

37th Forum Ökumene (international)

German-American Church Relations in View of the Rising Tide of Christian Nationalism

Monday, 15th June 2026, 12:00-2:pm EST , Online, featuring

The Rev. Eleanor McCormick, EMS/UCC, in Stuttgart, Germany

Senior Church Official Ute Hedrich, Central Offices, Evangelical Church in Germany in Hannover, Germany

The Rev. Riley Edwards-Raudonat (ret.), in Ludwigsburg, Germany

The event language is English, a German translation will be offered.

Registration: pro.oekumene@gmail.com ; Following your registration, you will receive the zoom link.



The **Christian Nationalism** currently constitutes a major influence among the constituents of the US-MAGA movement: e.g. white supremacy and white male dominance, a propensity for violence, and anti-Muslim sentiments. Much of this is reminiscent of the 'positive Christianity' during the Nazi period in Germany. Even today, notions of a 'Christian West' being threatened by outside forces are widespread in Germany.

How are the **Churches in the USA and Germany** responding? The United Church of Christ (UCC) sees itself as an inclusive church that takes a clear stand against racist Christian nationalism. German Churches are debating how they should respond to right-wing exclusion and resentment. What lessons can be learned and what opportunities for joint action could German-American Church Relations offer?

Eleanor McCromick, UCC minister and Head of Department "Programmes and Networks" at the EMS, together with **Ute Hedrich**, Senior Church Official and Department Head at the EKG Church Offices and as such responsible for the relations with the UCC, will share their experiences and engage in discussion. **Riley Edwards-Raudonat**, retired minister in the Evangelical-Lutheran Church in Württemberg with close personal ties to the Presbyterian Church (USA), will offer a response.