

Letter 593b: 27/8 January 1536, [Constance], The Constance Preachers to the Preachers Assembled in Basel

Printed in HBBW 6:101–5, Ep. 737. Capito and Bucer were the representatives of Strasbourg at the meeting of the evangelical Swiss cantons, Mulhouse, and Strasbourg, in the city of Basel, 31 January–4 February 1536, and thus among those addressed here.

[*Summary*]: The Constance preachers received an invitation to the colloquy on 25 January. Because of the short notice, the city council decided against sending delegates. They are therefore putting their views in writing. They do not think new formulations are necessary for the concord with Luther since the confession submitted in Augsburg [in 1530] was, as far as doctrine is concerned, mutually recognized and has not been changed since. They recommend to the Swiss preachers that they join the concordat on that basis. If there are any doubts left about the Sacramentarian question, they leave the matter to their fellow preachers. While they have always considered the Lutherans their brothers, they cannot envisage a concord with the pope. There is no need to discuss a general concord at this point. Any agreement will come about through the efficacy of the Holy Spirit and the preaching of the gospel, not through uniformity of rites. They are desirous of mutual consultation and admonition, however. They send special greetings to Bucer and urge those present to protect the faith and maintain charity.