

ACK 75 Jahre Arbeitsgemeinschaft Christlicher Kirchen in Deutschland



75 years of the ACK in Germany

On 10 March 1948 the Council of Churches in Germany (ACK) was founded. It celebrated its 75th anniversary with a service in Magdeburg Cathedral on 21 March 2023 attended by around 120 invited friends and associates as well as numerous leaders from the member churches. In his sermon, Bishop Emmanuel of Christopolis called on the ACK to continue to raise its voice on behalf of persecuted Christians worldwide and to serve as a meeting place. In his keynote lecture, Prof. Dr. Fernando Enns ventured to make some predictions

on the coming decades of ecumenism and encouraged his listeners to continue to come closer to one another with regard to the mutual recognition of baptism. Short addresses were given by Minister President Dr Reiner Haseloff, Bishop Dr Gerhard Feige and Mayoress Simone Borris, praising ecumenism as an example of diversity and the ACK as an important driving force in the cooperation of Christians in Germany. Video addresses by leaders of the 25 member and guest churches of the ACK are available on the ACK website.

ACK Arbeitsgemeinschaft Christlicher Kirchen in Deutschland Mitgliederversammlung



252nd General Assembly

The jubilee was followed by the 252nd General Assembly, where the delegates discussed the future work of the ACK, making suggestions and naming the challenges. The agenda also included the year 2025 with the commemoration of 500 years of the Anabaptist movement and the 1700th anniversary of the Council of Nicaea. Pastor Esther Handschin reported on the work of the Ecumenical Council of Churches in Austria and Milan Ivic from

missio gave an insight into the situation of persecuted and oppressed Christians worldwide. The blockade of the Lachin Corridor, which had lasted exactly 100 days, gave rise to a prayer formulated by the delegates and recommended to all churches in Germany, expressing concern about the deteriorating situation, solidarity with the Armenian Apostolic Orthodox Church and sympathy with the Armenian people.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2023



The ACK in Germany held the central service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity on 22 January 2023 together with the ACK Hessen-Rheinhessen and the ACK Frankfurt in the Free Evangelical Church in Frankfurt. In his sermon Archpriest Miron spoke about racism, as did Pastor Stefanie Bohn in her subsequent reflection. The joint prayers of the ACK and the Evangelical Alliance were an expression of the gro-

wing connection between the two Prayer Weeks. For 2024, the texts under the motto „You shall love the Lord your God ... and your neighbour as yourself“ (Lk 10:27) have been drafted by a group from Burkina Faso. The central service will be held on 21 January 2024 in the Nuremberg Cathedral of the Romanian Orthodox Church. The German translation of the texts will be available at the end of May.

Ecumenical Peace Decade

The winners of this year's poster competition were announced in February. The motto of the Peace Decade in 2023 is „Not sure – or maybe?“ The poster motif shows a broken compass, referring to the current

Insecurities that are palpable in society, church and politics and make it necessary to search for ways to peace. The central service will be held in Cottbus on 22 November 2023.



sicher nicht - oder?

War in Ukraine - #pray4ukraine



On the first anniversary of the attack on Ukraine, 24 February, the ACK with the German Evangelical Alliance (EAD) and Together for Europe invited people to a nationwide evening of prayer with a joint liturgy. Prayer groups took part on the streets and in public in more than 160 places in Germany. A subsequent online prayer on YouTube, in which the ACK chairman Ar-

chpriest Miron participated, culminated in the Twitter prayer of #twomplet at 9 p.m. Together with the Evangelical Church in Germany (EKD) and the Catholic German Bishops' Conference (DBK) the ACK also called for commemoration of the victims of the war and an end to violence with video messages from church leaders.

Ecumenical Award of the ACK 2023



Groups, associations or individuals can put in applications until August 31 for the ACK's biennial Ecumenical Award. This year there will be an additional prize for peace initiatives. The patron of the awards is Prof. Dr. Fernando Enns, Brazilian-German theologian, director of the Center for

Peace Church Theology at the University of Hamburg and Professor of Theology and Ethics at the Faculty of Theology of the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam. Enns is also a member of the Central Committee of the World Council of Churches (WCC). www.oekumenepreis-der-ack.de

Ecumenical Day of Creation



The Ecumenical Day of Creation 2023 will take place in Bremen on Friday, 1 September 2023. Under the motto „That you may have life in abundance“, a supporting programme is planned for the day, beginning at 2 p.m. on Bremen's market square. A church service will be held at 5 p.m. in Bremen Cathedral. At 6.30 p.m. Professor Wolfgang Lucht from the Potsdam

Institute for Climate Impact Research will give a lecture, which will be followed by the ACK's annual reception in the Haus der Bürgerschaft. The booklet with the order of service and other materials for preparing children's services and congregational activities are available at www.schoepfungstag.info.

Project for peaceful coexistence in new phase



In February, the successful interfaith project „Do you know who I am?“, jointly supported by the Central Council of Jews, the Coordination Council of Muslims and the ACK, received funding approval from the Federal Ministry of the Interior and for Home Affairs and started a new funding phase. The Federal Ministry of the Interior

and the German Islamic Conference are funding the project with 1.3 million euros. Applications for project funding in 2023 are still possible until 15.06./15.09./15.12.23. For questions about funding and the application process please contact: anna.rose@weisstduwerichbin.de.

Social media



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The work of the ACK has been represented in the social media for some time through the social media activities of third parties. Since the beginning of 2023, the Council of Churches in Germany has been operating its own channels in the social networks, which can be linked. They provide insights into various ecumenical encounters and

the ongoing work and give opportunity to set particular topics on the network. The basis of digital communication remains our website: www.oekumene-ack.de

- YouTube channel: @ackdeutschland4042
- Facebook account: @ACK1948
- Instagram channel: @ack_oec