

New managing board elected

At their meeting in March in Bergisch Gladbach, the delegates of the Council of Churches in Germany (ACK) elected the managing board for the next three years. Bishop Karl-Heinz Wiesemann (Speyer) was reaffirmed as chairman. Newly elected to the board is Reverend Christopher Easthill from the Anglican Church. He follows Reverend Heinrich Lüchtenborg who did not candidate for office following his retirement.



The newly elected board: R. C. Miron, C. Easthill, K.-H. Wiesemann, R. Wenner und M. Hein (from left).

The board's members are now Bishop Karl-Heinz Wiesemann (Roman Catholic Church) as chairman with Bishop Rosemarie Wenner (United Methodist Church), Bishop Martin Hein (Evangelical Church in Germany), Archpriest Radu Constantin Miron (Orthodox Church) and Reverend Christopher Easthill (Anglican Church) as deputies.

ACK Ecumenical Award 2017



Every two years the ACK grants an Ecumenical Award to projects and initiatives which contribute to the unity of Christians and support the joint efforts of Christians belonging to different Christian denominations. The sum of the award granted by the *Evangelische Bank* and the *Bank für Kirche und Caritas* is 3000 €. Norbert Lammert, President of the German Bundestag, is the official patron. The

award will be presented following the central ACK worship service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity on 22 January 2017 in Wittenberg. Further information as well as application forms can be found at www.oekumenepreis-der-ack.de.

Ecumenical Day of Creation in Bingen



The central celebration for the ecumenical Day of Creation, with the motto „All of creation is a song of praise to God“, will take place on 2 September 2016 in Bingen/Rhine. In Hildegard of Bingen's city, special attention will be given to creation in its entirety. The worship service will contain ideas found in Hildegard's theology of creation; however, Hildegard will not be its central focus.

The day will begin at 2 pm with a “Market of Possibilities” in the park at the *Mäuseturm*. Alongside projects dealing with sustainability there will be a potpourri of stage presentations including the comedy “Die wa(h)ren Dorffrauen” (They were village women / The ‘true’ village women). At 5 pm there will be a worship service in the open air church on the premises. Information can be found at www.schoepfungstag.info. Here the worship service model can be downloaded. Worship service leaflets and other related printed materials can be ordered through the ACK shop.

ACK at the *Katholikentag*

The ACK will again have a stand at the *Katholikentag* in Leipzig from 26 to 29 May. It will be found in the Nonnenmühlgasse in the city centre in the area „Dioceses and Ecumenism“. The stand number is BÖ-17. We look forward to seeing you!

Interreligious project for refugee aid started

WEISST DU WER ICH BIN?

Together with the Central Council of Jews in Germany and four Muslim organisations the ACK has begun the continuation of the project "Weisst du, wer ich bin?" (Do you know who I am?). In 2016, individual projects will be sponsored which support religious and political education as well as interreligious dialogue with refugees. Further information on the conditions for sponsorship can be found at the website: www.weisstduwerichbin.de. The project is also seen as one of the ACK's contributions to the Pilgrimage of Justice and Peace.

Volume documenting the Conference "500 years of Reformation"

What ecumenical stimuli can the commemoration of the Reformation offer? Answers to these questions can be found in the recently published book "Heillos gespalten? Segensreich erneuert?" edited by the *Deutsche Ökumenische Studienausschuss – DÖSTA* (German Ecumenical Academic Commission) within the ACK. The volume containing articles from approximately 20 theologians of different denominations is the output of a conference which was held in spring of 2015 by the DÖSTA together with the Protestant Academy in Tutzing and the Catholic Academy in Bavaria. Alongside seminal contributions from the Bishop for Ecumenism in the German Conference of Bishops, Gerhard Feige (Magdeburg), and the Catholica Commissioner of the United Evangelical Lutheran Church of Germany, Bishop Karl-Hinrich Manzke (Bückeburg), the book discusses theological controversies dealing with the Reformation and its intentions as well as presenting different denominational voices on the understanding of unity. Lastly, Protestant, Catholic and Orthodox concepts of church

renewal are expounded. The volume is dedicated to the former chairman of the ACK, Bishop Friedrich Weber, who died in January 2015.



Thomas Söding/Uwe Swarat (Hg.), *Heillos gespalten? Segensreich erneuert? 500 Jahre Reformation in der Vielfalt ökumenischer Perspektiven* (Quaestiones disputatae 277), Verlag Herder, Freiburg i.Br. 2016, 328 Seiten, ISBN 978-3-451-02277-7, 34,99 Euro (D)

Worship Service for the Week of Prayer 2017 is ready



The texts used worldwide for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in 2017 have been developed by a German workgroup delegated by the member churches of the ACK and then revised by the International Mixed Group. The German version of the worship service can be downloaded at www.gebetswoche.de. The texts pick up on a motto from 2 Corinthians "Reconciliation – The Love of Christ Compels Us" (2 Co 5:14-20). The fact that the texts used worldwide for the Week of Prayer in the year commemorating the Reformation are from Germany is an essential contribution on the part of the ACK in Germany to the multilateral discussion on the Reformation commemoration.

The central worship service in the city church will be held on 22 January 2017 at 1:30 pm in the Lutherstadt Wittenberg. The Ecumenical Award 2017 will be presented following the service.

Arbeitsgemeinschaft Christlicher Kirchen
in Deutschland
Ökumenische Centrale
Ludolfusstraße 2-4
60487 Frankfurt
Tel.: 069/247027-0
info@ack-oec.de
www.oekumene-ack.de

