



LWF CENTER
WITTENBERG
THE LUTHERAN
WORLD FEDERATION



LWF Center Wittenberg, Jüdenstraße 9, 06886 Lutherstadt Wittenberg

To all member churches of the Lutheran World Federation

Wittenberg, September 5, 2023

Studying Luther in Wittenberg

Invitation to the 26th International Theological Seminar for Pastors, March 2-16, 2024

Respected Bishops, dear Sisters and Brothers in the leadership of the member churches of the Lutheran World Federation,

Many of you know about the international theological seminars that are organised at the LWF Center in Wittenberg. A lot of pastors came back home and gave reports and encouraged others to apply for a seminar because the encounter and the studies in Luther's town are encouraging, inspiring and community-building.

It is my honour and my pleasure to extend to you the invitation to the

26th LWF International Theological Seminar for Pastors at LWF Center Wittenberg

Comfort My People (Isaiah 40:1)

"Luther's art of spiritual comfort – theology and practice for pastoral care today"

**Academic Team: Prof. Dr. Stephen Pietsch, St. Louis (USA),
and Ms. Asuka Kimura, Tokyo (Japan)/ Tuebingen (Germany)**

Date: March 2-16, 2024

Venue: Colleg Wittenberg, Juedenstrasse 8, D-06886 Lutherstadt Wittenberg

We kindly ask you to identify appropriate female or male pastors in your churches who meet the following requirements:

- **Excellent knowledge of English** (the seminar will be held in English)
- Pastors with some years of **parish experience** and interest in **reflecting** on the **Lutheran understanding of ministry**
- **Endorsement** by the leadership of the church

We will invite up to **22 participants** from the **7 regions** within the LWF. This will ensure a fruitful, **cross-cultural dialogue** that will strengthen the communion of the LWF. We also look for a **balance** in **gender** and **generation** to enhance the sharing of different perspectives and life experience.

We hope that participants will return to their respective home churches better equipped for the challenges in their ministry. For the home churches, these seminars provide the opportunity to offer their pastors additional **theological education** and **spiritual formation**.

The structure of the seminar will follow the established model:

March 2	- Arrival; Welcome and getting to know each other.
March 3	- Worship service in Wittenberg and guided city tour
March 4-8	- First Study Week
March 9	- Excursion Day
March 10	- Worship service in Wittenberg, free time
March 11-15	- Second Study Week
March 16	- Departure

Participants in the seminar are required to be present for the **entire** seminar program. Personal trips or excursions after the seminar are possible at one's own expense and responsibility.

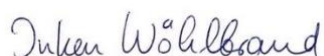
The **participation fee** amounts to **1100 Euros** (including accommodation, food, day trips, entrance fees, materials, etc). The fee and **travel expenses** are to be covered by the participants and/or their sending churches.

We kindly ask for your understanding if not all applications can be accepted. This is due to limited financial means and limited capacities. For this reason, we ask you to nominate not more than two people from your church.

Please find attached the **nomination form**, to be returned to our Administrative Assistant, Ms. Laura Bohlander (by e-mail to: bohlander@dnk-lwb.de), by **October 10, 2023**.

Respected bishops and church leaders, we kindly ask your cooperation in nominating pastors from your church for the 26th International Theological Seminar in March 2024. We look forward to a fruitful exchange within the communion of the LWF.

On behalf of Prof. Dr. Stephen Pietsch, Ms. Asuka Kimura, Rev. Dr. Sámuel Nánási (Director of Studies at LWF Center Wittenberg) and our staff team, I send you kindest regards,



(Rev. Inken Wöhlbrand)
Executive Director of LWF Center Wittenberg