



LWF Center Wittenberg, Judenstraße 9, 06886 Lutherstadt Wittenberg

## To all member churches of the Lutheran World Federation

Wittenberg, July 17, 2019

### Studying Luther in Wittenberg Invitation to the 21st International Seminar for Pastors, March 7-21, 2020

Respected Bishops, dear Sisters and Brothers in the member churches of the Lutheran World Federation,

Many of you know about the seminars that are organised at the LWF Center in Wittenberg. A lot of pastors came back home and gave reports and encouraged others to apply for a seminar because the encounter and the studies in Luther's town are encouraging, inspiring and community building (see comments from participants under <http://www.lwb-zentrum-wittenberg.de> ([seminars/previous seminars](#))).

It is my honour and my pleasure to convey to you now the invitation to the  
**21st International Seminar for Pastors from March 7-21, 2020:**  
**“Tearing Down Walls to Freedom: Luther's Reformation of the Community”.**

The seminar will be led by **Prof. Dr. Gordon Jensen, Saskatoon (Canada)**, and **Dr. Anupama Hial, Jeypore (India)**.

We kindly ask you to identify appropriate female or male pastors in your churches who meet the following requirements:

- **Excellent knowledge of English**, because the seminar is conducted in English
- Pastors with some years of parish experience or students with special competence in Lutheran theology
- Basic theological education
- Endorsement of the leadership of the church

As always, we will invite **20 participants** from the **7 regions** within the LWF. This will ensure a fruitful, cross-cultural dialogue that will strengthen the communion of the LWF. We also look for a **balance in gender and generation** in order to enhance the sharing of different perspectives and life experience.

We hope that participants will return to their respective home churches better equipped for the challenges in their ministry. For the home churches, these seminars provide the opportunity to offer their pastors additional **theological education** and **spiritual formation**.

The structure of the seminar will follow the established model:

- March 7 - Arrival
- March 8 - Welcome and getting to know each other;  
Worship service in Wittenberg and guided city tour
- March 9-13 - Seminar, part one
- March 14 - Day trip to Leipzig
- March 15 - Worship service in Wittenberg, free time
- March 16-20 - Seminar, part two
- March 21 - Departure

Participants in the seminar are required to be present for the **entire** seminar program. Personal trips or excursions after the seminar are possible at one's own expense and responsibility.

Please find attached the **nomination form**, which should be returned to the Tutor of Studies, Rev. Joachim Zirkler, as soon as possible, but not later than **September 20, 2019** (by e-mail to: **zirkler@dnk-lwb.de**).

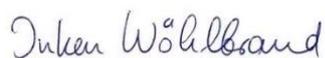
Because of limited funds we must ask the churches in Australia, South Korea, North America, Western and Northern Europe to cover the costs or to subsidize their participants. The **participation fee** amounts to **1.000 Euro** (including accommodation, food, day trips, entrance fees, materials, etc). Travel expenses to Wittenberg must also be covered by the participants resp. their sending churches.

Churches from other regions of the LWF we kindly ask to consider what they can contribute. We cannot invite pastors when their churches do not contribute anything (e.g. at least the travel costs to get visa and to go to the airport and/or a certain contribution to the stay in Wittenberg according to their economic situation).

We kindly ask for your understanding if not all applications are accepted. This is due to limited financial means and limited capacities. All those who applied for a previous seminar but could not be accepted at that time will receive the invitation directly. All further communication will go directly to the participants, with copies sent to the respective churches.

**Respected bishops and church leaders, we kindly ask your cooperation in nominating pastors from your church for the 21st International Seminar in March 2020.** We look forward to a fruitful exchange within the communion of the LWF.

On behalf of Professor Dr. Gordon Jensen, Dr. Anupama Hial, Rev. Joachim Zirkler and our team at the LWF Center Wittenberg, I send you kindest regards,



(Rev. Inken Wöhlbrand)  
Director of LWF Center Wittenberg