

# Twin Consultation Formats

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## Participants and Admission of the Wider Public

Participation in the Twin Consultation is by invitation, the intention being to provide for well-balanced attendance in accordance with the ratios laid out in the project outline.

Within each consultation, however, several functions are open to the wider communities of the hosting institutions and to the general public:

- The opening and closing services
- The opening keynote addresses
- The paper-sharing sessions (presenters to be invited by the hosting institutions).

## Keynotes

The keynote addresses will offer distinctive perspectives on the main theme of the conference, thereby providing a framework and a starting point for discussion among the participants.

The keynotes will be “twinned”, meaning that they will consist of inputs from two different contexts and / or disciplines. This plural approach will form the basis for the ensuing discussions among the participants. These are in turn considered to be experts in their fields: academics, practitioners, church representatives, leaders.

### *Keynote 1:*

#### *Reformation and Transformation in the Public Sphere*

The key note addresses in the first session will address the thread Reformation–Transformation. In that line they will demonstrate how churches and faith-based development organizations – acting in accordance with the Reformation heritage – strengthened the civil society in their respective areas of endeavor. Also highlighted will be their role in development and politics, the responsible use of political power and the protection of the common good. However, attention will also be given to moments in which churches failed, thereby becoming obstacles to transformation rather than acting as a progressive force.



Our first speaker, Ronaldo de Almeida, will approach the topic from a sociological or political-science perspective, presenting insights on the performance of churches of the Protestant fold in moments of societal transformation (public theology, witness and the ambivalent role of the churches in the public sphere).

Our second speaker, Rudolf von Sinner, will give us a theological perspective on the effect of the Reformation heritage with regard to defining the churches' role in the public sphere.

### *Keynote 2: Focus Reformation and Education/Formation*

The keynote addresses in the second session will center on the thread Reformation-Education. They will highlight how churches and faith-based development bodies – acting in accordance with the Reformation heritage – took effect and continue to take effect on civil societies through the promotion of education and formation. Particular attention will be given as to how the educational process should be designed if it is to be transformative.

Our first speaker, Theresa Carino, will offer a practical-pedagogical perspective from an Asian context.

Our second speaker, Esther Mombo, will give us a systematic-historical perspective on Protestant Churches as actors in the field of education with a focus on Africa: their rationale, history, failures and achievements.

### *Time frames for the Keynotes*

60 minutes: Presentations (30 minutes for each of the two speakers)

Short break

30 minutes: Reactions of the participants in form of table talk or buzz groups

10 minutes: Listeners report to the plenary in the role of audience advocates

10 minutes: A period of response of the two speakers to each other.

## **Thematic Track Groups**

The thematic track groups will offer participants the opportunity to reflect on how Reformation traditions engage with key societal and educational issues, and by contrast, how diverse societal and educational situations impinge upon the said traditions. This double perspective will draw attention to the ambivalence attached to the societal engagement of the Churches of the Reformation in past and present, leading to the formula-

tion of constructive–critical views on the shape of the churches’ contemporary social–ethical and educational mandate.

Examples and case studies from diverse cultural and confessional contexts will serve as openers for guided conversations among the thematic track group participants, deepening selected thematic threads as presented in the keynote lectures.

Among these themed tracks, the following concerns will be of pivotal importance: The role of the Churches of the Reformation in contributing to the development of civil societies and their continued struggle to overcome their ambiguous role in political and societal conflicts by advocating for human rights, the rights of the creation and the right of unrestrained religious expression. Another central dimension to be unfolded is that of tracing how successful the churches have been in translating the liberating message of the Gospel into the wider public debate. Conversely, these conversations should explore the manner in which social and political developments have had impact on the churches’ self–understanding, their discourse and practice in an era of growing pluralisation.

## **Paper-Sharing Sessions**

The two paper–sharing sessions are designed as opportunities for the presentation of scholarly research, case studies, theological or biblical reflections related to either the thread Reformation–Transformation (first keynote session) or the thread Reformation–Education (second keynote session) or to both threads.

These sessions form – together with the excursions in São Leopoldo – the “open fringes” of the consultations, allowing local and/or regional presenters connected with the hosting institutions to feed their insights and research into the consultation process. Hence, such presenters need not be participants of the consultation per se.

The hosting academic institutions are invited to organize the paper–sharing sessions by issuing a call for papers and by selecting the presenters. It is encouraged to emphasize the participation of younger colleagues and to respect gender balance. The hosting institutions will organize sessions with up to four parallel panels where papers or abstracts will be presented. The presentation time is limited to 20 minutes, to be followed by a question and answer period.

The nomination of the panel moderators will be at the discretion of the hosting institutions.

These sessions will underline the academic and research aspect of the Twin Consultations. They will provide space for the reflection on and presentation of best practice examples. Twin Consultation participants can be invited to contribute as well.

## **Taking Stock and Harvesting Sessions**

The taking stock and harvesting sessions will gather the insights gained in the thematic track groups in the light of the questions formulated in the project outline and in response to the frameworks set by the keynote sessions.

## **Exposure Program / Worship**

The Consultation will be opened with a festive worship service, to be held in the Evangelical – Theological Seminary (EST) Chapel. The Seminary’s President, Dr. Nestor Paulo Friedrich, is the designated preacher. The preparatory Worship Team will be led by Dr. Dr. Júlio César Adam (EST).

On Friday morning, November 20, the Consultation participants will divide into small groups for the visitation of church-based activities in the vicinity of the Evangelical Church of the Lutheran Confession in Brazil, IECLB (Igreja Evangélica de Confissão Luterana no Brasil), the goal being to assess in what way the church is making a positive contribution towards the development and strengthening of the civil society in São Leopoldo. The exposure program is designed to provide a practical base for the more theoretical content of the other consultation activities. The program will be in Portuguese with translation into Spanish and / or English.

Consultation participants will have a further opportunity to gain exposure to the life and work of the local church in São Leopoldo on Sunday morning, November 22. Again, participants will divide into small groups and join various IECLB parishes of the in the general vicinity of the conference center. Since these services are attended in response to the invitation of the hosting church they all will be in Lutheran congregation with different congregational profiles.

The closing worship service on Monday evening, November 23, will bring together key elements of the consultation and serve as a unifying experience as the Consultation participants prepare to disperse.

October 8, 2015