

In dialogue with our American colleagues, we want to reflect on how we can initiate Christian renewal and ask ourselves:

What can it mean to be a Christian in the coming decades? And what role do we want to play in societal processes of change and those in our churches?

Important Information

Who?	What?	Where?
Pastors and local church leaders are invited!	A week of learning, discussion and fellowship.	Juniata College in Huntingdon, Pennsylvania, USA
When?	**Language**	**Price**
Sunday, July 26th to Friday 31st, 2026	English	app. $900 (not including travel)*

**The cost is eligible for subsidy under the 2/3 funding rule for pastors. We also want to enable interested laypeople to attend. Please contact us, if you are in need of financial support!*

We know that there are concerns regarding travel to the USA at the moment. As a preparatory group, we are in touch with colleagues that are traveling to the USA regularly and monitor the situation. In case of concerns, you can contact Stephanie Sippel at stefanie.sippel@gemeinsam.ekbo.de.

Syllabus

Divisions run through our society, whether we live in the United States or in Germany. **Both in public life and private encounters, people experience that attitudes toward certain topics create distance between them and others.** In these moments, their Christian identity seems to be left aside—or is it? What experiences do Christians make, and how can they contribute to more unity?

In dialogue with our American colleagues, we want to reflect on how we can initiate Christian renewal and ask ourselves: **What can it mean to be a Christian in the coming decades?** And what role do we want to play in societal processes of change and those in our churches?

We warmly invite all pastors, interested staff members active in ministry, ecumenically interested professionals and volunteers! We look forward to an exciting and inspiring week.

The pastoral colloquy is conducted as part of the **partnership with the Penn Central Conference of the United Church of Christ (USA)**.

Further information will then be available by Rev. Stefanie Sippel: stefanie.sippel@gemeinsam.ekbo.de

Frank Schürer-Behrmann as Chairman of the UCC Advisory Board of the EKBO as well as our inviting partners of the Penn Central Conference of the United Church of Christ

On the weekends before and after the pastoral colloquy, the partners traditionally visit UCC partner congregations.

Through these visits, personal contacts can be forged, the partners can get to know local congregational life and participate in worship services.

If you are interested in spending a weekend before or after the Pastoral Colloquy, please let us know – also if you have specific interests such as church music, youth work, social or diaconal services or others.

We will be happy to answer any of your questions!

Some history...

In the last decade of the Cold War and the years following the „Peaceful revolution" of 1989, regional church partnerships were established between UCC-Conferences in the USA and regional churches in Germany, including then East Germany. Among these were the partnerships between the Penn Central Conference (PCC) and the Evangelical Church in Berlin-Brandenburg (PCC) and the Wisconsin Conference and the Protestant Church of Upper Lusatia on the eastern border of Germany with Poland and the Czech Republic.

Both German churches merged in 2004 and became the EKBO, which resumed the tradition of joint Pastoral Colloquys that had been established between the Church in the Rhineland (EKiBB) and the Church in Pennsylvania (PCC) in the 1990s.

Since then, biennial colloquys have taken place and addressed issues of mutual concern on both sides of the Atlantic. They have centered around current topics ranging from local church building to post-modernism, relations with Islam, migration and peace building. Other neighbor and partner conferences were invited and included. Friendships have grown, and so has our understanding of each other, the world that we live in and our mission as Christian churches in our time.

We invite you to become part of this special experience!

Registration

Please contact Rev. Stefanie Sippel, stefanie.sippel@gemeinsam.ekbo.de.

Please include your mailing address, E-mail address, preferred telephone number and needs (mobility, dietary needs, allergy etc.).

Please also include, if you would like to spend a weekend in an UCC congregation and if you have specific interests.

We are looking forward to your Email!

Sponsors

Ev. Kirche Berlin-Brandenburg-schlesische Oberlausitz (EKBO) / (Berliner Missionswerk, UCC-Beirat / Amt für kirchliche Dienste (AKD))

Penn Central Conference, United Church of Christ

Wisconsin Conference, United Church of Christ

Other Partner Conferences in the United Church of Christ