

## Identity and Purpose

The "Society for Intercultural Pastoral Care and Counselling" (SIPCC) is a community of counselors, pastors, supervisors, teachers, scholars, and other pastoral caregivers committed to enrich the field of pastoral studies and pastoral practices. The purpose of the Society is to equip persons for pastoral care and counseling in the midst of diverse cultural contexts. Coming from a Christian background SIPCC engages in dialogue with other faiths and religions aiming at justice, peace and the integrity of creation.

International Seminars on Pastoral Care and Counselling started in 1986, from which roots SIPCC was founded as a registered tax free association in 1995 to provide a forum for the voices of women and men from different cultures and ethnic backgrounds in order to foster intercultural understanding of issues related to contemporary ways of doing pastoral care and counseling in practice and theory.

Members come from many different countries, religious backgrounds and cultures. Membership is open to all persons and institutions sharing similar concerns and goals which are mentioned below.

## Our Concerns and Goals

1. We dedicate ourselves to the creation of a mutually respectful and inclusive community in which we engage in conversation and activities which contribute to overcome

historical barriers such as religion, race, class, gender and sexual orientation. We strive to overcome discrimination against economically and politically deprived as well as differently abled persons.

2. We dedicate ourselves to offer opportunities for concerned persons, associations and institutions to explore the meaning, purposes and methods of pastoral care and counseling from the perspectives of different cultures, religions and worldviews.
3. We commit ourselves to honor, understand and critically develop traditions of doing pastoral care and pastoral action in the midst of interfaith and ecumenical dialogue. We strive to be open to different practices of care which come from a variety of religious and non-religious traditions.
4. We commit ourselves to work for the development and implementation of liberative and transformative methods of care in ecclesiastical and social structures, public policy and interpersonal relationships.
5. We commit ourselves to create a forum for conversation between theology and other fields of knowledge concerned with critical reflection on the relationship between practice and theory in pastoral care and counseling.
6. We seek to learn from pastoral-theological dialogue and to en-

hance the practice of ministry in congregations, groups and specialized settings.

## Our Activities

1. We conduct an annual **international seminar** on intercultural pastoral care and counseling for a large audience in various countries and cities. The seminar lasts for about one week and offers formal presentations, workshops, case studies, small groups, intercultural forums and other opportunities for exchange and dialogue between the participants.
2. We conduct **conferences** and educational events on special issues of one or several days and try to enhance theory building on intercultural and interreligious care and counseling.
3. We provide **written materials** through books, magazines and articles to enlighten current understanding, practice and research in pastoral care and counseling from an intercultural and interreligious perspective.
4. We engage in offering **courses** in pastoral counseling, supervision and interreligious care and counseling in different countries.
5. We organize special **study trips** to various countries to experience different cultures, religions and their way of caring for people and learn from them.

## Our Structure

The **General Assembly** meets each year to be informed, to discuss and to decide on the activities, finances, elections and other issues of the Society.

The **Executive Committee** with seven international members elected by the general assembly and distinguished coopted members coordinates the duties and tasks of the Society. The Executive Committee appoints various committees such as

the **Planning Committee**, which prepares and coordinates the annual International Seminars and conferences,

and others as the need arises.

The **office of SIPCC** is located in Düsseldorf, Germany:  
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## Executive Committee 2008 – 2013 of the SIPCC

### Elected members:

Rev. Helmut Weiss, Pastor em.  
CPE - Supervisor  
President; Düsseldorf - Germany

Rev. Dr. Adrian Korczago  
Lecturer, Practical Theology  
Vice-president; Warsaw - Poland

Rev. Klaus Temme, Pastor em.  
Treasurer; Düsseldorf - Germany

Prof. Brenda Consuelo Ruiz  
Gender Studies  
Secretary; Managua - Nicaragua

Prof. Dr. Kathleen Greider  
Practical Theology  
Claremont, California – USA

Rev. Julius Itumeleng Pudule  
Head of Police Chaplaincy  
Kimberly - South Africa

Prof. Dr. Mary Esperandio Gomez  
Pastoral Psychology; Curitiba - Brazil

### Co-opted members:

Dr. Uri Bloch, Israel  
Prof. Dr. James Farris, Brazil  
Prof. Dr. Julius Filo, Slovakia  
Rev. Jean-Charles Kaiser, France  
Prof. Dr. Miklos Kocsev, Hungary  
Rev. Archiboldy Lyimo, Tanzania  
Rev. Lorna Murray, Scotland

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pastoral care  
and counselling

Gesellschaft  
für *interkulturelle*  
Seelsorge  
und Beratung e.V.

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*international*  
*intercultural*  
*inter-religious*