Dear Ladies and Gentlemen, dear guests and friends,

Right before Christmas we have informed you that the Herrenhausen Symposium “Reusing Churches. Reusing Churches. New Perspectives in a European Comparison” will take place as a digital event. Unfortunately the situation does not allow anything else at the moment. But we are of the opinion: Culture, education, science, international exchange should and must also take place in times of Corona. We are glad that you are still with us after all the postponements and rearrangements!

In the meantime, the organizers have worked hard to prepare the new format. You will find the new program enclosed. Shortly before the symposium, a booklet with the abstracts of the presentations in the sessions and a booklet with the abstracts of the poster presentations of the grantees will be available for download at the calendar of events of the Volkswagen Foundation. In addition to the program and the introductory texts for the sessions, you will already find two publications that were created in connection with the symposium.

The organizers will do everything in their power to ensure that conversations and interactions between those actively involved and the participants are possible in digital format. That is why the program was expanded to include two discussion rounds (in several rooms), two poster sessions (in two rooms each) and a round table that replaces the excursions. The sessions all take place in plenary. There you have also the opportunity to ask questions via chat.

With con gressa, a company from Berlin, we have found a partner with proven expertise in science communication who prepares and accompanies the symposium technically. You will be amazed at what is possible in digital format and you can look forward to it. Nevertheless, we are aware that it is a challenge to follow a symposium exclusively in front of the screen. The program therefore has many, sometimes longer, breaks.

But now the most important thing you need to know:

**How could you attend the Herrenhausen Symposium on Reusing Churches?**

There will be a symposium platform for the symposium. On **February 12th you will receive an email with a login for the symposium platform. If you cannot find this email in your inbox on this day, look in the spam folder and look for an email with the sender ... @ in.howspace.com. If you cannot find what you are looking for there either, contact Susann Morgner from con gressa (morgner@congressa.de).**

With this login you can access the symposium platform and take a look around. There you will find the program and - on the day of the event itself - a field for each program item, which you can click to access the room in which the respective program item takes place. The program points run with the program Zoom. You can enter the room before the program starts. You will only see the speakers at the point in time when the program item begins. Each item on the program has its own room, so you have to come back again and again. If you are using Zoom for the first time, you will be asked to install the Zoom app on your computer the first time you join. All you have to do is follow the instructions on your desktop.

This may sound complicated now, but you will quickly find your way around. After logging in, you will first be taken to a reception page. One hour before the symposium starts a contact person from con gressa is there for you to answer any questions. Log in sooner rather than later.

In addition to the program, you will find further material on the symposium platform: the two mentioned booklets, information on the speakers, the posters of the 20 grantees, two exhibitions and a library with publications on the symposium topic.

If you would like to invite other people from your professional environment or from your circle of friends to the symposium, do so without hesitation. There are no space restrictions in the digital format of the symposium. Registration for the symposium continues as before via the symposiums website of the Volkswagen Foundation.

**Link to the symposium website with registration**
One more thing: The informal conversations among the symposium participants that take place at a face-to-face event during the breaks or while eating are also possible in digital format, but different. At the face-to-face event, you would speak to someone and exchange their business card. When it comes to digital events, you first have to know who you can address. That is why we would like to publish a list of participants on the symposium platform with their name, country of origin, field of work and their e-mail address. So you can get in touch with the people of your choice yourself. This list of participants can only be viewed by the symposium participants, that is, for those who have registered with the foundation and been given a login. The symposium platform is not a public website, but can only be visited by those who have registered. If you do not want to be on the list of participants or if you do not want to publish your e-mail address there, please inform Ms. Susann Morgner by February 10th (morgner@congressa.de).

Did you know, by the way, that the more than 60 people actively involved in the symposium (speakers, symposium observers, grantees, panel participants) come from fifteen countries? These are Belgium, Germany, Finland, France, Great Britain, Italy, Latvia, the Netherlands, Norway, Austria, Romania, Slovakia, Sweden, Switzerland and the USA.

We are now looking forward to welcoming you to the digital Herrenhausen Palace in Hanover on February 15 and spending two and a half days in an intensive exchange with you.

Yours sincerely,
the organizers
Kerstin Gothe, Paul Post und Johannes Stückelberger

and

Mareike Rüßmann und Cora Schaffert-Ziegenbalg

Volkswagen Foundation