

From the building to the forecourt : Let's open our doors, let's unleash our talents!

A forum to reinvent the Church everywhere: in our cities, our villages...

United Protestant Church of France - NMS-Network Gathering 21-25 October 2026, Lyon

What if the Church was known not only for the building where it gathers, but for the life it brings to life beyond its walls?

What if faith was visible not only on Sundays, but also in neighbourhoods, workplaces, cafes, and public spaces?

From 21 to 25 October 2026, committed church leaders, pastors and volunteers from all over Europe are invited to Lyon for the forum "*From Church Building to Community*" – a space to reimagine the Church as a living, outward-looking community, rooted in the Gospel and fully engaged in everyday life.

Why participate ?

- To reflect on how with our "old buildings" we can proclaim the Gospel in a new way
- Discover concrete ways to transform our buildings into third places for the neighbourhood,
- Discover, reflect and analyze the challenges of witness in the place of implantation from three local churches / parishes examples: large city, small town and rural – and find ideas adapted to its context.
- Meet inspiring peers: exchange with leaders of innovative churches in France and Europe, share your challenges and successes.
- Discover forms of renewed testimony: explore authentic initiatives, with their strengths and vulnerabilities, through reports and feedback.
- To network local churches/parishes of the same size to imagine, invent, encourage each other

This Forum is for those who feel that more is possible. To those who have honest questions about the future of the Church in Europe and who wish to explore paths that are faithful, creative and deeply rooted.

A rich and interactive program

- Conferences and round tables with renowned speakers, such as Benjamin Wong, theologian and architect living in Hong Kong, who (author of *Missional Space: Reinventing Space Inside + Outside of the Church*, Hong Kong, 2023) will analyse concrete situations experienced by local EPUdF churches in the Centre-Alpe-Rhône region.



- Practical workshops led by project leaders in France, Norway, Estonia, the United Kingdom, etc.
- A time of celebration to nourish your faith and your commitment.
- Convivial moments to forge lasting bonds and build a support network.

This is not a traditional conference with ready-made answers. It is a forum to learn together, share real experiences and strengthen each other across national and confessional boundaries.

You will leave with renewed courage and imagination, concrete examples from European contexts, practical tools for living the faith off the beaten track, and a growing network of leaders who believe that the Church is called to be a presence on the move, not just an institution.

Join us in Lyon and help shape what a Church "from building to community" can be in today's Europe.

[To register, please fill out the attached form](#)

For your registration, we ask you to participate in the following way:

*250.- Euros for participation in the Forum (accommodation, catering and coffee break included) from Wednesday, October 21 (scheduled start at 5 pm) to Sunday, October 25 (1 pm)

*130.- Euros for participation in the Forum (accommodation, catering and coffee break included) from Friday, October 23 (reception at 5 pm) to Sunday, October 25 (1 pm)

(On site, you will need to buy public transport tickets for the planned trips. Practical information will follow after you register.)

Participation in the Forum will not fully cover the costs incurred; the Church, the NMS and FLAM support the meeting to make it possible. Nevertheless, you can make an additional donation to the participation in order to support the work of the Forum.

Luc-Olivier Bosset (secretary for evangelization)

Ulrich Rusen Weinhold (Secretary for International Relations)

Information for all practical questions: the secretariat of the Centre-Alpes-Rhône region:
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