



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

Speakers: Elias H. Füllenbach (Germany), Noam Marans (USA),
Saïda Mirsadri (Switzerland), Axel Töllner (Germany)

Moderator: 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:
Performing Repentance, Repair, and Reconciliation:
Learning from Liturgies, Rituals, and Customs

Speakers: Engin Karahan (Germany), Ruth Langer (USA), Geoffrey Ready (Canada),
Anne Marie Reijnen (France)

Moderator: Katarzyna Kowalska (Poland)

Key sources for understanding repentance, repair, and reconciliation within different traditions are the ways these concepts are expressed in liturgy and ritual. Through an examination of how each tradition constructs repentance. We usually think of repentance as individual does to atone and make amends for having done wrong or “sinned”. The community often plays a role in an individual’s repentance but are there ways that a community can repent. Is there a difference between guilt and responsibility? What might communal repentance look like and are there examples of this within our traditions? What resources are there for the creation of multifaith rituals of repentance and reconciliation?

6:00 pm

Dinner

7:30 pm

Evening Event:
“Go to the Movies”

Tuesday, July 14, 2026

9:00 am – 9:30 am
9:30 am – 11:00 am

Meditative Moment
Plenary Session III – Ethical Approaches:
How to Harness Our Traditions to Strengthen Our Communities and Promote Peace

Speakers: Mohammed Ibraheem Ahmed (UK), Wibke Janssen (Germany),
Heather Miller Rubens (USA), Frederek Musall (Germany)

Moderator: Friedhelm Pieper (Germany)

Each tradition’s approach to repentance, repair and reconciliation is based on the idea that, despite what they teach about how to live an ethical life and contribute to creating an ethical society, human beings are fallible. When individuals or communities do not live up to their ethical obligations, a process of acknowledgement and reparation can play an essential role in allowing both those who have erred and those who have been harmed to find a way forward together. What can each of our traditions contribute to efforts of reconciliation on a societal level that involve both religious and secular actors (authorities, NGOs, etc.)?

11:00 am – 11:30 am
11:30 am – 1:00 pm

Coffee Break

Workshop B1	Workshop B2	Workshop B3	Workshop B4	Workshop B5
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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
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Gathering at Marktkirche St. Georgii et Jacobi

5:30 pm
6:00 pm

Free Evening

Wednesday, July 15, 2026

9:00 am – 9:30 am
9:30 am – 11:00 am

Meditative Moment
Plenary Session IV – Practical Approaches:
Efforts at Repentance, Repair, and Reconciliation: Projects and Initiatives

Speakers: Shoshana Boyd Gelfand (UK), Wolfgang Reinbold (Germany), Mark Walsh (Australia), Ophir Yarden (Israel)
Moderator: 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
11:30 am – 1:00 pm

Coffee Break

Workshop C1	Workshop C2	Workshop C3	Workshop C4	Workshop C5
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1:00 pm – 2:30 pm

Lunch

2:30 pm – 4:00 pm

Workshop D1	Workshop D2	Workshop D3	Workshop D4	Workshop D5
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4:00 pm – 4:30 pm
4:30 pm – 5:30 pm

Coffee Break

Plenary Session V – Closing Reflections:
Reconciliation, People, and the Planet

Speakers: Fariza Bisaeva (Austria), David Castillo (Costa Rica), Ben Kamine (USA), Katharina von Kellenbach (Germany)
Moderator: Héctor Acero 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?

5:30 pm – 6:00 pm
6:00 pm

Closing of the Conference + Farewell

Dinner

WORKSHOP LIST

- **A Communion of Others: Judaism & Orthodox Christianity — Building Bridges, Addressing Challenges**
- **Overcoming Speechlessness. The Emerge of Christian-Jewish Dialogue in Germany after the Shoah**
- **Building the Language of Dialogue**
- **Beyond the Fracture: Rebuilding Jewish-Christian-Muslim Dialogue after October 7th**
- **Ruptures and Pivots: Challenges to Interreligious Relations in an Illiberal Age**
- **Christian Zionism – An Introduction to a Widely Misunderstood Phenomenon**
- **Can even Devarim/Deuteronomy Serve the Repair Needed in Interfaith Dialogue?**
- **MIGO Writing Workshop - Writing Flash Fiction through Tight Orders, Based on Levinasian Perception of the Story**
- **Forgiveness and Jewish and Christian Representation in Pop Culture - Case Study: Dina in *The Last of Us* and Fr James in *Calvary***
- **From Repentance to Reconciliation**
- **Who Speaks for Us? Navigating Internal Diversity and External Dialogue between Jews and Orthodox Christians**
- **“Your Kingdom Come” - A Discussion of the New Policy Paper of the Protestant Church in the Netherlands Regarding Relationships with Jews and Palestinians**
- **"In Your Shoes": Co-Creating Digital Dialogue in an Age of Polarization**
- **Deep Listening: Bridging the Distance between Us**
- **For the Sin of Ignorance: Repentance, Repair, Reconciliation through Religious Literacy**
- **Stress Test: Planning -- and Executing -- an Interreligious Study Tour (or Pilgrimage) to Israel/Palestine**
- **The Eisenach “Dejudaization Institute” 1939 – 1945: Silencing, Suppressing, Coming to Terms with the Past**
- **Repair in Practice: Confronting Antisemitism in Academic and Interreligious Campus Life**
- **Many Languages of Repentance: Scriptural Reasoning as a Trilateral Practice of Repair**
- **(How) are Repentance, Repair, and Reconciliation Relevant to the I-P Reality?**