



INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF CHRISTIANS AND JEWS (ICCJ)

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE – HANOVER 2026

July 12 – 15, 2026

REPENTANCE, REPAIR, AND RECONCILIATION: RELIGIOUS RESOURCES FOR TUMULTUOUS TIMES

IN COLLABORATION WITH

Deutscher Koordinierungsrat der Gesellschaften für Christlich-Jüdische Zusammenarbeit (DKR)

PROGRAM

Sunday, July 12, 2026

1:30 pm – 3:00 pm

On-Site Registration of Participants

4:00 pm – 6:00 pm

Opening Event
(+ Seelisberg Prize 2026)

6:00 pm – 7:00 pm

Reception

7:30 pm

Dinner
(for registered conference participants)

Monday, July 13, 2026

9:00 am – 9:30 am

9:30 am – 1:00 pm

9:30 – 10:30

Meditative Moment
Plenary Session I – Terminological Approaches:
Repentance, Repair and Reconciliation:
Exploring Commonalities and Differences

Moderator: Rev. Dr Ursula Rudnick (Germany)

Those of us who engage in interreligious and intercommunal dialogue share a vision of a future in which both unity and diversity are valued and respected. Unfortunately, the world around us appears to be ever more contentious, creating angry rifts in society at large, as well as within families and among friends. This has impacted religious communities as well, leading to tensions within, and between, Jewish, Christian, and Muslim, and other communities.

When relationships are strained, rebuilding them can be difficult. Over the last few generations, many Jews, Christians, and Muslims have sought to overcome difficult histories through dialogue, a process that often includes aspects of repentance, repair, and reconciliation. There have been, and will continue to be, crises and controversies to be confronted, each of which, it is hoped, will lead to greater mutual appreciation.

Jews, Christians, and Muslims have their own vocabularies and unique approaches to the concepts of repentance, repair and reconciliation; all, however, are based on affirming the dignity of every human being. This raises several questions for exploration. Who can repent - individuals? Societies? Who can accept repentance or grant forgiveness? How do we prioritize the inclusive and universal aspects of our traditions over any tribalism or bias against others? This moment in history challenges us consider the specific meaning of these terms within each of our traditions both to deepen our knowledge of one another and to discover resources and strategies that we can put into practice to create or restore inter-communal harmony.

10:30 – 11:00	Coffee Break				
11:00 – 12:00	Small Group Activity				
12:00 – 1:00	Wrap-Up Round				
1:00 pm – 2:30 pm	Lunch				
2:30 pm – 4:00 pm	Workshop A1	Workshop A2	Workshop A3	Workshop A4	Workshop A5
4:00 pm – 4:30 pm	Coffee Break				
4:30 pm – 6:00 pm	Plenary Session II – Liturgical Approaches: <i>Performing Repentance, Repair, and Reconciliation:</i> <i>Learning from Liturgies, Rituals, and Customs</i> Moderator: Dr Katarzyna Kowalska, NDS (Poland)				
6:00 pm	Dinner				
8:00 pm	Evening Event: <i>“Go to the Movies”</i>				

Tuesday, July 14, 2026

9:00 am – 9:30 am	Meditative Moment				
9:30 am – 11:00 am	Plenary Session III – Ethical Approaches: <i>How to Harness Our Traditions to Strengthen Our Communities and Promote Peace</i> Moderator: Rev Friedhelm Pieper (Germany)				
11:00 am – 11:30 am	Coffee Break				

11:30 am – 1:00 pm	Workshop B1	Workshop B2	Workshop B3	Workshop B4	Workshop B5
1:00 pm – 2:30 pm	Lunch				
2:30 pm – 5:30 pm	Field Trips				
	Trip 1	Trip 2	Trip 3	Trip 4	Trip 5
5:30 pm 6:00 pm	Gathering at Marktkirche St. Georgii et Jacobi				
	Free Evening				

Wednesday, July 15, 2026

9:00 am – 9:30 am	Meditative Moment				
9:30 am – 11:00 am	Plenary Session IV – Practical Approaches: <i>Efforts at Repentance, Repair, and Reconciliation: Projects and Initiatives</i> <u>Moderator:</u> Dr Pavol Bargár (Czech Republic) In this plenary, we will focus on the lived experience of interfaith activists who have been involved in projects or initiatives that focused on repentance, repair and reconciliation. There are important lessons to be learning about the how the projects themselves were organized and what was involved in running them, including the initial motivation for embarking on the project in the first place, as well as what worked and what did not.				
11:00 am – 11:30 am	Coffee Break				
11:30 am – 1:00 pm	Workshop C1	Workshop C2	Workshop C3	Workshop C4	Workshop C5
1:00 pm – 2:30 pm	Lunch				
2:30 pm – 4:00 pm	Workshop D1	Workshop D2	Workshop D3	Workshop D4	Workshop D5
4:00 pm – 4:30 pm	Coffee Break				
4:30 pm – 6:00 pm	Plenary Session V – Closing Reflections: <i>Reconciliation, People, and the Planet</i> <u>Moderator:</u> Héctor Ferrer (Canada) As we close our conference, we look beyond the human family to consider the entirety of creation. Human activity is an increasing threat to our planet and thereby to our very existence. Is sustainability a religious value? What do repentance, repair, and reconciliation mean in the context of ecological devastation and global upheaval? Given the severity of the problems, should protecting the environment be a priority for interreligious relations?				
6:00 pm – 6:30 pm	Closing of the Conference + Farewell				
6:30 pm	Dinner				