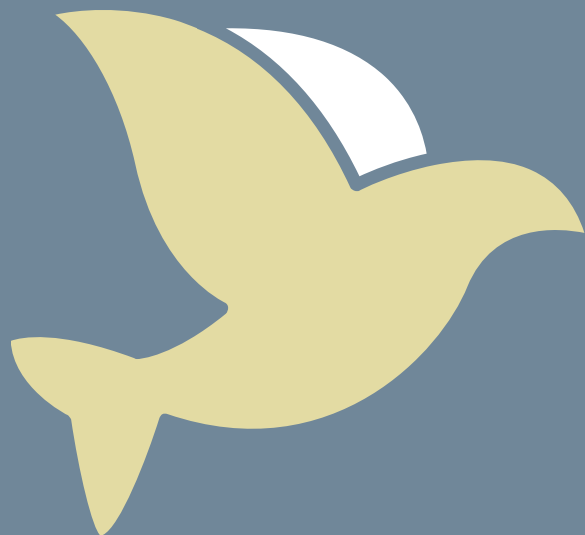
THE ATF GROWS AND CHANGES

The Center for Peace Church Theology (ATF) at the University of Hamburg has been existing since 2006. And since then it has grown steadily. In 2017, Rev. Dr. Marie Anne Subklew took over the academic management (75%). In 2018, Prof. Dr. Fernando Enns was appointed to the endowed professorship of Theology of the Peace Churches (50%). In the fall of 2021, the ATF also welcomed PD Dr. Astrid von Schlachta, Research Associate on Anabaptist and Mennonite History (50%)

Now the ATF continues to grow. The position of Marie Anne Subklew is extended by the Ev.-Luth. Kirche in Norddeutschland and increased to 100%. Dr. Andrés Pacheco Lozano will come to Hamburg with a 50% position; he strengthens the team and will start his habilitation at the same time. The position of Astrid von Schlachta will be increased to 70%.

These changes will also make new focal points possible for ATF in terms of content. For example, ATF will take over the coordination of a "personnel department" of the Arbeitsgemeinschaft Mennonitischer Gemeinden in Deutschland (AMG), an office anchored in the regional associations, which will take care of the next generation of pastors and help fill vacancies in the congregations. In addition, it is planned to offer more courses for pastors and other interested persons in order to convey basic elements and characteristics of the Mennonite faith and to invite reflection on what it means to belong to a peace church today. In addition, ATF seeks further European networking with research institutions and Mennonite training centers, for example in Amsterdam and in Klaipeda, as well as in Detmold and on the Bienenberg.

The ATF will continue to stand with both feet in scientific research and at the same time be a "translator" of the latest scientific results for the congregations and the public - in ecumenical and interreligious dialogue.



WINTER SEMESTER 2022/2023

ASTRID VON SCHLACHTA

Of Anabaptists, Quakers, and Pietists. Christian Minorities since the Reformation FR 14-16

The seminar will provide an overview of minorities in Christianity that have formed outside the mainstream churches since the Reformation. The focus will not only be on an account of the emergence and development of the individual denominational groupings, but also on the historical framework conditions. Often Christian minorities had to struggle with pressure of persecution, but fascinating models of toleration can also be observed.

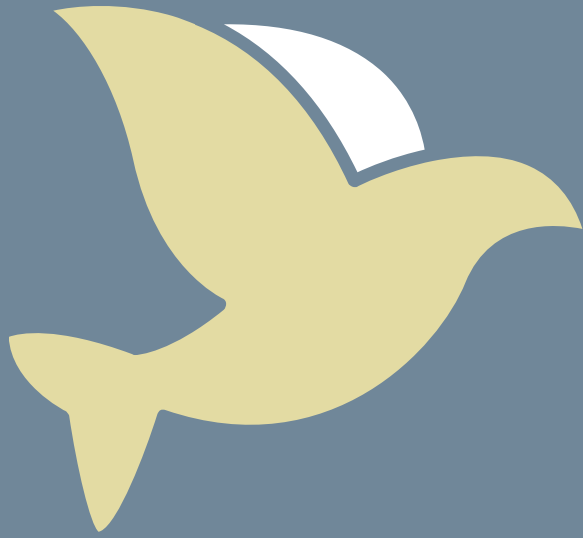
The seminar focuses on the self-image and the perception by others of the groupings as well as on the theological differences between the various congregations and on the mutual contacts that developed in the course of the early modern period. Were these minorities always renewal movements? Or are they to be classified as early free churches? It is particularly important to address and problematize the term "free church," since it has often been applied quite sweepingly to denominational minorities in retrospect.

In addition, a focus will be on the linguistic level of the coexistence of major churches and minorities. This ranges from polemical treatises on processes of negotiation to determine togetherness in a political space to historiography reporting on the respective "others".

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Event for the AMG community and all other interested parties:
"Anabaptists in tension - inwardness, outwardness, mysticism",
Tuesdays, 18:00-19:30; online via Zoom

More information: Astrid.von-Schlachta@posteo.de



WINTER SEMESTER 2022/2023

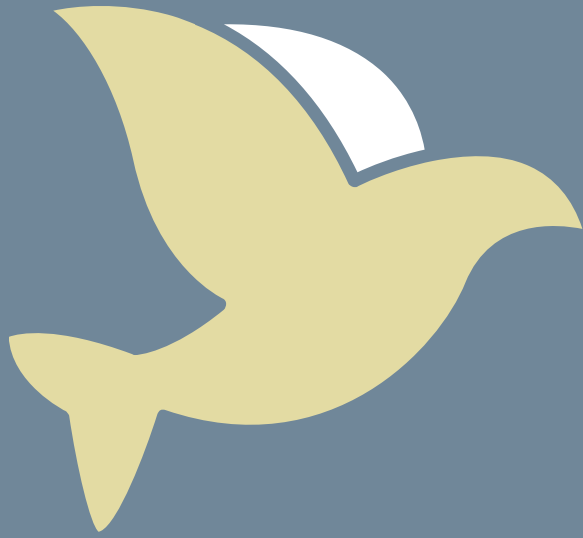
MARIE ANNE SUBKLEW

Church and Public Responsibility WED 14-16

Theological positions on contemporary controversies

The churches express themselves on political, economic and cultural issues of the present and thus assume public responsibility in accordance with their respective self-understanding. In this, the church is a civil society actor with a political claim, but in a different way than a political party or than 'the' institutionalized media. A familiar form that the church uses to articulate its positions is the publication of memoranda, basic texts, orientation aids, handouts, etc. The church's role in the public sphere is to provide a forum for the discussion of issues.

On the basis of selected texts of the Protestant Church in Germany and the World Council of Churches from the last 70 years (e.g. Stuttgarter Schulbekenntnis [1945]; Ostdenkschrift der EKD [1965]; Antirassismus-Programm ÖRK [1968]; Texte der Ökumenischen Versammlung für Gerechtigkeit, Frieden und Bewahrung der Schöpfung in der DDR [1989]; kirchliche Stellungnahmen zum Krieg in der Ukraine [2022]) we want to deal in the seminar with theological patterns of argumentation and the question of the social relevance of the selected texts. Within the framework of the seminar, an excursion to Berlin with a focus on contemporary history is planned.



WINTER SEMESTER 2022/2023

FERNANDO ENNS

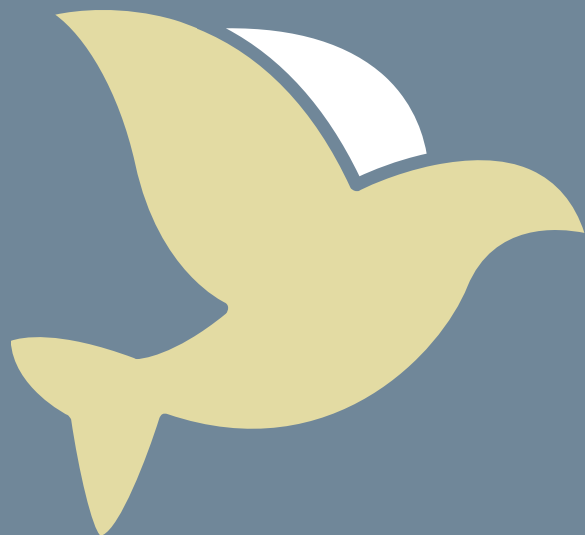
**Lecture Series: "War and Peace", ORIENTATION Lecture
FR 10-12**

The discussion of war and peace takes place in all religions, both in the theological discussion of the implicit ethical questions and in the practical testing of confessions and the corresponding orientational knowledge. The so-called "Golden Rule" can be found in almost all religions (in variations!), but is also interpreted very differently with regard to the formation of opinions on war and peace - within the respective religions, as well as in the dispute between the religions. The spectrum ranges from a long tradition of the "doctrine of just war" to the demand for absolute non-violence. Since religions have a strong, orienting power in large parts of the world's population with regard to this question of highest social relevance, the different movements of thought - from the perspective of the various disciplines and religions - will be presented and discussed.

Under the theme "War and Peace", the lecture series is intended to introduce students to the study of Protestant theology and religious studies and to provide an insight into the historical, methodological and thematic breadth of the subjects. The internal connection of the individual theological disciplines is to be established on the basis of the topic as well as to direct the view beyond the own religion.

The individual sessions on Protestant theology are oriented towards the theological disciplines, the sessions on the other religions are organized by the corresponding subject representatives.

RESEARCH & TEACHING



WINTER SEMESTER 2022/2023

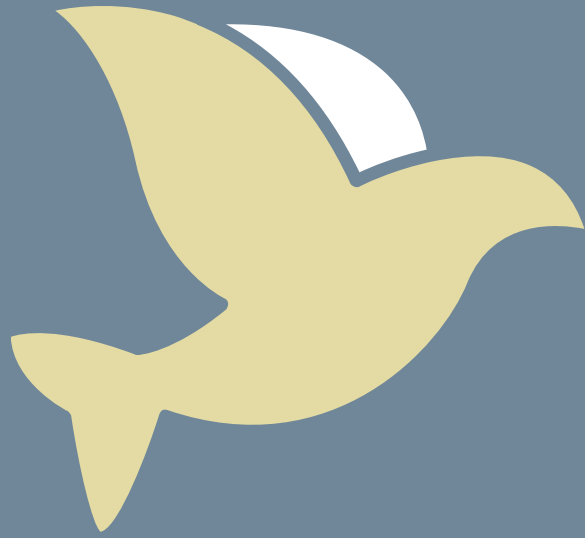
FERNANDO ENNS

Theology and Trauma WED 16-18

Traumatic experiences influence biographies of very many people, collective traumas even whole communities. Traumas are also passed on intergenerationally if they have not been appropriately "healed."

Recent findings from trauma research are strongly echoed internationally in theological thinking. This opens up completely new perspectives on the interpretation of biblical texts as well as on the interpretation of individual systematic-theological topics. Shelly Rambo has become a leading voice here: She draws on contemporary trauma studies to rethink a central claim of the Christian faith: that new life emerges from death. By re-examining the narrative of Jesus' death and resurrection, she develops a theology that addresses the experience of life after trauma. Through a reinterpretation of "abiding" in John's Gospel, she proposes a "theology of the Spirit" that challenges traditional notions of redemption, offering a vision of the "witness of the Spirit" out of the depths of human suffering - for the persistence of divine love.

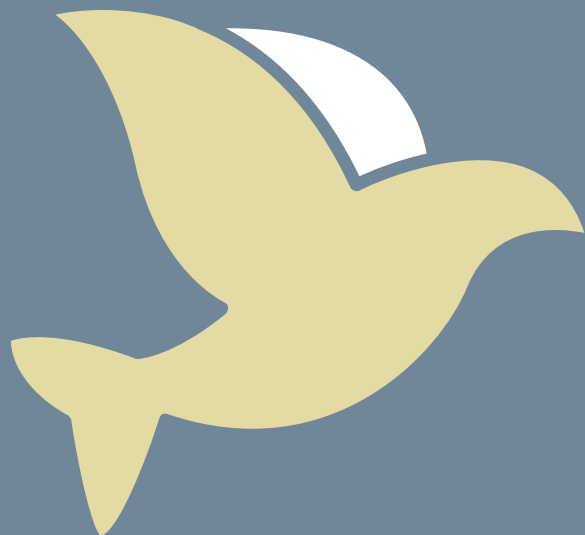
In this seminar, we will turn specifically to more recent approaches that make insights from trauma research fruitful for systematic theology. In addition to Shelly Rambo's outline, we will analyze and discuss other approaches, mostly in English.



RETROSPECT SUMMER 22

"Building peace without weapons?" - online events

In view of the war in Ukraine, ATF held a new series of events in the spring of 2022 entitled "Building peace without weapons?" On three evenings (April 2, 2022, "Christian Peace Ethics on Trial in the Face of the War in Ukraine," April 29, 2022, "There is No Way to Peace on the Path of Security," June 2, 2022, "Alternative Approaches to Conflict Interruption in the War in Ukraine"), online discussions were invited to open a space to discuss questions about the current Christian peace witness. Does the programmatic phrase "making peace without weapons," which has been a basic axiom of Christian peace ethics in recent decades, still apply, or is Christian peace ethics facing a fundamental paradigm shift and an epochal threshold? What biblical-theological foundations and church traditions can help us orient ourselves and form judgments in the current situation? Alternatives that can interrupt conflicts in a non-military way were also discussed. In each case, more than 150 people accepted our invitation and engaged in intensive discussion.



RETROSPECT SUMMER 22

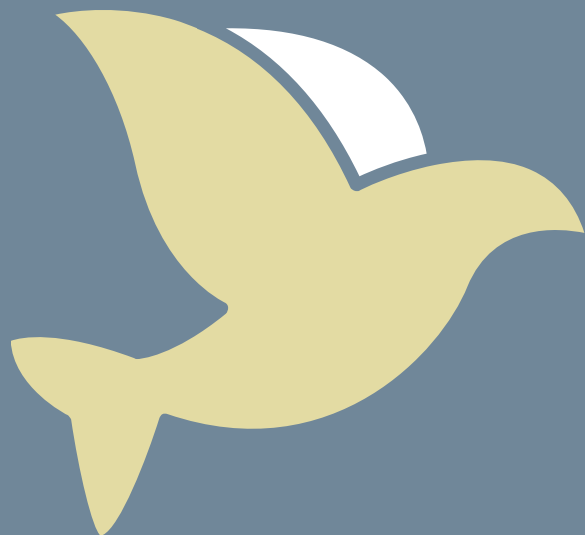
Preconsultation "Unification and Healing" **26 - 30th August 2022, Hamburg**

In the run-up to the 11th WCC Assembly in Karlsruhe, the Association of Christian Churches in Germany (ACK), the Center for Mission and Ecumenism of the Northern Church and the ATF/University of Hamburg had invited almost 100 international guests to a preconsultation under the motto.

Under the four focal points: Unification and Healing, Racism and Healing, Language and Healing and Different world views and Healing, participants shared their very different perspectives, their fears and hopes.

The preconsultation was excellently accompanied organizationally by students as stewards, some of them traveled with us to the WCC assembly in Karlsruhe. One of them wrote down her impressions:

"Being a steward at the Hamburg preconsultation in August 2022 was a very enriching experience. Not only were we six theology students invited as stewards to participate in the lectures and devotions, but we were also able to learn a lot about our faith and the great diversity of Christian contexts in personal conversation with the Christ:iners from all over the world who were present. For example, for the first time in my life, I had conversations about different (liturgical) practices such as singing while standing and reflected on the theological connection between nature and humanity. Have you ever thought about what it means that we cry salt water like the sea, even though we only consume fresh water? Often such impulses as this one from James Bhagwan and the most intensive conversations arose on our ways between the Seamen's Mission, the port of Hamburg and the former German-German border, when we accompanied the participants to events or back to the hotel. What particularly impressed me during these days was how appreciative and at eye level the joint dialogue was. Regardless of whether the topic was transportation in Germany (keyword: bicycle paths) or gender justice in a global context, and regardless of the (academic) background of the other person, the atmosphere was characterized by goodwill and the willingness to open up to the perception of the other person. Thus, my knowledge of the WCC acquired in my studies came alive through faces, voices, and experiences, and I gained an understanding of what it means to be part of a community of the 'whole inhabited earth' as a Christian." Josephine Klippel



NEWS FROM THE WCC

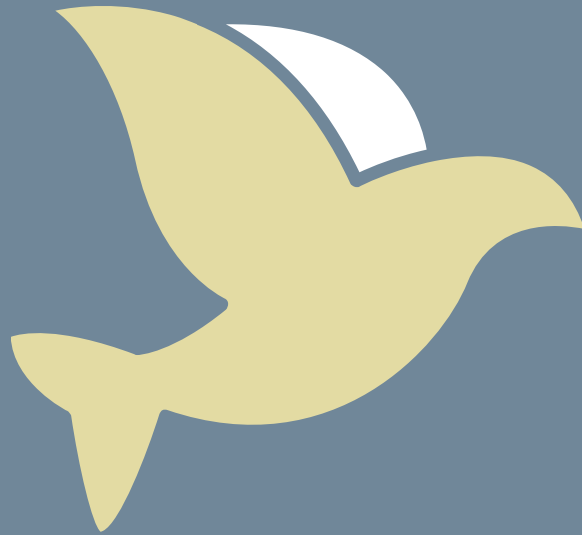
WCC Assembly, Karlsruhe

"The love of Christ moves the world toward reconciliation and unity."

31 Aug - 8 Sept 2022

Several members of our ATF team were represented at the WCC Assembly. F. Enns was again elected to the Central Committee. In the past years, he has been involved mainly as moderator of the international and interreligious steering group for the "Pilgrimage of Justice and Peace". Some of the results of this commitment have now also been reflected in publications (see under "newly published"). Especially the many "Pilgrim Team Visits" to the different contexts have been convincing. Therefore, the Assembly decided that the pilgrimage should be continued, now as "Pilgrimage of Justice, Reconciliation and Unity" - taking up the motto of the Assembly.

Probably the most moving interpretation of this motto was given by Prof. Azza Karam, Secretary General of "Religions for Peace", colleague of F. Enns at the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam. She asked the assembly, "Do you believe that the love of Christ is also for me - a Muslim believer?" And she went on to remind the assembled "religious leaders" of their responsibility: "War is not an option!" was her clear vote.



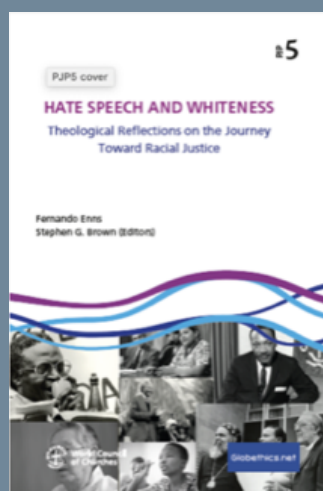
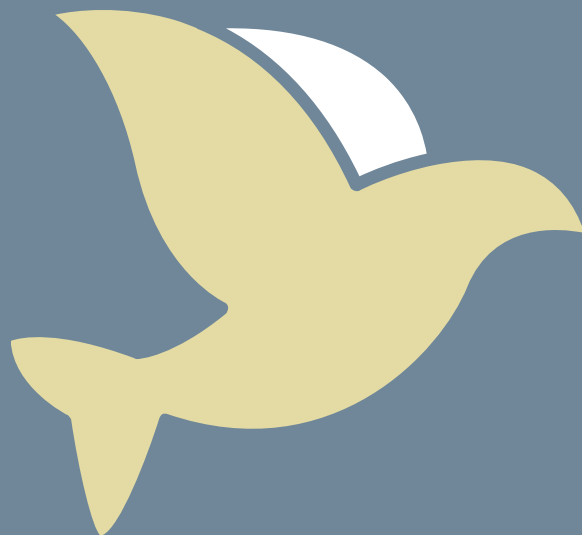
MENNO-SIMONS

Award of the Menno Simons Preaching Prize 2022 to Pastor Peter Stucky, Colombia

On October 2, 2022 (Thanksgiving Day), the Arbeitsstelle Theologie der Friedenskirchen (University of Hamburg), together with the Mennonite congregation of Hamburg-Altona, has awarded the international Menno Simons Preaching Prize to Peter Stucky, pastor of the Mennonite congregation of Teusaquillo in Bogotá (Colombia) and professor emeritus at the Seminario Bíblico Menonita there. The public award ceremony took place following the worship service at the Mennonite Church of Hamburg-Altona (10:00 a.m.), where the award-winning sermon was heard.

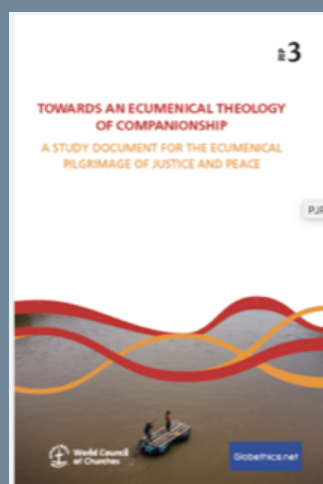
The award-winning sermon was preached in 2021 at the opening of the "Month of Mission" in Bogotá. Based on verse 9 from the 1st Letter of Peter, chap. 2, a picture of the church as a missionary community is drawn.





Hate Speech and Whiteness. Theological Reflections on the Journey Toward Racial Justice

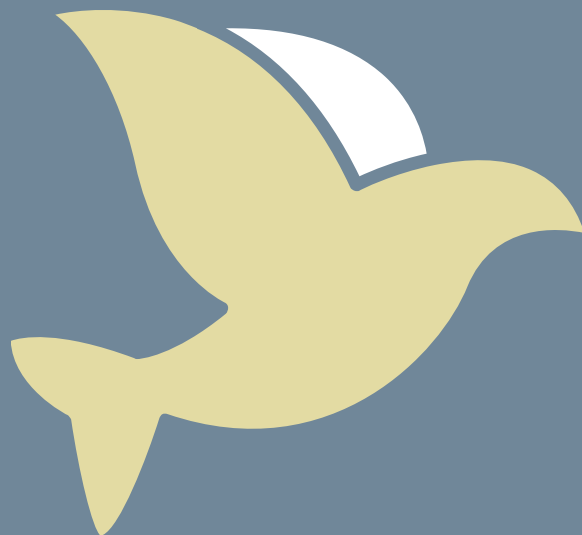
ed. by Fernando Enns, Stephen Brown, Geneva 2022.



Towards an Ecumenical Theology of Companionship:

A Study Document for the Ecumenical Pilgrimage of Justice and Peace, Geneva 2022.

NEWLY PUBLISHED



NEWLY PUBLISHED

Fernando Enns

Ecumenism and Peace



From Theory and
Practice to Pilgrimage
and Companionship

Fernando Enns, *Ecumenism and Peace: From Theory and Practice to Pilgrimage and Companionship*.

Serenity Publications and World Council of Churches Press 2022.

2

TRANSFORMATIVE SPIRITUALITIES FOR THE PILGRIMAGE OF JUSTICE AND PEACE

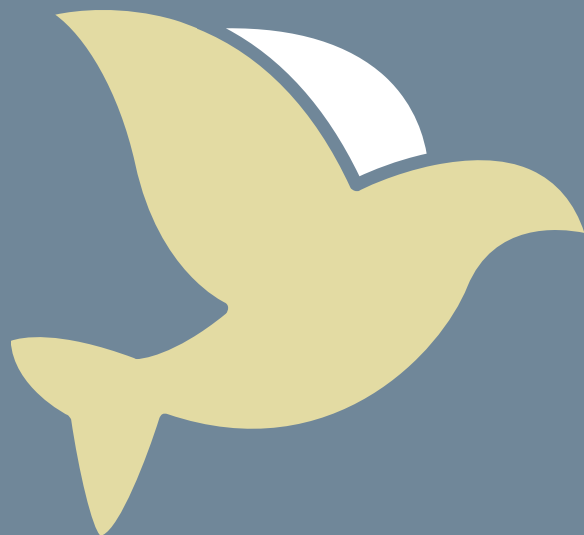
Fernando Enns, Upolu Lumā Vaai,
Andrés Pacheco Lozano and Betty Pries (Editors)



Transformative Spiritualities for the Pilgrimage of Justice and Peace.

Ed. by Fernando Enns, Upolu L. Vaai,
Andrés P. Lozano, Betty Pries, Geneva 2022.

DATES



“Living Reconciliation - the Christian Message of Reconciliation as a Challenge in Our Time.”

November 13, 2022, 1:15 - 3:00 p.m. Evangelische Kirchengemeinde Alt Pankow, Breite Straße 38, 13187 Berlin, with Prof. Dr. Konrad Raiser, Antje Heider-Rottwilm, Gregor Hohberg, Dr. Marie Anne Subklew, among others.

Courses winter semester 2022/23

Astrid von Schlachta

"Of Anabaptists, Quakers, and Pietists. Christian Minorities since the Reformation".

Event for the AMG community and all other interested parties:
"Anabaptists in tension - inwardness, outwardness, mysticism".
Tuesdays, 18:00-19:30.

Marie Anne Subklew

Church and Public Responsibility.

"Theological Positions on Contemporary Controversies."

Fernando Enns

Seminar "Theology and Trauma

Public orientation lecture "War and Peace" (with contributions from the various theological disciplines and religions).

Mennonite Graduate School in Europe

February 3-5, 2023, Mennorode, Elspeet, NL