



UCC - Forum 2024

September 13-14, 2024
Haus Villigst, Schwerte

Raising Awareness -

Creating Safer Spaces.

A Joint Task for Our Churches

Raising Awareness - creating safer spaces.

A joint task for our churches.

The term 'safer space' generally means "a place or environment in which a person or category of people can feel confident that they will not be exposed to discrimination, criticism, harassment or any other emotional or physical harm." (Oxford Dictionary)

The UCC and the EkvW have been in a long partnership (Kirchengemeinschaft) and share hopes and challenges, questions, ideas and visions. Together we want to ask: How can we create safer spaces in our churches? How can we sensitize our members and open our structures for people and groups who experience discrimination and harm?

At this year's UCC - Forum, we want to exchange ideas and work together to raise awareness and to address and promote the importance of creating safer spaces and inclusive environments in our church communities.

Rev. Dr. Chad R. Abbott (Conference Minister, Indiana Kentucky Conference, UCC) and Rev. Dr. David Long-Higgins (Conference Minister, Heartland Conference, UCC) will share insights on our topic from UCC perspective. Dr. Alena Höfer (Consultant for women's politics and intersectional feminism, EkvW) will present on EkvW's behalf.

In workshops we will deal with anti-racism, protection and prevention of sexualized violence, the idea of being a brave church and the concept of boundary trainings. The focus is on conversation and exchange.

Together we want to raise awareness and take steps to ensure that our churches become sanctuaries of safety, respect and love for all human beings.

A warm welcome to Villigst!

*Elga Zachau (EkvW), Christel Weber (EkvW), Annika Huneke (oikos-Institut EkvW), John Krueger (UCC, Indiana-Kentucky Conference),
Sigrid Rother (UCC, Heartland Conference)*



Program

Friday, September 13th

2:00 p.m. Welcome and get to know each other

3:30 p.m. **Raising Awareness – Creating safer spaces.**

Perspectives from UCC and EKvW

UCC: Rev. Dr. Chad R. Abbott/ Rev. Dr. David Long-Higgins

EKvW: Dr. Alena Höfer/ N.N.

5:00 p.m. Plenary and group discussions

6:00 p.m. Dinner

7:00 p.m. News from the church fellowship

8:30 p.m. Evening Prayer

9:00 p.m. Cozy get-together

Saturday, September 14th

8:00 a.m. Breakfast

9:15 a.m. Spiritual morning impulse

9:45 a.m. Workshops

- Being a brave church: how to provide safer spaces to discuss controversial issues? *Rev. Dan Doty*
- Boundary Trainings *Rev. Dr. Chad R. Abbott/ Rev. Dr. David Long-Higgins*
- Protestant culture as a facilitating factor for sexual abuse: Study on sexual abuse (ForuM) in the EKD and what we can learn from it. *N.N.*
- EKvW's learning from UCC in antiraicism work: steps and visions *Ulrike La Gro/ N.N.*

11:15 a.m. Workshops (2nd round)

12:15 p.m. Reflection

12:45 p.m. Lunch

2:00 p.m. Communion service

3:00 p.m. Closing of the Forum





The event will take place at
Haus Villigst – Evangelische Kirche von Westfalen
Iserlohner Str. 25, 58239 Schwerte

The participation fee is 50 Euro.
Members of the UCC working group and students pay 25 Euro.

The event is limited to 45 persons.
Please register latest by September 1st, 2024.

Registration:



[Registration Link UCC Forum](#)

If you have any questions, please contact

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Language

The main language is English. If you do not feel confident with it there is the possibility for translation and we make sure that everyone understands as much as possible.

Childcare

We are happy to organize childcare (from 3 or more participating children). When registering, please let us know how many children of what age are coming along.