

ICCJ Board Elections, Bonn 2017

Elected Board Members:

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Rev. Dr Bo Sandahl (Christian)	President	Sweden	1
Dr Abi Pitum (Jew)	Treasurer	Germany	4
Liliane Apotheke (Jew)	First Vice-President	France	5
Rev. Dr Pavol Bargár (Christian)	Second Vice-President	Czech Republic	7
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Last update: 07.07.2017



DR BO SANDAHL

Country: Sweden

Denomination: Christian

ICCJ President

Curriculum Vitae

High school diploma, Risbergska skolan Örebro, major in Humanities (1975)

Diploma in Ministry, Örebro Missionsskola (1981)

20 academic merit points in History of Science and Ideas, Högskolan i Örebro (1981)

Scholarship studies at the Swedish Theological Institute, Jerusalem (1983)

Three months of Ulpan (1983)

Bachelor's degree in Theology, including a master level essay, Lund University (1984)

Studies in Modern Hebrew, Lund University (1985)

Ordained as Minister in the Church of Sweden (1986)

Started doctoral studies in Systematic Theology, Lund University (1987)

Dialogue Group and Leadership Training (1997)

Management and Pastoral Leadership, Lund Diocese (1998)

Academic introduction to Pedagogy, Lund University (1998)

D.Theol. Thesis entitled "Person, Relation and God: Constructing a Relational Concept of Personhood in Contemporary Trinitarian Theology", Lund University (2004)

Training and ordination as Vicar, Lund Diocese (2007)

Practical Media Training, Lund Diocese (2008)

Developing Groups and Leaders (academic level), Institute for Workpsychology, Gothenburg Sweden (2010)

Advanced studies in Developing Groups and Leaders (2010)

Mentor in Partner-Mentor Program arranged by the Church of Sweden together with the Region of Skåne (2010)

Research and conference participation during Doctoral studies:

Eschatology and the Theological Discourse, Denmark (2000)

Nordic Association for Systematic Theology, draft of Doctoral thesis, Åbo Finland (2001)

Theology and Conversation: Leuven Encounters in Systematic Theology III, Leuven Belgium (2001)

Contemporary French Theology and Philosophy: International Conference at Lund University (2002)

Gottdenken in Europa heute. Theologie im globalen religiösen Dialog. European Intensive Learning Program, Vienna Austria (2003)

Subjectivity and Transcendence, Doctoral course, Copenhagen Denmark (2003)

Nordic Conference on Systematic Theology, Oslo Norway (2004)

Workshop on the Future of Democracy and Multireligious Existence, Lund Sweden (2004)

Bo Sandahl, VDM, ThD

Born 1956

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Presentation

My interest in Jewish-Christian dialogue was ignited in 1983 during the time I spent as a student at the Swedish Theological Institute in Jerusalem. Not only did the studies entail learning about Jewish tradition, we also got to take part in Jewish worship and everyday life. This was my first encounter with living, vibrant Judaism and it influenced my theological thinking and made me realize that interreligious dialogue is both crucial and a source of inspiration and possibilities. When I came back home, I joined SJK (The Swedish member organization of ICCJ) and have been a member ever since. Through the years, I've gotten to know the ICCJ, participated in a number of conferences and stayed in touch with Jewish life in Sweden through the local Jewish Center in Lund, where I am a member.

I was ordained as a minister in the Church of Sweden, an Evangelical Lutheran church, in 1986. I've sought to understand and teach the Gospel in a non-supersessionist way, where God in the same, and where the Hebrew Bible and the message of the New Testament are not in contrast. Rather, they need each other to be understood. Jesus must be understood in relation to his people and to Jewish tradition.

Since 11 years, I serve as Vicar in a small, multicultural town. My staff consists of 36 persons, including ministers, deacons, musicians, social workers and all other professions that make up a congregation. We have an ecumenical partnership with local Christians from the Middle East and Africa. The relationship with Christian traditions not belonging to the "Western Churches" is something that I take a great interest in, and I believe the ICCJ has a task in broadening dialogue to contain these communities and perspectives as well. Our congregation also has a close relationship with the local Muslim community, which I also see as an essential part of interreligious dialogue in a society such as the one in Southern Sweden.

In 2004 I defended my doctoral thesis in Systematic Theology, on the topic of Personhood in Contemporary Trinitarian Theology. My thesis includes analyses of how personhood is achieved through dialogue and relationality. The same year, I became Chairman of the local CCJ, a position that I held for 10 years. We arranged bi-monthly seminars and programs, and organized a large trilateral conference on the theme of "Who is my Neighbor?", which attracted media attention and drew plenty of visitors. Naturally, us being a small organization with limited funds, we spent much time doing fundraising, both for large event such as the conference I just mentioned and for running costs. I drafted a translation of the Berlin points that was published in Dialog, the magazine published by the Swedish CCJ, and frequently write and give keynote addresses on subjects pertaining to Jewish-Christian dialogue. In 2016, I was invited to Heppenheim where I delivered a speech to the board of the ICCJ and invited guests and experts on Migration.

Now some facts about my person. I am fluent in English, can make myself understood in German, speak some French and modern Hebrew. My theological studies included Biblical Hebrew and Greek. In August I assume the role as Dean in Lund, where the staff consist of nearly 200 people, and where my role will be to lead operations and assist the Bishop.

My Expectations for the Next 3-Year Term of the ICCJ Board

In the coming years I believe we in the ICCJ should find ways to inspire students to do academic research on Jewish-Christian dialogue, and we will without doubt benefit from their work. This also includes research within the institutions of Theology – Interreligious dialogue can only truly thrive when theological questions are being discussed. We should create materials to be used in schools, and teach the coming generations how to conduct fruitful interreligious dialogue.

I believe we need to address dialogue far more within our own communities and in ecumenical settings. We face a great task in reaching out to the Orthodox and Eastern Church traditions. We need to embrace the diversity of what it means to be Christian, to also include non-European/North American perspectives. Dialogue needs to be global. And we need to adapt to the current state of affairs around the world, where Christians are being persecuted. This is in large a new reality, and dialogue has never been more important.



PROFESSOR DR ABI PITUM

Country: Germany

Denomination: Jew

ICCJ Treasurer

Curriculum Vitae

Born 30.06.1948 in Munich, Germany

Home Address: Innstr.2a, 81679 Munich, Germany

E-Mail: pitum@pitum.de

German citizen

Married with Dr Maria Pitum, née Tannenbaum, Dentist

6 children

1948	Born in Munich, Germany
1954-1967	School in Munich and Boston (USA)
1967-1974	University of Munich and of Linz (Austria), Economics and History M.A. (economics) Ph.D. (history)

Offices held:

Since 1972	Member of the Board – <i>Jewish Community Munich</i> (12 times re-elected, Treasurer & Vice President)
Since 1972	Chairman of the Commission for Finance – <i>Central Council of the Jews in Germany</i>
Since 2010	Member of Executive Board – <i>Central Council of the Jews in Germany</i>
Since 1995	Member of the Executive Board – <i>Deutscher Koordinierungsrat</i>
Since 2000	Honorary Consul General – <i>Mongolia</i>
Since 2002	ICCJ Finance and Public Relation Committee
Since 2005	ICCJ Treasurer
Since 2005	Vice President <i>International Martin Buber Foundation</i>



LILIANE APOTHEKER

Country: France

Denomination: Jew

ICCJ First Vice-President

Curriculum Vitae

- Born in Antwerp in 1955 and raised in a traditional Jewish home
- Graduate of Hebrew University of Jerusalem in French and English literature
- Native speaker of French, fluent in 5 languages, including Hebrew
- Active member of Amitié judéo-chrétienne de France, chair of the ICCJ conference in Aix-en-Provence, co-chair of ICCJ conference in Bonn 2017
- Member of the Crif (Jewish umbrella organization in France), committee for dialogue with the Christian World
- Contributor to “Sens”, the publication of the AJCF, the French member organization
- ICCJ First Vice-president since Buenos Aires in 2014, board member since Krakow, 2011

The last three years have given me the opportunity to work in a truly diverse environment bringing together international perspectives that are essential to an increased awareness of our dialogue as Christians and Jews. These past years have not been easy for Jewish communities, especially in Europe. Nevertheless, we have also seen some positive events take centre stage like the publication of three valuable Jewish documents in the wake of the anniversary of Nostra Aetate. These prove if needs be that Jewish people are now more committed to our dialogue than ever before.

A few of my core beliefs:

- Diversity remains essential to our work. Varied perspectives give us a broader vision, and a better understanding of who we are. Nobody stands alone, or exists without the «other», the ultimate not «ourselves»;
- Jews and Christians have a unique bond, exploring the nature and content of that bond contributes to making us better Jews, better Christians, better humans;
- I am a grass root person. My understanding of our work flows directly from my daily experiences in the field. We need to bring more people into our fold! The fruits of theological research need to be shared in our dialogue, but also within our own religious communities. This constitutes a labour of love that needs to be done in intra and inter religious circles;
- Interpretation is our shared responsibility. It is our sacred duty to interpret our normative texts in a way that makes space for the other. No religious discourse is proper or worthy if it cannot be heard and shared with people of other faiths. The «other» is always with us.

We face many challenges: radicalisation both of religions and of secularisation, increased polarisation in many realms, religions that lack a positive visibility in the public sphere. Dialogue is a powerful antidote to all these, it is the result of deep thought shared among partners, it makes space for diversity and incarnates a true viable alternative to some of the current disorders we all encounter.

I have been happy and proud to serve on the ICCJ board these last years. We have strengthened our ties with our member organisations in many parts of the world and I strive to improve this even more in the years to come.

WITH YOUR SUPPORT I HOPE TO CONTINUE TO WORK AT THE BEST OF MY ABILITY TO ACHIEVE OUR COMMON GOALS.



DR PAVOL BARGÁR

Country: Czech Republic

Denomination: Christian

ICCJ Second Vice-President

Curriculum Vitae

Pavol is researcher at the Protestant Theological Faculty of Charles University in Prague, the Czech Republic. His research focuses on ecumenical hermeneutics with a particular interest in the dynamics of tradition. More broadly, his academic interests lie in theology and culture, interfaith relations, and intercultural theology. Born in 1981 in Martin, Slovakia, Pavol has been living, studying and working in the Czech Republic for over a decade. He took degrees in Protestant theology (an M.Div. equivalent from Comenius University in Bratislava) and in Jewish-Christian relations (an M.St. at the University of Cambridge). In 2009 he was awarded a Th.D. at Charles University in Prague.

Pavol has experience with teaching and tutoring in theology at a university level. He regularly publishes both scholarly and more popular articles as well as book and film reviews in various journals in both Slovak/Czech and English. His first book, *Narrative, Myth, Transformation: Reflecting Theologically on Contemporary Culture*, was published with Mlýn in 2016. He also serves on editorial boards of several journals.

In 2011–2013, Pavol served as chair of the Czech Council of Christians and Jews (Společnost křesťanů a Židů - SKŽ). He currently is a member of the Board of this organization. In addition, he is one of the editors of a journal published by SKŽ.

Pavol is married to Ivana. They have a daughter, Sofia Laila (4), and a son, Damian Vratislav (2). They live in Nupaky near Prague. Pavol is an ordained elder in the Evangelical Church of Czech Brethren, a mainline Protestant church which unites both the Lutheran and Reformed tradition with the legacy of the Bohemian reformation.

My Contribution to the Work of the ICCJ

Running for my second term as a member of the ICCJ Executive Board, I envision my contribution in four particular areas or perspectives that I hope to be able to offer. Coming from a post-Communist background, first, I could contribute with some unique insights drawn from the transformation processes within my society, regarding social, cultural, economic and religious issues. In addition, my experience with both a more traditional (i.e. Slovakia) and a secularized (i.e. the Czech Republic) form of a post-Communist society might be of use.

Second, I believe that my background in the study of Jewish-Christian relations could find a good use for the position of an ICCJ board member. In addition to these academic skills, my more practical experience in the field of Jewish-Christian (and, generally, interfaith) relations and cooperation might be of interest. This can, to my mind, find a further good use in the work of the ICCJ Theology Committee of which I am a member.

Third, I have contacts with numerous people, especially but not only Christians from different traditions and contexts who could be involved in cooperation with the ICCJ on various projects. And finally, I believe I can contribute to the work of the ICCJ with a youth perspective of a person who regularly interacts with people of various age groups and professions. This already found an expression in my involvement as an ICCJ Executive Board liaison for the Young Leadership Council (YLC).

My Expectations for the Next 3-Year Term of the ICCJ Board

I expect that the ICCJ will continue to be a relevant and cutting-edge voice in the field of interfaith relations in general, and of Jewish-Christian relations in particular. I hope it will further seek to pursue both academic and practical projects, with a special regard to grass-roots levels. I expect the ICCJ will stand up against all kinds and expressions of racism, xenophobia and anti-Semitism around the world, pursuing the way of peace, justice, reconciliation and mutual understanding not only among Jews and Christians, but among people of all faiths and none. Finally, I hope that the ICCJ will be able to enter a dialogue with groups and perspectives that have so far been at the fringes of Jewish-Christian dialogue, such as (theological) voices from the Global South or new emerging spiritual and cultural movements and initiatives.



RABBI J. SAMUEL SZTEINHENDLER

COUNTRY: CHILE

DENOMINATION: JEW

ICCJ Board Member

Curriculum Vitae

Born in Argentina

DEGREES

Doctor in Divinity, Jewish Theological Seminary of America, NY, USA

Rabbi Ordained at the Seminario Rabínico Latinoamericano Marshall T. Meyer, Argentina

Lawyer (Argentina - México)

Hebrew Teacher (Graduated in Argentina and Israel)

Professor and BA in Jewish Sciences (graduated in Argentina and improvement in Israel)

Degree in Management and Community Development (graduated in Argentina)

Degree in Public and International Relations (graduated in Argentina)

WORK

- School Principal in Argentina (Buenos Aires) and Guadalajara (México)
- Professor of Bible, Development of Jewish thought, Biblical Hebrew and Hebrew in several High Schools in Argentina
- Professor at the Hebrew Teachers Seminar in Argentina (AMIA)
- Professor of Bible, Development of Jewish thought, Biblical Hebrew and Introduction to Jewish Theology in the Jesuitic University (ITESO), the Xaverian Seminary, the Major Diocesan Seminary, the Franciscan Seminary and the Universidad de Guadalajara, all in Guadalajara, México
- Alcoholics Anonymous: Counseling Rabbi in Guadalajara, México and in Santiago, Chile
- Profesor, Seminario Rabínico Latinoamericano, Buenos Aires

RABBINIC POSITIONS

- Founding Rabbi and Rabbi of the Beit Emunah Community in Santiago, Chile (2004-today)
- Rabbi of the Or Shalom Congregation, Santiago, Chile (1995- 2004)
- Rabbi of the Jewish Community in Guadalajara, México (1978-1995)
- Rabbi serving the Jewish Community of Cuba (1992-2017)
- Chaplain of the Chilean National Prison system (2013-2016)

LEADERSHIP POSITIONS

- President of the Latin American Region of the Rabbinical Assembly.(three terms)
- Member of the Executive Council of the International Rabbinical Assembly

- Vice President for Latin American Affairs of the World Council of Conservative Synagogues (two terms)
- Placement Director for Latin America of the International Rabbinical Assembly
- Member of the Social Action Committee of the Int'l Rabbinical Assembly
- Member of the Ethics Committee, Universidad de Santiago de Chile

INTERRELIGIOUS DIALOG

- Founder and developer of the Christian-Jewish dialog in the west coast of México
- Active participation in the ongoing interreligious activities in Cuba since 1992
- President of the Chilean Council of Christian and Jews
- Consultant for the religious affairs office of the present Chilean Government (2014)
- Member of the ICCJ Board
- Co President Latin American Forum of Jewish Muslim Relations
- Member of the Latin American Peace Forum of Religious Leaders

AWARDS

- Rabbinic Merit Award in recognition for the development of Jewish life in Cuba (The Latin American Region of the Rabbinical Assembly)
- Bnai Brith – Texas Region Chapter – Award for the Rabbinic Work in Latin America
- Rotary Club - Jalisco, México - Award for the promotion Interfaith understanding
- Lyons Club - Jalisco, México- Award in recognition for enhancing and nurturing interfaith work
- Bnai Brith -Chilean Chapter- Member of the Lodge of Honor
- Community Leadership Award in Latin America (conferred by the Conference of Latin American Leadership sponsored by the Joint Distribution Committee (JDC))

LANGUAGES

- Spanish; Hebrew; English; Yiddish

My contribution to the work of the ICCJ

- Continuing the work to strengthen the activities and presence of the ICCJ in the region, go on with establishing a regional strategic agenda besides and beyond the agendas of each individual national council.
- Enhancing the presence and transcendence of the ICCJ all over the region.
- Working on outreach, trying to develop new national Councils of Christian and Jews over the Latin American Region in those countries where there are not yet established and support them in an ongoing way.
- Stimulate the establishing of a regional data bank to serve all the Councils.
- Continuing the ongoing created network between the leadership of all the Spanish Portuguese Councils and the already established common chat to generate and stimulate more contact and learning to work together.
- Serving with full commitment the realization of the goals and agenda of the ICCJ.
- Promote the realization of regional meetings, conferences, seminars at least once a year.
- Strengthening the transformation of the actual Spanish Portuguese existing Councils and the ones that are in process to be established in the near future.

☪ **My expectations of the next three year term of the ICCJ Board**

I expect to make the ICCJ more present not just in those countries over the world where there are affiliated councils but far beyond them.

If it's viable to work all together to get the recognition of the ICCJ as an ONG with presence at the U.N. and/or some of it's worldwide organizations, the same with the Vatican, and the same with any other international organization that will enable the ICCJ to get more presence, participation distribution over the world it's message.

Working as part of the Board team in facing the upcoming challenges that appeared already and will appear as part of a changing world and on that base work in making more understandable that changing world in relation to faith and religion in the 21st. century.

Helping, as much as possible to have a strategic planning committee that will forsee the needed transformations, regional and global agendas of the ICCJ in and for the next triennial cycle. This must include a special section related to how to engage and bring "on board" the next young generations to be engaged in the ICCJ important role in the time to come.

Participating in establishing at least one world project as a challenge and goal to nurture and strengthen the presence, need and importance of the pro active existence of the ICCJ.

Promote more regional common agendas.

Enhance and stimulate the inclusion of muslim representatives to build up a strong ICCJ and also within the countries where there are windows of opportunity to push ahead this valued step, in the spirit of being more inclusive and acting as partners to build a world of peace and understanding.



REV. DR MICHAEL TRAINOR

Country: Australia

Denomination: Christian

ICCJ Board Member

Curriculum Vitae

Michael is a Catholic priest of the Archdiocese of Adelaide, South Australia, senior lecturer in biblical studies at the Australian Catholic University, and adjunct senior lecturer in the department of theology, Flinders University, South Australia.

My Contribution to the Work of the ICCJ

Michael's contribution to the work of the International Council of Christians and Jews (ICCJ) includes international, national and local involvement, for which the Australian Government awarded him an 'Order of Australia' in 2007. He represents to the ICCJ the concerns and issues that come from his part of the globe in the southern hemisphere and Australasia. He is currently executive board member of the International Council of Christians and Jews, chair of the theological committee of the ICCJ, a contributor to the ICCJ project, 'Promise, Land and Hope', Chair of the Australian Council of Christians and Jews, and co-chair of the South Australian Council of Christians and Jews. Michael also is a recent member of the Australian Roman Catholic Bishops' Council for Interfaith and Inter-religious Relationships in which he advises the Catholic Bishops on Jewish-Christian matters.

My Expectations for the Next 3-Year Term of the ICCJ Board

Michael's expectation for the next three years as ICCJ Board member is to continue to explore avenues of dialogue between different religious groups, raise the profile of ecological-justice concerns which affect inter-religious dialogue, and address issues of anti-Semitism particularly as these emerge within the context of the rise of fundamentalism. Of particular interest will be his emphasis on dialogue as the means to address intolerance, misunderstanding and violence.



DR WILLY WEISZ

Country: Austria

Denomination: Jew, modern orthodox, observant

ICCJ Board Member

Curriculum Vitae

Born: February 25th, 1949

School: 1955 – 1967 Lycée français de Vienne

Studies: Physics and Mathematics at the University of Vienna, 1975 graduation Dr. phil.

Worked as computer scientist at universities in Vienna, retired 2014

Still lecturing:

IT Security at the University of Vienna

Workshops on Judaism and ethics in Judaism at universities and teachers colleges in and around Vienna

Workshops on Jewish subjects in institutions of adult education

Since 2003 voluntarily taking care (with my wife Eva) of the Jewish patients at Vienna's General Hospital (includes participating in interreligious activities and advising staff and administration of public hospitals in Vienna)

Published 16 articles on Jewish subjects in books and journals

ICCJ related activities

- Since 2006 active member of the Coordinating committee for Christian-Jewish Coordination (KooA), the Austrian ICCJ member
- Since 2007 (Jewish) vice-president of the KooA after the sudden passing away of Prof. Jacob Allerhand
- Since 2008 (Jerusalem conference) representative of KooA to the ICCJ General Assembly

My Expectations for the Next 3-Year Term of the ICCJ Board

In ICCJ's Mission Statement on the web site the word "integrity" appears twice once preceded by "identity" and once followed by "otherness". To promote the understanding of the identity of the "other" in the interreligious dialogue ICCJ has engaged and encouraged research and education in Christian and Jewish theological foundations and their implications for the faith commitment.

The topic that still needs to be tackled is the study of orthopraxy in the different faiths, and its implications for interreligious activities:

- What are the elements of orthopraxy relevant to encounters?
- What are the ethical implementations?

- The importance of orthopraxy on identity for some, and less for others (of the same faith)
- How can encounters be organised without resulting in (at least partial) segregation of some of the participants?

The questions to be asked, and hopefully answered, are not only relevant for preparing successful conferences but understanding the importance of orthopraxy for the integrity of one's identity must become part of professional education in many areas, e.g. to prepare doctors and nurses for the confrontations of religiously versus professionally motivated ethics in their future encounters with patients and their families.

I see ICCJ as an important platform for addressing this part of interreligious discourse, coordinating and enabling research and curricula.

Besides this extension of its focus ICCJ must intensify its work educating children and adults what is to be understood as anti-Jewish stereotypes and rhetoric, since even people considered to be friendly to Jews and the Jewish tradition don't refrain from using them (see article by Phil Cunningham "Is the Pope 'Anti-Jewish'" from May 8, 2017).