



255th General Assembly



The 255th General Assembly of the Council of Churches in Germany (ACK) took place from 18-19 September 2024 in Mainz. Baptism was the central topic at a joint study day for the delegates and the representatives of the regional ACKs. Based on the document „Church Communion on the Way“ by the United Evangelical Lutheran Church in Germany (VELKD) and the Union of Evangelical Free Churches in Germany - Baptists (BEFG), Prof. Dr Uwe Swarat and Georgios Vlantis spoke about the importance of baptism for ecumenical cooperation. After this, working groups

looked into the issues raised in greater depth. The study day ended with the celebration of a baptismal commemoration.

At the subsequent general assembly, the delegates chose the biblical word „God, you save humans and animals“ as the motto for the next Day of Creation. They received reports from the various committees and adopted two statements to mark the 500th anniversary of the Anabaptist movement and the 1700th of the Council of Nicaea, which will be published at the beginning of next year.



South German Kirchentag of the New Apostolic Church



The Southern German Kirchentag of the New Apostolic Church took place in Karlsruhe from 9 to 12 May 2024. Events were held on the exhibition grounds around the Schwarzwaldhalle and all over the city centre, inviting people to find information, get to know each other and celebrate together. The ACK in Germany and the

ACKs in Baden-Württemberg and Bavaria were involved in many ways in preparing and carrying out the event, for example by participating in panel discussions and church services, by being present at the ACK stand on the market square or by passing on words of greeting from the board of the ACK in Germany.



103rd German Katholikentag



At the 103rd German Katholikentag in Erfurt from 29 May to 2 June 2024, the ACK in Germany was present with a joint exhibition together with the ACK Thuringia in a pagoda on the Church Mile. The ACK also prepared the central ecumenical service on Friday evening in Erfurt Cathedral under the motto „Risk a step into the future!“ In the closing service on Sunday

morning on the cathedral square, the ACK chairman, Archpriest Radu Constantin Miron, also took part with a reading. The ACK held a reception during the Katholikentag on Friday evening on the premises of the Evangelical Free Church in Erfurt, providing an opportunity for informal dialogue with music and a buffet.



Living in hope for the earth



The eight-month process „Living in Hope for the Earth“ came to an end with a three-day festival on the weekend of 13 to 15 September 2024 in Dresden with events in Dresden's main churches, in the Haus der Kirche and in public places in the city. Around 200 participants from all over Germany and other European countries took

part in the weekend in Dresden. Around 80 local events across Germany had led up to this weekend and shed new light on the topics of the Conciliar Process.

In three panels on the topics of justice, peace and creation, international scientists and people involved in local initiatives entered into discussion with one another.



The programme was enriched by creative and content-related workshops and ended with an ecumenical service in Dresden's Kreuzkirche church with three short sermons by the chairman of the ACK, Archpriest Radu Constantin Miron, the peace

commissioner of the EKD, Bishop Friedrich Kramer, and EKD synod member Henriette Greulich. A pilgrimage leading to four stations in Dresden's historic city centre concluded the final festival.

Ecumenical Day of Creation 2024



On 6 September 2024, the central celebration of the Ecumenical Day of Creation took place in Eberswalde under the motto „Let all the trees of the forest sing for joy“ (Ps 96:12). The event was organised in collaboration with local churches, the Ecumenical Council of Berlin-Brandenburg (ÖRBB) and the Eberswalde University for Sustainable Development.

Eberswalde, the city in Germany with the most woods, offered an ideal venue with its family garden. Despite the high temperatures, around 240 people came to take part. The supporting programme began at 2 p.m. with a workshop on the subject of doughnut economics, information stands and an exhibition. There was a youth event

„Confirmation candidates plant trees“, and guided tours of the family garden rounded off the programme.

The service at 5 p.m. was held by representatives of the ACK and the ÖRBB and streamed live. Sign language and easy language were integrated, and a „dance of the trees“ underlined the theme creatively. Baptist pastor Jasmin Jäger gave the sermon, and an ecumenical choir accompanied the service with music.

Afterwards, representatives from politics, science and the churches discussed the current challenges to preserving creation against the background of forest fires and dying woodlands.



European Councils of Churches met in Hamburg



From 23-25 September 2024, the annual meeting of the leaders of the National Councils of Churches in Europe took place at the HafenCity Ecumenical Forum in Hamburg, organised by the ACK together with the Conference of European Churches. In addition to exchanging news from the respective national Councils of Churches, the thematic focus lay on the revised

text of the Charta Oecumenica as a contribution to the broad-based consultation process on the document. The discussion of the text served to address such important issues for Europe as the war in Ukraine, migration movements, increasing secularisation, the coexistence of religions and the shift to the right that can be observed in many European countries.



ACK Diary

- 17 November 2024, 5 p.m., central intercession service for the ecumenical Decade of Peace in the New Apostolic Church in Lübeck
- 18 November 2024, 9:30 a.m. - 6 p.m., Interreligious symposium „Easy as pie? Opportunities and challenges of interreligious elementary education“ at Mater-nushaus Cologne
- 19 November 2024, 5:30 - 7 p.m., Online meeting to exchange thoughts on the revision of the Charta Oecumenica
- 21 November 2024, 10:30 a.m. - 6 p.m.,

networking meeting of „Do you know who I am?“ (WDWIB), Dresden

- 19 January 2025, 11 a.m., Closing of the Alliance Week of Prayer in Velbert, followed by a pilgrimage of faith and hope to the central service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity at 5 p.m. in Essen Cathedral
- 6-8 March 2025, 1700th anniversary of the Council of Nicaea - Conference of the Faith and Order Commission of the Council of Churches in Germany in Frankfurt am Main



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