

Award of the Menno Simons Preaching Prize 2022

to Pastor Peter Stucky, Colombia

On Sunday, **October 2nd, 2022** (Thanksgiving Day), the *Center for Peace Church Theology* (University of Hamburg, Germany), together with the Mennonite congregation of Hamburg-Altona, will award the international Menno Simons Preaching Prize to Peter Stucky, pastor of the Mennonite congregation of Teusaquillo in Bogotá (Colombia) and professor emeritus at the *Seminario Bíblico Menonita* there. The public award ceremony will take place after the service in the Mennonite Church of Hamburg-Altona (10:00 a.m. CET), where the award-winning sermon will be heard. All interested are cordially invited.

Also via live stream: <https://www.youtube.com/c/MennonitengemeindeZuHamburgUndAltona>.

The award-winning sermon was first preached in 2021 at the opening of the "Month of Mission" in Bogotá. On the basis of verse 9 from the 1st Letter of Peter, chapter 2, a picture is drawn of the church as a missionary community. The sermon takes up the speaking images of the Bible verse and interprets them vividly in catchy language: The sermon interprets the "chosen generation" as a family that first practices hospitality towards strangers. The "royal priesthood", understood as a collective task, calls for forgiveness and intercession. As "holy people," the Church already embodies a new social reality that spills over into all areas of life. And as God's "people of property", this community shares the infinite love of God. The Lord's Supper is interpreted as announcing this identity: at its center is Jesus Christ, who brings together those gathered as a new, alternative community of believers. "Do you think people will fall in love with such a gospel and such a church?" - asks this inviting sermon, which interprets the outdated term "mission" in a contemporary way in the peace church tradition and centers it theologically on God's abiding love.



Peter Wood Stucky was born in 1945 in Medellín, Colombia, as the fourth child of a North American missionary couple. He received his theological education at *Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary* in Indiana (USA), the *University of Edinburgh* (Scotland) and the *Ecumenical Institute for Higher Theological Studies* in Jerusalem, among others. He has shaped the Mennonite Church in Columbia in a variety of ways over the past decades, most recently as its president (1999-2009). Stucky is co-founder of MENCOLDES (Mennonite Relief and Development Organization) and JUSTAPAZ (Mennonite Peace Organization). Many other peace initiatives in this torn apart country by civil war can be traced back to his initiatives. For this reason, he was also appointed by the World Council of Churches' international steering group of the "Decade to Overcome Violence". He is the author of several books and articles. Together with his wife Leticia Rodríguez he has three grown sons and three grandchildren.

The International **Menno Simons Sermon Prize** is intended to encourage and honor sermons that bring the biblical witness into the light of the Anabaptist-Mennonite tradition. In the horizon of lived ecumenism, they should promote peace church orientation and convince through credibility in order to offer spiritual strengthening. Furthermore, the sermons are intended to stimulate discussion of the content of current issues in public life – beyond one's own denominational boundaries.

The prize was donated by Dr. h.c. Annelie Kümpers-Greve (1946-2017), member of the Mennonite congregation Hamburg-Altona. It is endowed with Euro 2,000, half of which goes to the prize winner, the other half to his or her home congregation.

The **jury** consists of Mennonite theologians from various countries, chaired by Prof. Dr. Fernando Enns (Endowed Chair of 'Theology of Peace Churches'), with Prof. em. Dr. Hans-Martin Gutmann (Practical Theology, University of Hamburg) acting as external reviewer. Other members of the jury are: Lukas Amstutz (Switzerland), Pastor Christina Duhoux (Netherlands), Pastor Birgit Foth (Ludwigshafen), Pastor Dr. Christiane Karrer-Grube (Netherlands) and Heinrich Wiens (Detmold).

For further inquiries: Center for Peace Church Theology / Department of Protestant Theology / University of Hamburg Tel.: 040 - 428 38 1789, friedenskirchen@uni-hamburg.de

<https://www.theologie.uni-hamburg.de/einrichtungen/arbeitsstellen/friedenskirche.html>