



Subway-Commander Niemöller



Confirmation in Dahlem



Niemöller's office



Niemöller as admonisher



Memorial Site: Office



Brief Biography – Martin Niemöller (1892–1984)

1892 Born in Lippstadt/Westfalen on January 14, as the son of a pastor.

1910 Completed high school with honors.

1910–1919 Serves at the Imperial Marine during WWI. Becomes submarine commander in 1918.

1919 Niemöller refuses to transfer the submarine in his command as reparation to England; leaves the navy. Begins his university studies in theology in Münster. Marries Else Bremer, who later on strongly supported him in his political church involvement. Together they had seven children.

1920 Serves as Free Corps Commander in the battle against insurgent workers in the Ruhr area.

1924 Niemöller is ordained as a protestant pastor; becomes the managing director of the “Home Mission” in Westfalen.

Pastor in Dahlem

1931 Begins his service as pastor in Berlin-Dahlem. At first, Niemöller supports the National Socialist German Workers’ Party (NSDAP) but then comes into conflict with the party once the reign of violence establishes itself.

1933 In the fall Niemöller decides to join together with 70

pastors to form the Pastors’ Emergency League (Pfarrernotbund), which fights against the exclusion of Christians with Jewish ancestry from church life and the falsification of Biblical teaching by the national socialist “German Christians”. Niemöller quickly becomes the chairman of the new organization. The Confessing Church develops out of the Pastors’ Emergency League. Niemöller is one of its most active members.

1934 Participates in a meeting for German church leaders with Adolf Hitler. Because he rejects the so-called “Aryan Paragraphs” (Arierparagraphen) for religious reasons, Niemöller is relieved of all his duties and banned from public speaking shortly thereafter. Niemöller, however, does not adhere to these regulations and continues to preach. May: The first synod of the Confessing Church is held in Barmen and develops – on the basis of drafts by Prof. Dr. Karl Barth (1886–1968) – a theological basis for its work, the Barmer Declaration.

1935 Niemöller and several hundred other pastors who protested against the attacks of the NS ideologist Alfred Rosenberg are imprisoned and held for a short time.

Imprisonment in Concentration Camp

1937–1941 Niemöller is arrested again and eventually imprisoned in Sachsenhausen, a concentration camp on the outskirts of Berlin. He remains in solitary confinement for eight years.

1941–1945 Niemöller is transferred to the Dachau Concentration Camp in 1941. Numerous clergy and believing Christians protest his imprisonment and transfer to the concentration camp. In many places in the world people see Niemöller as a witness to the unbroken will to resist the Nazi dictatorship.

Liberation, President of the World Council of Churches and Admonisher

1945 Niemöller is liberated from the Dachau Concentration Camp by American troops. Member of the Council of the Evangelical Church in Germany (EKD). In the Stuttgart Confession of Guilt and elsewhere, Niemöller is a proponent of the theses of the complicity of the Evangelical Church regarding National Socialism.

1946 Participates in the meetings of the World Council of Churches in Geneva. Lecture trip in the USA. Insists on mutual understanding during the beginnings of the Cold War.

1950 Confrontation with Federal Chancellor Konrad Adenauer regarding the consequences of rearmament.

1951 Preaching and lecture trip in the GDR and Yugoslavia, followed by visits to other countries in the Eastern block.

1952 Niemöller is invited by the Russian Orthodox Patriarch Alexius to Moscow. His request to remain there as a pastor for German prisoners of war is denied.

1961 Niemöller is elected as one of the six presidents of the World Council of Churches

1971 Receives Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany. After the tragic death of his first wife, Else, in 1961 he marries Sybille von Sell, whom he knew well from time in Dahlem.

1972–76 Co-Founder of the committee for Peace, Disarmament and Cooperation.

1980–83 Niemöller is Co-Initiator of the “Krefeld Appeal” against American nuclear weapons stationed in Europe. Receives the Ossietzky Medal.

1984 March 6th: Martin Niemöller dies in Wiesbaden.

Informations and Contact

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Bus and subway connections:

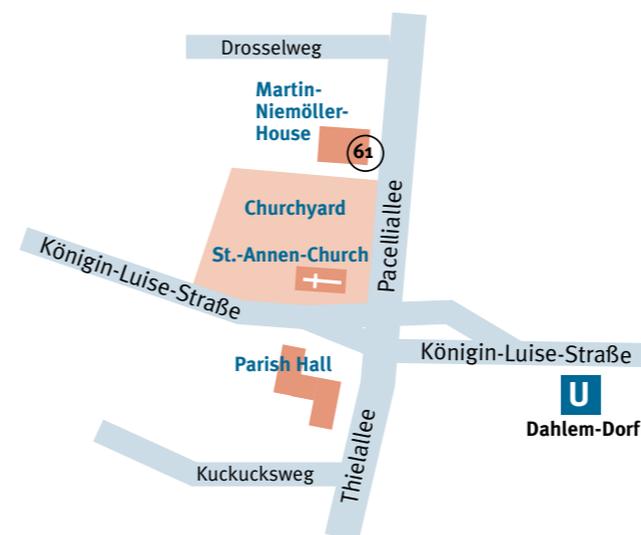
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Remember – Learn – Act Martin-Niemöller-House Berlin-Dahlem





Sketch of the Garden



Seminar in the garden



Stairwell



Parish Hall, conference site for the Confessing Church 1934



St.-Annen-Church



View of the churchyard



Youth group visiting Martin-Niemöller-House



Workshop break

Committed to the Spirit of the Resistance

The Evangelical Church Berlin-Dahlem is renovating the Martin-Niemöller-House (Pacelliallee 61) and developing it into a Memorial as well as a peace and education center that complies with modern expectations and requirements.

The Martin-Niemöller-House is a significant place of remembrance in Berlin about the time of the Church Schism (Kirchenkampf) and resistance to the Nazi dictatorship. As we remember the church's resistance and the involvement of the Dahlem members in the Confessing Church, we also ask ourselves about its implications for our social responsibility today. We remember as well the failure of Christians in the face of anti-Semitism and the sufferings of the many victims of the Nazi regime.

Together with St.-Annen-Church, the churchyard and the parish hall, the meeting place of the Dahlem Synod for the Confessing Church in 1934, and the parish house of Pastor Martin Niemöller is composed as an authentic historical ensemble and a place in which history becomes understandable and comprehensible for interested Germans and for people all over the world.



Preservation of the Historical Building

The Martin-Niemöller-House is listed as a historical monument. The house and gardens were built in 1910 in the style of an English country house by the architect Heinrich Straumer.

The expert technical evaluation showed that a comprehensive renovation is urgently needed to preserve the structure of the building. Furthermore, the energy systems of the building must be upgraded to meet current standards and requirements. The renovations and reconstruction should be completed in 2017. The goal is to highlight the character of the historical Protestant parish house and its architectural design and to combine them with the standards of a modern educational and conference center. One such standard is providing barrier free accessibility to the building – a particular challenge, considering that the house is listed as a historical monument.

Remember – Learn – Act

The two main pillars for the work of the Martin-Niemöller-House are:

1. Evangelical Church in Berlin-Dahlem
2. Martin-Niemöller-House registered association

We are cooperating with the Evangelical Church District Teltow-Zehlendorf. The work is coordinated by a program advisory board, oriented to the pedagogical concept of the house: Remember – Learn – Act.

Remember: The active resistance of the Confessing Church during the National Socialist period and its relevance for today's society will be illuminated by various events, seminars, exhibitions and tours of the memorial site. This includes a critical look at the Confessing Church and its questionable position regarding the open discrimination against Jews and other

victimized groups during this time. This self-critical perspective also has consequences for evaluating other historical epochs, like the Reformation. One of the discussions surrounding the anniversary celebration of the Reformation (2017) examines some of the origins of anti-Semitism in the church. This work of remembering is done in partnership with the superregional church work of the EKBO (Evangelical Church of Berlin-Brandenburg-Silesian Upper Lusatia) and in cooperation with national places of remembrance like the Topography of Terror Documentation Center.

Learn: The Martin-Niemöller-House sees itself as an Off-campus learning center. Educational programs are based on both a critical analysis of the National Socialist past and on social-political questions for the future – such as peace, justice and to preserve the integrity of creation. They are organized with a participatory approach. The foundation of the programs is a Christian educational concept which communicates not just knowledge and ability but also values and attitudes. The Martin-Niemöller-House is an integrative educational center for all people, regardless of their talents, limits or religious or cultural backgrounds.

Act: In order to understand the consequences of remembering and learning, initiatives and programs are developed that engage in the peacemaking challenges of today's world. Our range of subjects includes the following fields of activities: education for peace / international understanding / awareness of the environment and the protection of the Earth / One World in an ecumenical context / social justice / human rights. The goal is to motivate others to participate in civil society and proactively work together towards a non-violent, peace based and viable world. To this end we are cooperating with several partners, such as the International Fellowship of Reconciliation, Action Reconciliation-Service for Peace and the Society for International Development (SID).

The experience of being able to accomplish something significant and meaningful is very important for young people. That

Seminar in the Garden Stairwell is why we support initiatives, like Stolpersteine (stumbling stones), which commemorates the victims of National Socialism in our region.

We offer a framework for your activities, seminars and involvement so that you can discuss subjects, which are important to you.

Please Support Us with Your Donations!

According to the architects' calculations we need 1.5 million euros for the remodelling and renovation of the historical building, including barrier free access. Our finance plan includes significant contributions from the Evangelical Church in Dahlem, substantial support, which we applied from the Evangelical Church District of Teltow-Zehlendorf. Further on we expect grants from additional church institutions and foundations.

The Martin-Niemöller-House needs your support, too. The purpose of the Martin-Niemöller-House is to grasp and comprehend this important historical experience of resistance in Berlin-Dahlem with its various facets and contradictions – and thereby learn for the present. What does it mean in today's world to be an advocate for others – at school or on the job, here in Berlin or globally? As we look for the answers to these questions, we adapt ourselves to the theses of the bible and bring its perspectives into the dialogue with the many other religions and world views in our city. With your gift you can help us preserve and further develop an attractive center for remembering, learning and acting!

You can find out more about our project Martin-Niemöller-House: Remember – Learn – Act and educational Programs and events on our website: www.niemoller-haus-berlin.de. We look forward to seeing you and you are welcome to contact us.