



invitation invitation

‘Christian education between ‘history’ and ‘contemporary’

Study-tour 2012 in The Netherlands, 13 – 16 June 2012, Utrecht/Amsterdam

The idea:

Education has always played a huge role in the Protestant and Anglican tradition: Catechisms are well-known in Lutheranism (Luther in 1529), Calvinism (Calvin in 1545) and Anglicanism (Westminster Assembly in 1647).



They have been used in the education of younger and elder church-members.

In the Calvinistic tradition there was a Sunday-evening-service attending the Heidelberger Catechismus (1563) Sunday for Sunday.

Our EAEE-network is based on this important position of learning.



Looking at education we can find some general features for the past:

1. there were rather fixed and clean-cut dogmatic issues and social norms and values,
2. they were generally shared and became characteristic of the group,
3. so they have constituted networks: people understood and recognised each other as belonging to the same network.

This has been changed now. Looking at present times we can dot the following lines:

1. society grouping in large and consolidated groups is becoming less and less, the homogeneity is disappearing,
2. the new words are ‘pluriformity’ and ‘non-synchronic’: in church and society a lot of groups are standing at the same time at different positions in their choices in belief, social norms and values,
3. churches are becoming minorities in society.
4. an important change is: in the former time one man(!) or synod has formulated the



content of education; books and catechisms were the means to teach the young and old people.

Nowadays the people are **co-creating**: see the way norms, values and beliefs are made at the internet, web-logs, Twitter, Facebook, Linked-In ans. **The change is: from transmission to co-creating.** So education in the 21st century is co-education.

Problem and challenge:

- there are many ‘light-communities’ instead of the consolidated ‘holy communion of the church’ (communio sanctorum). The network was supporting the education and the education was supporting the network. That has been changed. *How can Christian education be co-creating and yet stay connected with its roots?*
- How do we find a good way in the different ways of co-creation? And how can we involve ‘forgotten groups’ in church, e.g. bank-workers in the financial centres and ‘young urban professional people’?

We like to invite you to participate and explore some activities and being critical about what you see.

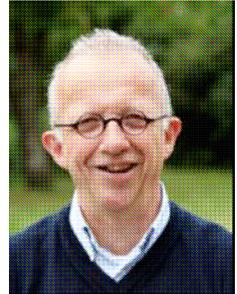
Program:

Wednesday 13th of June after 16.00 h:

Arrivals, evening meal, **opening worship**, informal evening.

Thursday 14th of June:

Morning: **‘Christian belief between ‘history’ and ‘contemporary’**
Introduction on the theme by Dr. Harm Dane, study secretary Protestant Centre for Training and Education.



Afternoon: **2 Workshops on new ideas about transmitting the Christian faith.**
We ask the workshop-leaders to make it to an interactive workshop.



1. **The missionary work of the Protestantse Kerk Nederland.** There is a special department ‘Missionary work’. It tries to get insight on the cultural context of nowadays people and the place of the gospel in it and to work on a better communication of Christian faith with others, from the idea: Christians themselves are the best communicators of the gospel. Nynke Dijkstra (she is one of the staff members) will introduce this work.

2. **The Youth-department JOP of the Protestant Church** is developing a project on the communication of faith between parents and child in the family. It’s called ‘Moments’. JOP is conscious of the fact that in society there’s no longer a culture of ‘the Christian group’. So there’s a bigger challenge to shape it in the family. Wielie Elhorst is the staff-member doing this workshop.

Evening: **‘Transmission and co-creation’, Jan van der Stoep**
Dr. ir. Jan van der Stoep studied biology at the Wageningen University and philosophy at the Free University of Amsterdam. In 2005, he received his Ph.D. on the thesis ‘Pierre Bourdieu and the political philosophy of multiculturalism’ (Kok, Kampen). Lecturer ‘Religion in Media and public space’ at the CHE and lecturer at the Master Christian Studies of Science and Society of the faculty of philosophy of the Free University of Amsterdam.



Friday 15th of June:

Visiting The Protestant Church in Amsterdam

In Amsterdam there are a lot of experimental activities ‘crossing border’ education and church-presence and presentation.

The Protestant Church Amsterdam is looking for new forms of the Church. Forms that fit to this time and to the city, innovative projects with a positive image. So more people can be involved in the matter of the Church. See www.protestantsamsterdam.nl

Transport by private bus Utrecht – Amsterdam v.v.

3 workshops on the road

1. **Bible-classes in the Centre of the City and at the South-Axis,**
It’s the booming business-quarter with many banks, law firms, the World Trade Centre ans. It the church nearby, the Thomaskerk, Ad van Nieuwpoort and Ruben van Zwieten started ‘bible classes’ during lunchtime or at the end of the working day. It’s a big success: there is a waiting list now. In the Centre of Amsterdam the Noorderkerk has started bible classes too for the ‘young urban professional people’ living in the ‘ring of canals’ and Jordaan-quarter. We will follow a bible class in the old Noorderkerk (built between 1620 – 1623, one of the first typical Protestant churches in Amsterdam) with Noorderkerk-minister Paul Visser.



2. No churchbuildings, but being where the people live. Their daily life and location is part of the message. Margrietha Reinders is working as minister-pioneer in the Old West of Amsterdam. She is developing new supply for people who don't come to church, but are looking for the meaning of life, 'what makes sense?' One example: **every 2nd Sunday she organises The Seeking Soul, she invites people to meet in the pub-at-the-corner to read the Bible together** or play some parts of it. Just in the middle of the pub, with other people drinking their coffee or beer. Other projects are: The Holy Fire and Coffee with talks about a theme.



We hope to visit the pub Alverna in Amsterdam-Old West and meet Margrietha.

3. Already many years Amsterdam is the place of **De preek van de leek (The sermon of the layman/laity-people)**. Four or five famous people on politics, arts, cabaret, trade union, singing/song writing a.s.o. have been asked to 'do a service' in the old Singelkerk. The workgroup supports them during the whole process making the liturgy and reading the bible text. The liturgy is just the normal one, the texts and songs are more special. And the people deliver a sermon in their own 'language' and images. There have been some speechmaking events. The church is situated in the middle of the shopping centre, the service is Sunday-afternoon at five. There is an ever increasing number of visitors – and people willing to preach there! Henk Leegte, minister of the Mennonite Congregation, will tell us about it in the Mennonite Church in the middle of the city! (Singelkerk).



- **Meeting at the historic Head Office of the Protestant Church of Amsterdam just in the garden of the Hermitage Amsterdam (buildings from 1683 – 1895) and talks about the new program's of the church in Amsterdam.** Julia van Rijn, minister and Scriba (General Secretary) of the Church Board, will be our host.



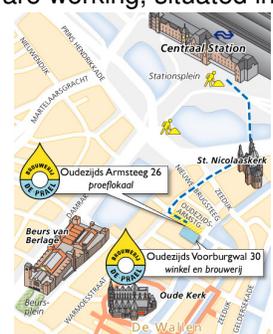
- **Walking through the city**
- **Diner in Amsterdam** in a special project where people with psychiatric background are working, situated in the very middle-age-centre of the town. (Brouwerij De Prael, <http://deprael.nl>)
- **Back to Utrecht by bus**



Saturday 16th of June:

- **Reflections on the projects and Evaluation**
- **Annual meeting of the EAEE**
- **Closing act of worship**
- **Lunch and depart**

The program is subjected to changes!



Place to stay: Guesthouse of the Protestant Church in the Netherlands (Hendrik Kraemer Institute), Utrecht (r). Meals and meetings in the building next-door (l):



Dienstencentrum Protestant Church in the Netherlands, Joseph Haydnlaan 2A, 3503 Utrecht, tel. 0031 30 880 1880

www.protestantchurch.nl



Fee for the Study-tour 13 – 16 June:

€ 375 p.p. for stay in a single room / € 295 p.p. for stay in a double room (shared)

APPLICATION

Please fill in one form per participant and send it by email to:
utrecht.studytour@eaaa.eu

NAME	
ADDRESS	
TOWN + CODE	
COUNTRY	
TELEPHONE	
E-MAIL	
CHURCH	
adult education organisation	
I will stay in a	Single / double room
I will stay the following nights:	<input type="checkbox"/> Wednesday, June 13th, 2012 <input type="checkbox"/> Thursday, June 14th, 2012 <input type="checkbox"/> Friday, June 15th, 2012

APPLICATIONS NOW!!!

SOLIDARITY FUND

In exceptional cases financial support can be granted. Please apply to: spep.epub@skynet.be

PAYMENT SHOULD BE MADE TO

Evangelische Kreditgenossenschaft e.G.
Blumenstrasse 1
D 76133 Karlsruhe
Germany

Konto-Nr. 5911540
BLZ 52060410
IBAN DE 185206041000059115 40
BIC GENODEF 1 EK 1

NOTE: Your application will be confirmed after payment!