

**Research Professor
Institute for Ecumenical Research
Strasbourg, France**

The Institute for Ecumenical Research is a house of studies founded by the Lutheran World Federation in 1963 in order “to contribute to the fulfillment by the Lutheran churches of their ecumenical responsibility.” This mandate includes three principle areas of work: research, dialogue, and reception/education. In the first area, Institute staff conduct “appropriate and critical theological research, both historical and systematic, in areas where Christian churches are divided in matters of doctrine and church order, and where theological questions are a matter of controversy.” Studies focus on the goals of ecumenism, the nature of unity, ecumenical methodology, confessional culture, and hermeneutics. Key ecumenical concepts like “unity in reconciled diversity” and “differentiated consensus” were developed at the Institute. Secondly, the Institute puts a strong emphasis on understanding the doctrines of other churches through continual encounter with theologians of those churches (e.g. in conferences, symposia, collaboration, etc.). Research professors of the Institute serve as official consultants to all LWF dialogues at the international level. The principal dialogues over the last fifty years have been with Roman Catholics, the Orthodox, the Reformed, Anglicans, and Mennonites. Shorter-term dialogues have taken place with Baptists, Methodists, and Adventists, as well as ongoing dialogue among the churches of the Reformation through the Community of Protestant Churches in Europe. Dialogue with Pentecostals has emerged as a new and vital task. Third, as specialists, Institute professors endeavor to communicate the challenges, results, and methods of ecumenism to a wider audience in order to inform and inspire Christians at the grassroots level. Two key activities in this regard are the Institute’s annual Summer Seminar in July, and the Studying Luther in Wittenberg program in November at the LWF Center. The Institute is committed to expanding its scope to focus greater attention on non-Western ecumenism and address the challenges of new Christian movements in the Global South across all three areas of research, dialogue, and reception.

Candidates for the position of Research Professor must hold a Ph.D. in a theological field from an accredited school with an excellent dissertation demonstrating a strong foundation for ecumenical work. Competency in Lutheran theology is a requirement. Strong candidates will already be acquainted with the theology and practice of at least one other Christian church. Candidates should be prepared to undertake their work at the highest level of academic standards while at the same time doing it for the sake of the church and reconciliation among divided Christians. The ability to work well in teams and commissions, with appropriate diplomatic skills, is a necessity. Fluency in English is required as well as basic competency in German. The candidate must be a member in good standing of a Lutheran church that belongs to the Lutheran World Federation and must secure the endorsement of the church.

The professor is expected to reside in Strasbourg. The initial contract is for three years, renewable, at a competitive wage with pension, oriented at the salaries of professors at the University of Strasbourg, and a part of the health insurance.

Please send CV and cover letter, or nominations for the position, to the Director of the Institute, Prof. Dr. Jennifer Wasmuth, at jennifer.wasmuth@orange.fr by **October 1, 2018**.