



Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2025

The central service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2025 was held in Essen Cathedral. As usual, representatives from the national, regional and local levels of the ACK took part in the service. The chairman of the ACK, Archpriest Radu Constantin Miron, preached on the theme of the Week of Prayer, „Do you believe this?“ (John 11:26). In addition, the enti-

re day emphasised the good relationship between the ACK and the Evangelical Alliance, with a pilgrimage of faith and hope from the worship service of the Evangelical Alliance in Velbert to Essen. The texts for the Week of Prayer in 2025 were prepared by a group in the ecumenical community of Bose/Italy and can be accessed on the ACK homepage. www.gebetswoche.de



256th General Assembly and board election

The 256th General Assembly of the ACK took place from 19-20 March 2025 in Augsburg. The most important item on the agenda was the regular election of new members to the executive board. Reverend Christopher Easthill from the Anglican Church was elected chairman. Bishop Ernst-Wilhelm Gohl (Evangelical Church of Württemberg / EKD) and Bishop Emmanuel von Christoupolis (Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops in Germany) were elected deputy chairmen. Further board members are Auxiliary Bishop Dr Peter Birkhofer (Archdiocese of Freiburg / DBK) and Pastor Manfred Ewaldt (Union of Evangelical Free Churches in Germany). The board is elected for a term of three years. This is the first time that an Anglican has headed the ACK. Reverend Easthill succeeds Archpriest Radu Constantin Miron, who was not eligible for re-election. He and the methodist

Bishop Harald Rückert are no longer on the board. In the evening there was opportunity to thank Archpriest Miron and Bishop Rückert for their many years of ecumenical commitment. Bishop Rückert had been deputy chairman of the ACK since 2019, while Archpriest Miron has represented his church at the ACK General Assembly for over 35 years, and since 2006 as a board member. In 2019, he was the first Orthodox to be elected chairman of the ACK. During its meeting, the General Assembly also dealt with the situation of oppressed and persecuted Christians, taking Syria as an example, and heard reports from working groups, committees and projects. Frank-Dieter Fischbach, General Secretary of the Conference of European Churches, spoke on the situation of ecumenism in Europe and reported on the current status of the revision of the Charta Oecumenica.



Apostolic Church in Germany accepted as 19th full member of the ACK

The „Apostolische Gemeinschaft“ (Apostolic Church in Germany) was accepted as the 19th full member of the ACK at the 256th General Assembly on 19-20 March 2025. Representatives of the church were present and were able to celebrate their admission in a church service. Full membership requires the approval of all member churches, so that this was the fulfilment of a 40-year ecumenical journey. The Apostolische Gemeinschaft had already

applied for membership on 25 January 1985. At that time, it was recommended that a process of mutual acquaintance and exchange should begin at local and regional level. This was supported and successfully pursued by the respective church leaders and committed individuals at the various levels. The Apostolische Gemeinschaft has participated as guest in the ACK in Germany since 25 March 2014.



500 years of the Anabaptist movement

In January 1525, the first Anabaptist believers' baptism took place in Zurich, which will be commemorated centrally in 2025. In addition, for this anniversary a German booklet „Daring! Living the Bible“ has been published. Parishes are invited to use a draft service sheet for their own worship services, and this liturgy was celebrated in February at a central service in Stuttgart. In

May, the topic will be widely discussed at the General Council of the German Baptists (BEFG) and at the Mennonite World Conference in Zurich. Finally, in Hamburg on 21 September an ecumenical service with an official ceremony will take place, attended by the German Federal President. <https://taeuferbewegung2025.de/>



1,700 years of the Council of Nicaea

From 6-8 March 2025, there was a symposium in Frankfurt am Main dealing with the contemporary relevance of the resolutions of the First Ecumenical Council of Nicaea in 325. The event was organised by the Faith and Order Commission (DÖSTA) of the Council of Churches in Germany in cooperation with the Protestant Academy Frankfurt and the Rabanus Maurus Catholic Academy. In historical, systematic and ecumenical theme blocks, about 120 participants were offered an ecumenical-multilateral perspective on the causes, procedures and consequences of the Council. Excursions to ecumenical sites and museums rounded off the conference programme. The conference was able to show that even after 1,700 years the

Council of Nicaea continues to pose lasting questions and encourage ecumenical dialogue about its results and reception. In early 2025, the General Assembly of the ACK and the DÖSTA jointly published an ecumenical statement on the anniversary of the Council, which is available on the ACK website in English translation.

Throughout 2025, various events will be organised around the anniversary of the Council. The ACK is providing its own thematic web page with resources for church services and parish work, information on the Nicaea icon of the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops in Germany, literature tips and dates: www.oekumene-ack.de/nizaea2025



Ecumenical Award 2025 – Time to apply!

The ACK 2025 Ecumenical Award has been announced! We are looking for creative projects that strengthen Christian unity. Prizes with a total value of €5,000 are to be won: a main prize (€2,000) as well as special prizes for innovative worship formats, initiatives for the integrity of creation and

a jury prize for interreligious dialogue. The patron is Prof. Dr. Heinrich Bedford-Strohm, Moderator of the Central Committee of the World Council of Churches. The deadline for applications has been extended until 15 May 2025. More information under: www.oekumenepreis-der-ack.de.

ACK Diary

- 20 April: Common Easter date in East and West
- 27 April: Signing of the revised Charta Oecumenica in Vilnius, Lithuania
- 30 April - 4 May: Ecumenism site at the Kirchentag, New Apostolic church Hannover South
- 5 September: Central celebration of the Ecumenical Day of Creation, Haus Düsse / Bad Sassendorf
- 21 September: Ecumenical service for the Anabaptist commemoration, Hamburg-Altona



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