



How can we embody faith, love and hope in the Third Millennium – and which convictions will form the basis of Christianity?

Important Information

Who?	What?	Where?
Pastors and local church leaders are invited!	A week of learning, discussion and fellowship.	Ev. Diakonieverein Berlin-Zehlendorf in der Glockenstraße 8, 14163 Berlin, Germany
When?	Language	Price
Sunday, Aug. 18 (afternoon) – Friday, Aug. 23, 2024 (noon)	English	590 € including lodging – single room - and meals*

**There is a reduced price for couples, who are staying together in a double room.*

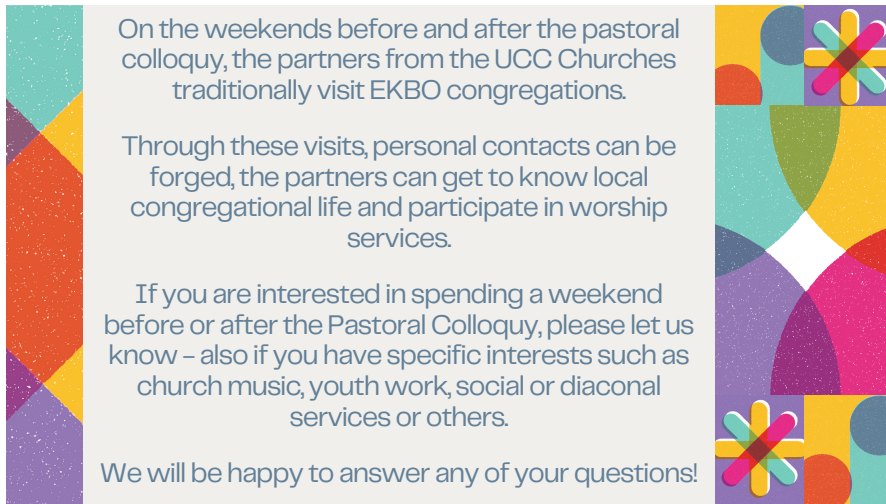
Syllabus

Empty churches, aging congregations, structural changes in society: Our churches on both sides of the Atlantic are experiencing major challenges. Traditional statements of faith often seem formulaic, and Sunday worship is becoming a marginal phenomenon, especially among younger people. But the desire for spirituality and belonging remains. In this pastoral colloquy, together we will ask: How can faith, love and hope be lived in the third millennium - and which statements of faith can they carry?

We will visit places where churches dare to make new beginnings: We will encounter, among others, the Refo congregation Moabit and the digital format "Spirit & Soul" in Berlin, as well as the "testing room" ("Erprobungsraum") in the rural deanery Zossen-Fläming. As pastors and lay people from the UCC and the EKBO we want to think and reflect on what will it look like to live as Christians in the coming decades: What could Christian identity look like? And what role do we want to play in the processes of social and ecclesial change?

We cordially invite all pastors, interested staff members active in ministry, ecumenically interested professionals and volunteers, and look forward to an exciting and inspiring week!

Frank Schürer-Behrmann as Chairman of the UCC Advisory Board of the EKBO as well as Stefanie Sippel, Alexander Benatar, Inken Behrmann and Tobias Kampf for the preparation team



On the weekends before and after the pastoral colloquy, the partners from the UCC Churches traditionally visit EKBO congregations.

Through these visits, personal contacts can be forged, the partners can get to know local congregational life and participate in worship services.

If you are interested in spending a weekend before or after the Pastoral Colloquy, please let us know – also if you have specific interests such as church music, youth work, social or diaconal services or others.

We will be happy to answer any of your questions!

neighbor and partner conferences were invited and included. Friendships have grown, and so has our understanding of each other, the world that we live in and our mission as Christian churches in our time.

We invite you to become part of this special experience!



Registration

Please contact the responsible person for the relationship with the EKBO in your conference or send an E-mail to Rev. Frank Schürer-Behrmann, frank.schuerer-behrmann@ekkos.de.

Please include your mailing address, E-mail address, preferred telephone number and needs (mobility, dietary needs, allergy etc.).

Please also include, if you would like to spend a weekend in an EKBO congregation and if you have specific interests.

We are looking forward to your Email!

Some history...

In the last decade of the Cold War and the years following the „Peaceful revolution” of 1989, regional church partnerships were established between UCC-Conferences in the USA and regional churches in Germany, including then East Germany. Among these were the partnerships between the Penn Central Conference (PCC) and the Evangelical Church in Berlin-Brandenburg (PCC) and the Wisconsin Conference and the Protestant Church of Upper Lusatia on the eastern border of Germany with Poland and the Czech Republic.

Both German churches merged in 2004 and became the EKBO, which resumed the tradition of joint Pastoral Colloquys that had been established between the Church in the Rhineland (EKiBB) and the Church in Pennsylvania (PCC) in the 1990s.

Since then, biennial colloquys have taken place and addressed issues of mutual concern on both sides of the Atlantic. They have centered around current topics ranging from local church building to post-modernism, relations with Islam, migration and peace building. Other

Sponsors

Ev. Kirche Berlin-Brandenburg-schlesische Oberlausitz (EKBO) / (Berliner Missionswerk, UCC-Beirat / Amt für kirchliche Dienste (AKD))

Penn Central Conference, United Church of Christ

Wisconsin Conference, United Church of Christ

Other Partner Conferences in the United Church of Christ