

The Heidelberg Catechism (HC), one of the most popular Reformation texts, exists 450 years today. Written in 1563 by order of Elector Frederick III of the Palatine, it was rapidly translated and spread throughout Europe. The printing press – the new media of the era – helped enormously, as did the struggle against Spain, the new superpower that defended the Catholic religion by any possible means. Many churches in Europe chose the Heidelberg Catechism for a standard of faith, including the Reformed Church, followed in due time by churches in Africa, America, and Asia.

In older research, the HC has been mainly studied from a confessional Reformed perspective. Whereas in the last thirty years the HC has been a subject of ecumenical studies, this has been usually restricted to bilateral discussions with only secondary interest in the political and socio-historical context of the HC at the beginning of the confessional era. The intention of this conference is to bring together experts in all major traditions of the European Reformations, including the Catholic, Lutheran, Reformed, Anglican, Anabaptist and Dissident traditions, and in relevant social-political aspects of the Confessional Era. Thus new vistas for research on the historical interaction between these traditions can be opened up, leading to an advanced understanding of religion and education in the Early Modern Era.

The international conference is held at the Evangelical Theological Faculty of Leuven-Heverlee, Belgium, and is organized together with the Catholic University of Leuven and the Faculty of Protestant Theology in Brussels.



Date: 18 April 2013, 10:00 – 19 April 2013, 18:00
ETF Leuven, Sint-Jansbergsesteenweg 95-97, 3001 Leuven
Registration: ConferenceHC@gmail.com [or: +32 (0)16 200895], by 11 April 2013
Registr. Fee: €20,- per day incl. coffee & lunch (€40,- extra for optional dinner)
Students/members ETF, FPG, KU Leuven: €10,- per day (excl. dinner)

THE HEIDELBERG CATECHISM IN ECUMENICAL PERSPECTIVE

International Conference
on the Occasion of its 450th Anniversary (1563-2013)



Thursday and Friday, 18 and 19 April 2013
Evangelische Theologische Faculteit, Leuven
Sint-Jansbergsesteenweg 95-97, 3001 Leuven-Heverlee

THURSDAY, 18 APRIL 2013

09:30 *Registration, Coffee*

Opening

10:00 Andreas J. Beck, Leuven (Heverlee)

I. Socio-Political Context: Europe in Motion

(chair morning: Lieven Boeve, KU Leuven)

10:15 Lyle D. Bierma, Grand Rapids: "The Origins of the Heidelberg Catechism in Ecumenical Perspective"

11:00 Jack McDonald, Leuven: "The Socio-Political Context of the German Reformation"

11:45 Willem J. van Asselt, Leuven (Heverlee): "Theology Goes Public: The Heidelberg Catechism in its Specific Political and Socio-Cultural Context in the Confessional Era (1560-1650)"

12:30 *Lunch*

13:30 Peter J. Tomson, Brussels: "Protestantism and Judaism: The Law in the Heidelberg Catechism"

II. Heidelberg Catechism and the Radical Reformation/Dissidents

(chair: Wim François, KU Leuven)

14:15 Mirjam van Veen, Amsterdam: "Herman Herbers, Dirck Volckertsz Coornhert, and Casper Coolhaes on the Heidelberg Catechism"

15:00 Henk van den Belt, Groningen: "The Anabaptist Rejection of the Oath and the Sword in the Heidelberg Catechism"

15:45 *Coffee*

III. Heidelberg Catechism and the Reformed Tradition

(chair: Patrick Nullens, ETF Leuven)

16:15 Andreas J. Beck, Leuven (Heverlee): "The Commentary of Gisbertus Voetius (1589-1676) on the Heidelberg Catechism"

17:00 BonSeung Koo, Kampen: "The Heidelberg Catechism and Simon Oomius (1630-1706) on the Highest Good and the Only Comfort"

18:30 *Dinner*

FRIDAY, 19 APRIL 2013

IV. Heidelberg Catechism and the Lutheran Reformation

(chair: Peter J. Tomson, FPG Brussel)

09:15 Hans-Martin Kirn, Groningen: "Der Heidelberger Katechismus in der frühen lutherischen Kontroversistik: Jakob Heilbrunner (1548-1618)"

10:00 Erik de Boer, Amsterdam/Kampen: "Joannes Anastasius Veluanus and his Critique of Gnesio-Lutheran Theology (Johannes Brenz) in the Context of the Pfälzer Reformation"

10:45 *Coffee*

V. Heidelberg Catechism and the Anglican Tradition c.q. Reception in the British Middle Colonies

(chair: Andreas J. Beck, ETF Leuven)

11:15 Anthony Milton, Sheffield: "The Heidelberg Catechism and the Church of England 1563-1663"

12:30 *Lunch*

13:30 Jan Stievermann, Heidelberg: "The Heidelberg Catechism and the Struggle for German Reformed Identity in Colonial Pennsylvania"

14:15 Aurelio A. García, Puerto Rico: "Faith and Assurance in the Heidelberg Catechism and in the 18th Century American Revivalist T.J. Frelinghuysen"

15:00 *Coffee*

VI. Heidelberg Catechism and the Catholic Tradition

(chair: Peter De Mey, KU Leuven)

15:30 Antonie Vos, Leuven (Heverlee): "The Catholicity of the Heidelberg Catechism"

16:15 Frank van der Pol, Kampen: "The Catholijcke Catechismus (Antwerp 1594) of Martinus Duncanus in Comparison with the Heidelberg Catechism"

17:00 Johanna Rahner, Kassel: "'Vermaledete Abgötterei' – The Controversy on the Eucharist – Old Hat or Still Stimulating?"

Concluding Reflections

17:45 Peter De Mey, Leuven