

Twin Consultation participants' circular No 1

11th September, 2015

Dear participants,

Greetings to you and peace in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ from the preparatory committee of the Twin Consultation "Reformation – Education – Transformation" process!

We welcome all of you warmly as participants of the coming first of the Twin Consultation meeting and are looking forward to meet you in São Leopoldo, 19–23 November 2015.

With this circular we wish to provide more information about the status of the planning and of the proposed procedures for the meeting. Earlier you received the general project outline for "Reformation – Education – Transformation" (see <http://r-e-t.net/fix/files/Project%20outline%20R-E-T%20May%202015.pdf>). Today, we will provide further information which will give you a clearer picture of the project and with which we also invite you to interact with us in different ways.

Some of you asked for presentation of papers or other possibilities to give an input: As you will see in the program attached, there will be two "Open Paper Sharing Sessions" connected to the contents of the consultation. They will provide an opportunity to present papers and to interact with local younger scholars from the Faculdades EST constituency. These sessions will be organized by Faculdades EST, who will give more information on this in the next weeks.

But your active commitment is needed in other parts of the conference too. In this circular you get more information about the two blocks of thematic tracks, in the next circulars there will be more about exposures, worships etc.

Participants

Some 106 participants are registered now for the conference. We attach for your information a tentative list of the names of the participants.

Additional local participants will be expected for the opening of the conference and the open paper sharing sessions.



Program and keynote speakers

Enclosed you find an updated program for the São Leopoldo consultation. We have applied a “Twin principle”, meaning that two speakers from different contexts and with different perspectives will elaborate on the two major thematic lines: Session 1 “Reformation – Transformation (Public Space)” and Session 2 “Reformation and Education/Formation”. We are pleased to inform you that Prof Dr Esther Mombo, Dr Theresa Chong Carino and Prof Dr Rudolf von Sinner confirmed to contribute keynote lectures to these two major thematic opening sessions of the conference. More information about all keynote speakers you will find on the website soon.

Thematic tracks and Workshop Groups

The main thrust of the content-related reflection during the consultation will take place in the thematic track groups. The participants are assigned to two of these which will be held over duration of two sessions.

The six thematic tracks of the Twin Consultation process are exemplified in workshops where everyone is expected to participate (see attached description of the workshops). Times slots during the consultation are chosen in such a way that each workshop group can work in two sessions of 90 minutes each which should give ample time to the groups to explore and discuss their topic and prepare a report to the plenary.

For each thematic track group two presenters (from different contexts, so as to ensure the “Twin principle”) will be asked to give inputs to introduce the relevant topic from at least two different angles. The preparatory group further expects that each and every one attending contributes to the themes chosen from his or her context and perspective.

Please:

- **Check the attached return form and chose the workshops you wish to participate and for which you envision that you could contribute to.**

Visa procedures and travel arrangements

- **If you need a visa for Brazil and have not yet started the application process we request you to do so immediately!**

Please note, that in some cases a Brazilian embassy or consulate may be in some distance to your place and that depending on your country of residence it may need a longer time to secure the necessary documents to enter Brazil. Invitation letters for visa applications will be provided, if you send back the registration form from the last mail. If you have done this but did not get an invitation letter, please come back to Anneheide von Biela.



Please note: the consultation will start on Thursday, November 19, 2015, at 5 p.m. with an opening worship service and will close on Monday, November 23, 2015, with a closing worship service and farewell ceremony ending at around 8 p.m. Please, plan your arrival and departure times accordingly.

The destination airport for your flights should be Porto Alegre (POA); from there transport to São Leopoldo will be organized.

If you have any questions regarding flight booking, insurance, visa or reimbursement, please contact Anneheide von Biela

Communication tools

The preparation group has developed three major communication tools for networking and discussion before, during and after the consultation process

- the website <http://www.r-e-t.net>
Here you will find general information, background papers and reports on the process. We encourage you to share that website with others who may be interested in the R-E-T process because we consider it to be the “shop window”.
- Facebook: we have opened a Facebook account:
<https://www.facebook.com/pages/R-E-T/854851064606040?ref=hl>.
Please check, share and join the club, invite others to join and to “like” our project!
- We intend to use the facilities of <http://globethics.org> to open discussion groups in order to accompany the Twin Consultation process before, during and between the two events of the Twin Consultation. Please check the website <http://www.r-e-t.net> for information on this communication tool which will be online soon!

To communicate more directly with the participants we will send out further circular newsletter with updates and relevant information relating to the organization of the consultation.

In order to encourage the interaction among participants, we propose to share the e-mail address details. We assume that you agree that your e-mail address will be shared with other conference participants. If you disagree, please indicate in the attached form.



Venue and accommodation

The venue of the first consultation is Faculdades EST in São Leopoldo (RS). You will find more information on <http://www.est.edu.br/english/>

Accommodation is organized in single rooms. Most of you are located at Centro de Espiritualidade Christo Rei (CECREI) in São Leopoldo, RS www.cecrei.org.br. Transportation between the guest house and the consultation localities will be provided

Responsibilities and contact persons

You will find the names of the member of the preparatory committee on <http://r-e-t.net/en.veranstalter/index.html>

All of you have been in contact already with **Anneheide von Biela** who is coordinating the R-E-T process in Hamburg.

E-mail address: twin@emw-d.de

The Faculdades EST at São Leopoldo has appointed **Ezequiel Hanke** to coordinate the preparatory process in Brazil:

E-Mail address: twin2015@est.edu.br

We are looking forward to meet all of you!

Kind regards from all participants of the preparatory committee



Rev. Dr. Michael Biehl

Desk for Mission Studies and Theological Education

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Association of Protestant Churches and Missions in Germany (EMW)