

The year 2011 marks 450 years since Guido de Brès (1522-1567) drafted the *Confessio Belgica* at Tournai (Doornik). The first edition was printed at Rouen in 1561 under the title *CONFESSIO DE FOY, Faicte d'un commun accord par les fideles qui conuersent es Pays-Bas, lesquels desirent viure selon la pureté de l'Euangile de Seigneur Iesus Christ*. In the night of November 1, 1561, the *Confessio Belgica* was offered to King Philip II of Spain by throwing it over the walls of the Citadel of Tournai. In an accompanying letter, De Brès declared to speak in the name of the majority of the population of Tournai and more than 100.000 believers in the Low Countries. He argued that the king should stop to persecute them since they were no troublemakers. The persecution continued, though, and De Brès was hanged in 1567. At the same time, the *Confessio Belgica* became favorite with the Reformed believers of the Low Countries and was endorsed in slightly varying versions by the Synod of Antwerp (1566), the Convention of Wesel (1568), the Synod of Emden (1572), and the Synod of Dordrecht (1618/19). As such it became one of the most influential confessions of the Reformation with international importance.

This international symposium is organized in cooperation with Refo500 by the Faculteit voor Protestantse Godgeleerdheid of Brussels, the Evangelische Theologische Faculteit Leuven, and the K.U.Leuven. Scholars from four countries discuss the origin, content, reception, and actual relevance of the *Confessio Belgica* in light of recent research. The proceedings will be published in a special issue of the journal *Analecta Bruxellensia*.



First Day: 27 November 2011, 16.00-18.00  
Eglise du Musée, Place du Musée, 1000 Bruxelles

Second Day: 28 November 2011, 8.30-18.00  
Faculté universitaire de théologie protestante – Faculteit voor Protestantse Godgeleerdheid, Rue des Bollandistes 40, 1040 Bruxelles

Registration: SymposiumCB@gmail.com [or: +32-(0)2-7356746]  
Registr. Fee: Students: €5,- / Others: €15,- (only for second day)

## International Symposium on the Occasion of the 450th Anniversary of the *Confessio Belgica* (1561-2011)



**Sunday 27 November 2011, 16:00-18:00**  
Eglise du Musée, Place du Musée, 1000 Bruxelles

**Monday 28 November 2011, 8:30-18:00**  
Faculté universitaire de théologie protestante – Faculteit voor Protestantse Godgeleerdheid, Rue des Bollandistes 40, 1040 Bruxelles

## Programme

### SUNDAY 27 NOVEMBER – Eglise du Musée, Place du Musée, 1000 Bruxelles

- 16.00 Word of welcome by Dr. G. Liagre and greetings from the other churches
- 16.10 Dr. E. Braekman, *La personne de Guido de Brès*
- 16.40 *Musical intermezzo*
- 16.45 Dr. J. Decavele, *De Confessio Belgica als tijdsdocument – een historische en ideologische contextualisering*
- 17.15 *Musical intermezzo*
- 17.20 Prof.em. Dr. J.F. Gilmont, *La première diffusion de la Confessio Belgica*
- 17.50 *Musical intermezzo*
- 17.55 Conclusion by Dr. P. De Mey
- 18.00 Reception

### MONDAY 28 NOVEMBER – Faculté universitaire de théologie protestante – Faculteit voor Protestantse Godgeleerdheid, Rue des Bollandistes 40, 1040 Bruxelles

- 8.30 Coffee
- 8.50 Ouverture par Prof. Dr. D. Lambers-Petry, doyen de la FUTP Bruxelles

#### Session 1: Contextual Prelude (chair: Prof. Dr. D. Lambers-Petry, FUTP Bruxelles)

- 9.00 Prof. Dr. D. Smit (University of Stellenbosch, South Africa), *The Confessio Belgica as Liberating Truth Today?*
- 9.30 Prof. Dr. F. van der Pol (TU Kampen), *The Early Reception of the Confessio Belgica within Reformed Protestantism of the Northern Netherlands*
- 10.00 Discussion
- 10.30 Coffee break

#### Session 2: Church (chair: Prof. Dr. E.A. de Boer, Refo 500)

- 11.00 Prof. Dr. E. vander Borgh (Free University of Amsterdam), *Ministry and Church Order in the Confessio Belgica*
- 11.30 Prof. Dr. P. Nullens (ETF Leuven), *Church and State in the Confessio Belgica*
- 12.00 Discussion
- 12.30 Lunch

#### Sessie 3: Scripture (chair: Prof. Dr. A.J. Beck, ETF Leuven)

- 13.30 Prof. Dr. E.A. de Boer (TU Kampen/VU Amsterdam), *The Calvin Draft, the Confessio Gallicana and the Confessio Belgica on Scripture*
- 14.00 Dr. M. Wisse (VU Amsterdam), *The Gospel of John in the Confessio Belgica*
- 14.30 Discussion
- 15.00 Coffee break

#### Session 4: Sacraments (chair: Prof. Dr. P. De Mey, K.U.Leuven)

- 15.30 Prof. Dr. P. Tomson (FPG Brussel), *Baptism, Circumcision and the Relation to the Jews in the Confessio Belgica*
- 16.00 Drs. V. Brandt (FUTP Bruxelles), *La cène dans la Confessio Belgica*
- 16.30 Discussion

#### Session 5: Theology and Ecumenism (chair: Prof. Dr. P. Tomson, FPG Brussel)

- 17.00 Prof. Dr. A.J. Beck (ETF Leuven), *Theology and Election in the Confessio Belgica*
- 17.30 Prof. Dr. P. De Mey (K.U.Leuven), *L'importance œcuménique de la Confessio Belgica*
- 18.00 Discussion
- 18.30 Conclusion by Prof. Dr. P. Tomson, dean FPG Brussel