



1517-2017

THE REFORMED CHURCHES' PLANS FOR CELEBRATING THE 500TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE REFORMATION

The Protestant Churches have been making preparations to celebrate the 500th anniversary of the reformation for years. Apart from their own plans, the Churches will prepare joint programs and projects, and moreover they will take part in international preparations for the jubilee.

Plans of the Reformed and Lutheran Churches in Hungary

COMMON SYNOD SESSION

In October 2017, we plan to solidify the agreements and statements that we have previously signed during a common synod session. The two Churches have set up a preparation committee, whose tasks include creating a combined festive pronouncement. The synod will be the official commemoration of the reformation by both churches.

PROTESTANT EXHIBITION

- *Venue:* National Gallery
- *Date:* March-November 2017
- *Curators:* Botond Gáborjáni Szabó, Zsuzsa Fogarasi, Zsuzsanna Zászkalickzy, Béla László Harmati (the National Gallery has also appointed its curator)
- *Financing:* The National Gallery is a co-organizer along with the two Churches. Grants.
- The exhibition will be organized through a co-operation of the church archives with the aim of reaching the public
- A conference will be organized revolving around controversial matters in theology and art history on which the exhibition is based

COLLECTIVE PROTESTANT ENCYCLOPEDIA

- *Title:* Encyclopedia of Hungarian Protestant Church History and the History of Culture
- *Publishing Date:* 30 September 2017
- The edition – according to the recent plans – will only be released digitally, taking into account the well-known works of Jenő Zoványi, extended by new entries
- *Editors:* Gabriella Hubert, Botond Kerétsz, István Szabadi, Béla Baráth
- *Editing Committee:* Dr. Dénes Dienes, Dr. Előd Ősz, Dr. Előd Szabó, László Kis, Miklós Czente, Péter Kónya, János Mányoki, András Korányi
- Selection of the entries is already closed. Creating of a data-base operating software is in progress, which is the base of the encyclopedia

JOINT ACADEMIC CONFERENCES

- Organizers: Dr. Károly Fekete and Dr. Tibor Fabiny
- **Plenary meeting** in 2014, celebration of the 500th jubilee of reformation, the theological impulses of reformation and their long-lasting effects, theological academic plan of work
- **Regional sessions** from 2014 about the effects of reformation on particular areas, on regions with larger Lutheran communities as well, scientific evaluation of the Protestant ecumenism
- **Conference of Protestant doctoral candidates** about the present interpretation of reformation
- **Academic forum of church and secular experts in co-operation** of the regional committees of the Hungarian Academy of Science, diverse analysis on the social effects of the reformation
- **Academic programs 2014-2017**, local and international reformed, Lutheran, Presbyterian, Baptist experts of theology and humanities on the European and overseas effect of the reformation

CULTURAL PROGRAMS

We would like to organize a vast cultural program in the Budapest Sport Arena, but the preparations have not been started yet.

The Reformed Church in Hungary's plans for the 500th memorial jubilee of the reformation

*"The legitimacy of today's Reformed community, based merely on age,
is just secondary. We need more."*

The preparations for celebrating the reformation jubilee are only complete with the thematic programs and achievements of the previous years.

PUBLICATIONS

- 2013: New translation of the Heidelberg Catechism
- 2013: Publications for the occasion of the 475th jubilee of the foundation of the Reformed college in Debrecen
- 2013: Second volume of Preachers and rectors of the Transdanubian Reformed Church District (1760-1848); and publication of the third volume (1848-1920) in 2017
- 2014: closing of the commemorative years of John Calvin, for the 450th anniversary of his death, the new translation of Institutio (Dr. Dezső Buzogány) will be published
- 2017: Social history of the reformed religion in Hungary
- 2017: History of the geography of the Hungarian reformed denomination
- 2017: Hungarian reformed travel guide
- Until 2017 continuous publication of Calvin's commentaries in Hungarian, in the *Reformed Church Library* series
- By 2017 we would like to publish the new reformed book of order (liturgy) and hymnal for the common usage of the reformed Churches in the Carpathian Basin

INVESTMENTS AND RENOVATIONS

With partial support of the state more large-scale reconstructions are in progress, which are expected to be finished by 2017.

- Reformed College of Debrecen
- The Károli Gáspár program of the Cistibiscan Reformed Church

EXHIBITIONS, CONCERTS

- Preparation of a representative collection of choirs, by Sándor Berki, which could be used by the reformed of the Carpathian Basin and by other denominations as well
- Festive Concert (world premiere from the mentioned collection or from the work of János Vajda/György Orbán)
- Exhibition of the Hungarian reformed church art, presenting the works of applied art (Emőke P. Szalay) – possibly in co-operation with the Museum of Applied Arts
- The Leipzig St. Thomas Boys Choir is being organized to play in Budapest at Palace of Arts (MŰPA), in Debrecen (Főnix hall) and in Pécs (Kodály Center)
- 2017 Debrecen: *'Why has Debrecen become the Calvinist Rome?'* – exhibition
- 2017 'Wittenberg and Debrecen' exhibition
- 2017 Debrecen: Unveiling of a colorful stained-glass window (depicting the leading figures of the reformation, Luther, Calvin, Melancton, Zwingli and the other important figures, around a table behind a symbolical burning candle leaning above the Bible)
- We are planning the Starpoint (Csillagpont) meeting for youth, with participation from the youth of the Carpathian basin and international sister churches

Further initiatives for addressing the youth, and popularize the values and thoughts of reformation are being prepared.

International relations

In 2011, our church joined the REFO500 network, which connects the commemorations of primarily reformed churches all over the world (<http://www.refo500.nl/en/news/6>). In this project our church is directly represented by the Károli Gáspár Reformed University. Partly independent from this program we prepare joint programs with other reformed churches of Europe, in which we would like to integrate the smaller Central-European and Baltic reformed congregations.

“European City of the Reformation”: Jubilee Programs in Debrecen

COMMON SYNOD OF THE HUNGARIAN REFORMED CHURCH

In 2017 we will celebrate the 500th anniversary of the Common Synod of Hungarian Reformed Church. The community of Reformed churches in the Carpathian Basin that incorporates Hungarian Reformed congregations both within and outside the borders of Hungary will remember of the anniversary with a common Synod Meeting, which will take place in Debrecen.

PARTICIPATION AT INTERNATIONAL JUBILEE PROGRAMS

Preparing for the Jubilee of Reformation in 2017, the European protestant churches have launched programs for the celebration. The city of Debrecen will take part in two international ecumenical programs and offers various activities to learn about the history of this important city:

- The City of Reformation Program, organized by the Community of Protestant Churches in Europe, has awarded 31 impressive cities with the title, “European City of the Reformation,” including Debrecen. The city was a significant figure in the 16th century Reformation, has a distinct European feel, and is easily accessible for visitors from all over the continent to come and enjoy its history.
- The European Roadmap program, under the organization of the German Protestant Church (Evangelische Kirche in Deutschland), captures the many voices of the Reformation through a cross-continental trip with stops across Europe that were vital to this transformational time. A waystation will be located in Debrecen with information about the city’s significance and a storymobile will visit on 31 January, 2017 to take visitors on a Reformation journey.