



Hochschule für Kirche und Diakonie Wuppertal/Bethel
Protestant University Wuppertal/Bethel



HOW TO BUILD A (REFORMED) CHURCH? DIGITAL INTERNATIONAL STUDY DAY 6 NOVEMBER, 2021

If you were to organize a new church order – how do you think it should work? How would you organize its structures? Its ministries? Its functions?

These important and pressing questions forced themselves unto the fathers of the so-called Synod of Emden 450 years ago. And: They are still pressing today. Nowadays, it is not about constructing a new church, but rather (re-)organizing the existing one. The Emden Synod is seen as the first big meeting of the reformed branch of Christianity in Germany and took place in the city of Emden at the North Sea. An exiled and persecuted Church came together to discuss major issues of its polity,

thereby balancing the practical implications of the reformed faith. Some major and still challenging thoughts of the members of the synod were:

- That no community or parish may claim superiority over another.

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- That not only the ordained ministers or the 'well-paid experts' are allowed – and just as much expected – to involve themselves in the active business of the Christian community, but every member of the church shares in the responsibility for the well-being of the church.

These ideals of the Emden synod still serve as an urgent reminder of the radical implications of the Gospel for the Christian community. The anniversary of this historical event serves as occasion for an international study day around the topic 'How to build a (reformed) church?'

Organization

The day is organized in cooperation between the United Evangelical Mission (UEM) and the Kirchliche Hochschule/Protestant University Wuppertal/Bethel and will take place via Zoom. We will listen to short presentations of scholars and church leaders from different parts of the world. They are going to discuss the ecclesiastical questions and ideals of the fathers of Emden for the broader history of the church and Christian communities of the present worldwide. Afterwards, there will be time for discussions in smaller groups in which we can discuss the heard and share own experiences.

Speakers

Pdt. Dr Handi Hadiwitanto, Universtias Kristen Duta Wacana and Chairperson of the Indonesian Christian Church (GKI), Indonesia

Prof. L. J. Modise, University of South Africa and Moderator Uniting Reformed Church in Southern Africa (URCSA), South Africa

PD Dr Margit Ernst-Habib, Universität des Saarlandes, Germany

▶ [Online seminar registration here](#) · **Registration deadline:** 29 October, 2021

[General terms of condition](#) · [Provisions on data protection](#)

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