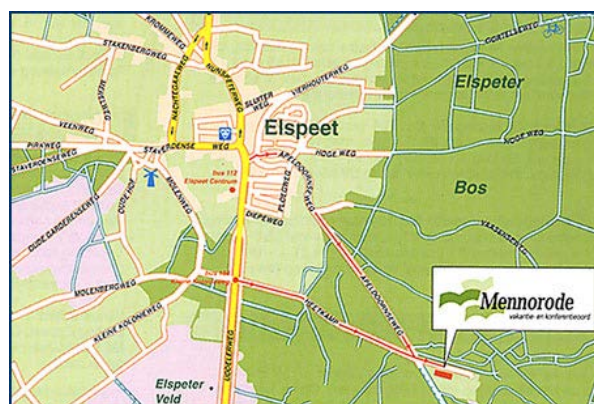


2016 ICUU Conference & Council Meeting Guide - 2nd Edition



Be part of the 2016 ICUU Council Meeting and Conference from 17 to 22 July at the beautiful and socially responsible conference center – Mennorode - in Elspeter, the Netherlands, easily reachable from Amsterdam.

Mennorode conference centre is focused around environmental sustainability featuring:

- Use of energy from thermal power and solar panels
- Collection of rainwater for flushing the toilets
- Sustainable services and materials: FSC wood, environmentally friendly cleaning, fair-trade products
- Meals include up to 65% organic products and offer a range of regional and seasonal products derived from local suppliers.

Mennorode Conference Hotel has a unique history as a centre for reflection and gathering. It was created in 1925 as a so-called "fraternity house" of the Mennonite community. This is a small, non-dogmatic and open group within the Christian tradition, with attention to meaning, personal growth and social commitment.

Single and double rooms will be available. The site is surrounded by nature and bicycles are available to explore the local countryside. Nunspeet railway station is a short distance by shuttle bus with easy access to most of the Netherlands by train. Accommodation is also available before or after the ICUU event at Mennorode. Bring the family and combine your participation at this important ICUU gathering with vacation time in Europe.

More information about the site can be found at <http://www.mennorode.nl/en>

Check out the birds' eye tour of the ICUU meeting site at: <https://vimeo.com/143115027>

SCHEDULE (subject to modification)

ICUU 2016 Council Meeting & Conference Schedule		23/09/15 version		Mennorode Conference Centre		Nunspeet, The Netherlands	
Sunday 17 July 2016	Monday 18 July 2016	Tuesday 19 July 2016	Wednesday 20 July 2016	Thursday 21 July 2016	Friday 22 July 2016	Saturday 23 July 2016	
Council Arrivals Day	Council Day	Program Day	Workshop Day	Learning Day	Ministers Conference	Ministers Conference	
08:00	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast
08:30							
09:00	Worship	Worship	Worship	Worship	Ministers Conference	Ministers Conference	
09:30	Council Meeting I: Essex 2.0 Large Group Process	Council Meeting III	Workshops with coffee break 9:30 - 12:30	U & U Uni Short Courses I			
10:00							
10:30							
11:00							
11:30							
12:00	Lunch 12:00 - 13:30	Lunch 12:00 - 13:30	Lunch 12:00 - 13:30	Lunch 12:00 - 13:30			
12:30							
13:00							
13:30	Council Meeting II: Essex 2.0 Large Group Process	Theme Session	ICUU Focus Meetings	Chalice Circles			
14:00							
14:30				U & U Uni Short Courses II			
15:00							
15:30				Chalice Circles			
16:00							
16:30				Energy for The Vision Reception			
17:00	Arrivals	Chalice Circles	Chalice Circles	Dinner 17:30-19:00	Dinner 17:30-18:30		
17:30	For Council Meeting						
18:00	Dinner 18:00-19:30	Dinner 18:00-19:30					
18:30				ICUU Focus Meetings and Workshops	Closing Celebration & service		
19:00							
19:30	Council Meeting Reception	Opening Celebration & Community Global Worship Outdoor Amphitheatre	Vrizinggen Reception and Program				
20:00							
20:30							
21:00	Social Time The Bar	Social Time The Bar	Social Time The Bar	Social Time The Bar	Social Time The Bar		
21:30							

Council Meeting and Conference Packages

Participants can attend both the Council Meeting and conference or arrive a day later and just attend the Conference. Those who only attend the Conference will miss the opportunity to take part in determining the future direction and development of ICUU. Most of the Council Meeting will be devoted to "Essex 2.0" a large group facilitated process in which non-council members can also participate.

For participants taking part in both gatherings, the first event is dinner on Sunday and for participants in the Conference only, the Conference begins with Chalice Circles on the Monday afternoon. *Departures after breakfast on Friday July 22, except for those attending the Ministers Conference who depart after breakfast on Sunday July 24.*

All pricing and payments are in € only. Dollar prices listed as guide. Prices quoted below include conference fees, accommodation and meals.

Event	Early Bird (until March 31)	Normal Price (1 April to 1 June)
Conference & Council Meeting (5 days)	€425 (approx. \$456)	€550
Conference only	€340 (approx. \$365)	€465
Ministers Meeting Supplement	€180 (approx. \$193)	€250

Late Registrations after 1 June subject to availability and €100 supplement

Note: 1/2 payment due with registration for early bird, final 1/2 due by May 15. Full payment due with normal rate.

Theme

The theme of the Council Meeting will be "Essex 2.0": twenty-one years on from its founding, how does ICUU need to change or stay the same to respond effectively to the global Unitarian and Unitarian Universalist community of the century ahead.

The theme of the Conference is "WINDS OF CHANGE: Global Connection and Climate Change": What should be our faithful response to the threatened physical environment we know as our home.? What spiritual responsibilities do we have to each other as part of our interdependent web of all existence? Does religion have a special role to play in rebuilding our Blue Boat Home?

Program Elements

Keynote Speaker



Klaas van Egmond is Professor of Sustainability and Environment at Utrecht University, the Netherlands. Previously, he was Director of the National Institute for Public Health and the Environment and of the Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency. He completed several studies on all aspects of environment and sustainability for the Dutch government, the EU and the UN.

Van Egmond has written and spoken extensively on “sustainable civilization” including a book by that title published in 2014. Egmond contends “the solely technological approach taken...apparently has not solved the problem. The real roots of the sustainability crisis can be found in human value orientations and subsequently so must the real solutions. Understanding human values and needs as well as the underlying world views allows the

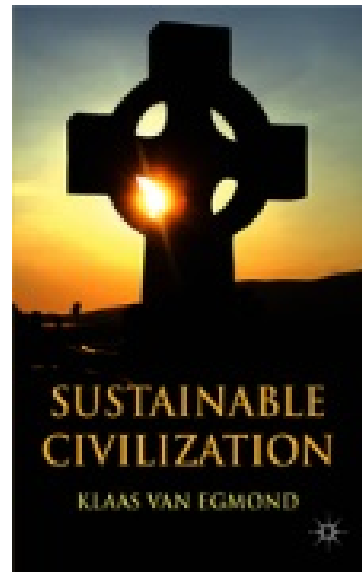
formulation of a new, sustainability oriented ethical framework, the re-definition of human dignity and a practical agenda for sustainability policies.”

He is an active member of the Vrijzinnigen Nederland congregation in Bilthoven. His talk will particularly on the role of religion in sustainable civilization and he will consider the particular contribution liberal and progress religion can offer to this shift in worldviews.

Two English language presentations by Prof. Klaas van Egmond can be viewed on You Tube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xu-PI86ffLo>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ELfsjAl86bw>



Several other speakers will respond to the keynote speakers, followed by group discussions leading to an action plan for personal and collective involvement.

Other Contributors

A number of other notable personalities will contribute to the Large Group Process at the Council Meeting, the Theme Presentations, Workshops, Learning Day and other aspects of the program. Among those already confirmed to participate are Martin Gilbraith (Facilitator for the Large Group Process), Melody Moberg (Co-Coordinator of the Young Adults Program), the Rev. Paul Razor (Theologian) and the Rev. Wies Houweling (General Secretary of Vrijzinnigen Nederland).



Martin Gilbraith, Certified Professional Facilitator, Trainer & Consultant



Melody Moberg, Co-Coordinator of the Young Adults Program (with Sara Ascher)



Rev. Dr. Paul Razor, Theologian and author of Faith Without Certainty



Rev. Wies Houweling, General Secretary of Vrijzinnigen Nederland

Language The language for presentations and main sessions will be in English but attendees will speak to each other in a variety of tongues. Participants are particularly encouraged to have a go at the local language Nederlands – also known as Dutch. A free three-week online Course in the Dutch language starts on 15 February. More information and the sign-up link can be found at <https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/dutch>

CLIMATE NEUTRAL This Council Meeting and Conference is intended to be a climate neutral event (aside from travel) as much as possible. €1 per participant per day will go to the Climate Neutral Group to offset impact. As part of this effort and in request to comments from the last Council Meeting, no souvenirs or blag such as a bag will be produced. Participants are encouraged to bring their own bag. We will also seek to minimize the production and distribution of paper items and encourage recycling. Any suggestions in this direction would be welcomed.

Chalice Circles An opportunity to meet daily with a small group of participants from other countries, getting to know each other, focusing on elements of faith and spirituality. Lifelong friendships and connections are often formed in Chalice Circles.

Worship Each day begins with a communal act of worship led by participants from other countries -- an opportunity to experience spiritual practice of other cultures. Worship also features in the Opening and Closing Ceremony.

Workshops & Other Meetings A variety of theme-related workshops and other special meetings will be available during the times indicated on the schedule. ICUU Member groups can submit workshop proposals.

Learning Day A new feature will be the opportunity to take one or two short training courses at the conference. Expected offerings at this Conference will include:

- * Lay Chaplaincy Training from Canada: Conducting Rites of Passage
- * New Developments in Liberal and Progressive Theology
- * Creative Approaches to Making Congregations Work for Leaders and Followers

Opportunity to Visit Vrijzinnigen Congregations and Tours There will be an opportunity to visit a local Vrijzinnigen congregation on Sunday afternoon 17 July for those arriving in time. Indicate your interest when registering and more information will be sent to you.

There will also be two post-conference one day tours available visiting towns one day and nature another day. More information will be sent to those expressing an interest when registering.

International Ministers Meeting An add-on meeting for Unitarian and Universalist Ministers will be held on Friday 22 July and Saturday 23 July. Participation is limited to persons recognized as ministers by ICUU Member and Emerging Groups and regarded as such by the ICUU staff and Executive Committee. *Note: This is not a gathering of congregational leaders or a training program. It is instead a meeting of people in the ICUU community who have credentials as minister and have expressed a need to meet together with other people who hold the same credentials. It is therefore not open to laypersons, ministry students or applicants.*

Theme is to be “Changing Ministry in Changing World” focusing on changes in nature of congregations and ministerial employment and conditions. The meeting will include considerable opportunity for networking with other ministers alongside speakers and workshops. More details will be circulated to those who register.

Ministerial colleagues from Canada, England, India, Romania, Hungary, Burundi, Uganda, the USA, and more are already planning to be there. To register, select the appropriate additional option when registering for the ICUU Conference and Council Meeting.

Young Adults Program Young adults (ages 21-35) are especially encouraged to attend the ICUU Council Meeting and Conference. In addition to participating in the general programming, young adults are provided an enriching program throughout the week, including leadership building, workshops, and social time. Special funding is available for young adults for part or all of the cost, especially for those attending outside of Western Europe and North America. To be eligible for these funds, young adults will need to fill out a separate request in addition to the Council Meeting and Conference online registration. Contact Melody Moberg (melody.moberg@uuchurch.org) for more information.

Early Arrivals & Later Departures

If you wish to arrive prior to Sunday 17 July or stay later than Friday 22 July (except for attending the Ministers Conference, you can extend your stay by booking directly with the Mennorode Conference Centre through [booking.com](https://www.booking.com) [here](#) .

REGISTRATION

-- be sure to register before the end of March to receive the early bird rate saving more than €100 and to reserve your place with a 50% deposit (remaining payment is due no later than 15 May). From April 1 full fees are due upon registration. *No fooling.*

Click [HERE](#) to register online

or go to https://ICUU.formstack.com/forms/icuu_cm_16_registration

IMPORTANT: *Please purchase travel insurance to cover cancellations as once reservations are made, payments cannot be refunded.*

SPONSORSHIPS A limited number of eligible participants from member groups and emerging groups will receive sponsorships covering all or part of international travel and on-site costs for the Council Meeting and Conference. Details and an application form are available from the ICUU website or by email request to execsec@icuu.net. The closing date for applications is March 1. If you are considering applying for sponsorship, please do not register online at this time.

FOR ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS or for further information --
please contact ICUU Executive Director Steve Dick at execsec@icuu.net

*NOTE: The information contained within this guide is accurate to the best of our knowledge.
Arrangements are subject to change in case of circumstances beyond our control.*