



# CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE 2022



HØYSKOLEN FOR  
LEDELSE OG TEOLOGI



GESELLSCHAFT FÜR  
BILDUNG UND  
FORSCHUNG IN  
EUROPA E.V.

## Sustainable leadership – *in times of uncertainty*

### CALL FOR PAPERS

The sixth Christian Leadership Conference will be held in **Oslo, Norway, on 18-20 May 2022**. Prior conferences were held in South Africa (2013, 2019), Germany (2014, 2018) and Belgium (2016). The 2022 conference will be organized and hosted by HLT (The Norwegian School of Leadership and Theology) and GBFE (Gesellschaft für Bildung und Forschung in Europa). We invite proposals for conference contributions from different disciplines covering academic and practitioner perspectives. The deadline for proposals was **October 31, 2021**, and **submission is now closed**.

### INTRODUCTION

Whether we are living in the midst of a major health pandemic, or emerging from one, we still face a number of burning ecological, economic, and political problems that lead to both social and existential uncertainty. This situation poses tremendous challenges to the task of leadership in different contexts.

In this conference, contributors from different academic disciplines will convene to reflect on what kind of leadership will prove to be sustainable in the long-term – even if risk and uncertainty will remain essential aspects of the late modern/postmodern condition. Sustainability may be analyzed from a human resources perspective, or politically, ecologically, and economically, but certainly also spiritually and theologically. What insights and concepts can our theorizing about leadership offer leaders that are not obsessed with short-term results but focus on long-term sustainability and the common good?

What is the relationship between sustainable leadership and leadership for sustainability? What are not only the environmental and economic implications of sustainable leadership, but also the socio-political and cultural challenges? What are the moral challenges of leaders in different social spheres? How can they balance short-term pressure and long-term goals for the common good? What is their prophetic role in confronting toxic, abusive, and incompetent leadership? However, sustainable leadership also has another element: As leaders often meet high demands and expectations, how can they lead responsibly with regard to their own resources and avoid driving themselves beyond what is reasonable or possible, resulting in frustration and burn-out?

This conference aims at identifying, describing, analyzing, and developing intellectual input from a variety of perspectives so as to develop strategies that can respond to new challenges. It aims to search for what remains true for all ages and contexts, such as trustworthiness, justice, and concern for others – even if some re-interpretation or re-application is required. In sum, we want to invite researchers to present papers that contribute to sustainable and beneficial Christian leadership in local churches and society at large in the emerging global city and its ecological habitat.

### POTENTIAL TOPICS

Participants may wish to consider some of the following issues:

- *Social scientists* and organizational theorists may identify the presence of different forms of risk in late modernity and present possible strategies by way of response.
- *Theological researchers* may begin by identifying the church's role in a changing society or focus on how Christian hope, or other theological content, gives shape to leadership practices.
- A re-examination of biblical perspectives on spiritual and organizational leadership in terms of service, stewardship, and hospitality may also bring important contributions to this conversation on sustainable leadership.
- *Historians* may present case studies of sustainable and long-term leadership from the past.
- *Practitioners* of leadership are invited to reflect on their own insights and experiences.



## ABSTRACTS

Abstracts should be between 150-250 words. They should include author's information (name, position/function, institution or organization, and mail address ) as well as key bibliographic sources consulted. Please send abstracts to Mrs. Dorothea Krämer at [info@gbfe.eu](mailto:info@gbfe.eu). Abstracts should be sent as a separate Word-document with your last name, initial and short title as document name (e.g. Miller, K – Sustainable leadership.docx). They need to be received no later than October 31, 2021 in order to be considered. We would be happy to receive revisions of abstracts already submitted before May 31, 2021.

## PUBLICATION

Selected papers will be published after international peer review in accredited and open access publications, *mainly in the Scandinavian Journal of Leadership and Theology*. More information will be made available later.

## DATE AND LOCATION

The conference will be held from May 18-20 2022 at HLT and Filadelfiakirken in the centre of Oslo, St. Olavs gate 24, Norway. Accommodation is available at reduced prices (app. 70 Euro per night at Smarthotel next door). The conference fee will be about 200 Euro, incl. meals.

Please note that the conference will start at 4 pm on Wednesday May 18, and Thursday May 19 will be open to local pastors and leaders as well. We would recommend arriving earlier, if possible, to take part in the celebration of the Norwegian National Day on May 17. During the weekend before or after the conference, there will be opportunities to go sightseeing or visit churches in the area. More information and registration will be available through the websites of GBFE ([gbfe.eu](http://gbfe.eu)) and HLT ([hlt.no](http://hlt.no)) starting January 2022. Explore the beautiful city of Oslo at [visitoslo.com](http://visitoslo.com)

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## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



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## SUGGESTED LITERATURE

Avery, G., & Bergsteiner, H. (2017). *Diagnosing Leadership in Global Organisations: Theories, Tools and Cases* (1st Edition). Tilde. [Note: The book is available for free download at: [www.instituteforsustainableleadership.com](http://www.instituteforsustainableleadership.com)]

Bretherton, L. (2019). *Christ and the Common Life: Political Theology and the Case for Democracy*. Eerdmans.

Caradonna, J. L. (2016). *Sustainability: A History* (Reprint Edition). Oxford University Press.

Hargreaves, A & Fink, D. (2005). *Sustainable Leadership*. John Wiley & Sons Inc.

Jung, S., & Katzenmayer, T. (2012). *Nachhaltig wirtschaften: Wirtschaftsethische Reflexionen* (1st ed.). V&R Unipress.

Starik, M., Sharma, S., Egri, C., & Bunch, R. (Eds.). (2017). *New Horizons in Research on Sustainable Organisations: Emerging Ideas, Approaches and Tools for Practitioners and Researchers* (1st Edition). Routledge.

Wilson, K. R. (2016). *Steward Leadership in the Nonprofit Organization*. IVP Books.

CONFERENCE PARTNERS

