



Don't make it too easy
**difficult
choices**
in times of war and aggression

September 9th and 10th 2022
Protestant Conference Center Haus Villigst
and partly online

Information
<http://ekvw.de/uccforum>



„For or against military defense? For or against deliveries of weapons? For or against pacifism? Does the Christian Peace Ethics still bear fruit, or not? That is why a heated argument broke out immediately. And it followed the usual binary logic of “right” or “wrong”. We have to make decisions and answer questions. But a simple for or against must not break down and reduce the complicated reality, as our answer should apply and stand up to it.” (Praeses Annette Kurschus, June 2022)

As Christians, we are convinced: “According to God’s will, war shall not be.” This sentence was formulated by the founding assembly of the World Council of Churches in Amsterdam in 1948. And it does not lose its validity even in the face of the inhumane and cruel war in Ukraine. It rather draws our attention to the fact that the reality in many places around the world does not correspond to the will of God.

As Churches, we are guided by the concept of Just Peace. But how should justice and peace be related to each other when both do not seem possible at the same time?

Three different speakers from politics and Church will explore these questions:

Jens Lattke

Peace Envoy of the Evangelical Church in Central Germany (EKM) and Director of the Lothar Kreyssig Ecumenical Center

Sven Giegold

Alliance 90/The Greens, State Secretary at the German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Protection and member of the presidium of the German Protestant Kirchentag

Rev. Paul „Chip“ Jahn

retired pastor of Trinity and St. Peter’s UCC in Fulda, Indiana and mediator in the peace process in Sri Lanka from 2002 to 2009

Finally, our Forum in Villigst can again take place in-person and with guests from the United States. We are looking forward to the keynotes, encounters, and in-depth discussions with you on Friday and Saturday. The keynotes will be streamed online in addition.

Elga Zachau

Christel Weber

Thomas Krieger

Program (shedule based on CEST)

Friday, September 9

- 2:00 pm Arrival
- 2:30 pm Greeting: What are “difficult choices” for you? With voices of young people from the US and Germany
- *3:30 pm Keynote Jens Lattke:
“Justice and Peace in the face of the war in Ukraine”
- 4:30 pm Break
- *5:00 pm Keynote Sven Giegold:
“Guilt is inevitable”,
digitally connected from Berlin
- 6:00 pm Dinner in Haus Villigst
- *7:00 pm Keynote: Rev. Paul “Chip” Jahn:
“Just Peace and the UCC”
- *8:00 pm News from the Church fellowship
- *8.30 pm Evening Prayer
- 9:00 pm Relaxed get-together in the cellar bar of Haus Villigst (open end)

Saturday (in-person at Haus Villigst only)

- 8:00 am Breakfast
- 9:00 am “... turn to him the other cheek also.” Biblical Inputs
- 10:00 am Market of Opportunities
(nonviolent action training //
“Just Peace” in our congregations?
// Is war also killing climate protection?)
- 12:30 pm Lunch
- 2:00 am Closing Prayer
- 2:30 pm Feedback, Goodbye
and Coffee to go

*These parts will also be streamed online as webinars.

Conference venue

Protestant Conference Center Haus Villigst, Iserlohner Straße 25, 58239 Schwerte,
Phone: +49 (0)2304 755-0

Costs

Normal: 50 € including board and lodging

Reduced: 25 € including board and lodging

Supplement for single room: 10 € per night

The participation fee has to be paid for the whole time period, even if you only attend one day.

Registration

Please register, if possible, by August 15th 2022, with Petra Steiner, Landeskirchenamt Bielefeld, Altstädter Kirchplatz 5, 33602 Bielefeld, Phone: +49 (0)521 594-244, E-Mail: oekumene@ekvw.de

If you only want to participate in the online parts on Friday, we also need your registration to email you the links to the individual webinars.

Arrival

By train

you can reach Haus Villigst via the railway station in Schwerte. There you will be able to rent a bicycle and cycle to Haus Villigst.

By bus

The closest railway station is Schwerte an der Ruhr. Villigst can be reached by bus line C32 from Schwerte train station to the stop called Villigster Straße, or Ruhrbrücke. From there you walk about 10 minutes to Haus Villigst. You can also take the public transport taxi-bus T30. Please note that this requires prior reservation by phone with the taxi company.

By car

via the A45 Motorway exit Schwerte-Ergste: then take direction Schwerte-Ergste and Iserlohn; drive straight ahead at the traffic roundabout; turn left at the B236 to Dortmund, Menden, Iserlohn, Schwerte. Then drive straight ahead at the traffic lights in the direction of Iserlohn, Gewerbegebiet Villigst, Menden – here you are already on the road Iserlohner Straße. After about 1.4 km you will reach Haus Villigst.

By car

via the A1 Motorway exit Schwerte: take the lane in direction of Schwerte/Iserlohn (B236) and follow the B236; after the town exit you cross the River Ruhr after a few kilometers. Take the left lane at the traffic lights directly after the Ruhr bridge (direction Menden/Iserlohn). Here you are already on the road Iserlohner Straße. After about 1.4 km you will reach Haus Villigst.

