



Fall of the Wall Conference between the United Reformed Church and the Evangelische Kirche der Pfalz

Declaration

The United Reformed Church and the Evangelische Kirche der Pfalz are bound together by a Covenant of Pulpit and Table fellowship, first signed in 1957.

After the turmoil of two world wars, the prevailing narrative for the British and the German people had grown to be one of mutual mistrust and even hatred. The Covenant was meant as a sign of peace and reconciliation; it predates the formation of the European Union and is independent of political treaties.

The fall of the Berlin Wall on 9th November 1989 offered the opportunity of freedom and peace. Walls are released when walls are overcome.

In remembering and celebrating the momentous events of 1989 at our conference in Frankenthal, representatives of the Evangelische Kirche der Pfalz and the United Reformed Church acknowledge with sadness that the world, including Europe, is beset by division. Walls physical and imagined are once again being built.

Therefore, we declare:

1. Following the example of Jesus, we treat differences of opinion, culture, faith and conviction with respect. As European Churches and part of the worldwide church of Jesus Christ, we speak out against racism and any form of nationalism which builds new walls between people and nations.
2. We do not accept our Christian faith being misused in any way to discriminate against people who belong to other faiths or have other

convictions. We call on local churches and members of the Evangelische Kirche der Pfalz and United Reformed Church to challenge incidences of racism and hate crime and report them through the appropriate channels. We call to account those people in the public arena whose discourse promotes division.

3. Jesus himself was Jewish. On 9



2. Unser christlicher Glaube darf nicht dazu missbraucht werden, Menschen mit einem anderen Glauben oder anderen Überzeugungen zu diskriminieren. Wir bitten unsere Gemeinden und die Mitglieder der Evangelischen Kirche der Pfalz und der United Reformed Church, Widerstand zu leisten gegen Rassismus und Hass-Kriminalität und sie ggf. auf geeignete Weise anzuzeigen. Menschen des öffentlichen Lebens, deren Tun und Verhalten auf Abgrenzung zielt, erinnern wir an ihre Verantwortung.

3. Jesus selbst war Jude. Am 9. November 1938 brannten in Deutschland Synagogen. Wir verpflichten uns heute, Widerstand zu leisten gegen jede Form von Antisemitismus, gegen die Ausgrenzung des Islam und jede andere Form von religiösem Hass.

4. Unsere biblische und christliche Tradition ist in großem Maße geprägt von