

General Assembly of the ACK in Augsburg in September



The General Assembly held its 245th meeting on 18-19 September 2019 in the Haus St. Ulrich in Augsburg. On the agenda were a number of current topics. One of these was the planned amendment to the Employment Regulation regarding foreign pastoral workers. Before receiving an entry permit to Germany, these persons are required to prove that they have adequate knowledge of the German language. The delegates supported the letter that the Board of the ACK had written to the relevant ministries, which stated that the planned amendment would cause considerable disadvantages for the pastoral practice of several ACK member churches and would be a massive intervention into the churches' right to self-determination as laid down in the Basic Law.



Rev. Sören Lenz from the Conference of European Churches (CEC) in Strasbourg gave a lecture on the topic "Shortly before Brexit – and after the election: Will Europe be torn apart?" In this context, he warned against an "archipelagoisation" of Europe that would lead to increasing isolation and radicalisation.

ACK Ecumenism Award 2019 goes to the "Soden Passion"



The "Soden Passion" is glad to have won the ecumenical award (from left to right: Brunhild Haller, Archpriest Radu Constantin Miron, Pastor Dr. Achim Reis, Esther Schaller)

On the evening of the General Assembly, the ACK Ecumenism Award 2019, endowed with 3,000 euros, was presented to the project "Soden Passion" in an official ceremony. The Christian churches in Bad Soden am Taunus have been celebrating the season of Lent together for 16 years. Each year different events take place on a certain topic. A special highlight is the joint procession to the Stations of the Cross. The jury was also impressed by the high level of voluntary commitment. In addition, a project choir was formed to bring people and congregations together musically during Lent. A wooden cross is taken from one parish to another to symbolise their fellowship.

"Year of Ecumenism 2021"

Two major events will make the year 2021 particularly important for ecumenism in Germany: the 3rd Ecumenical Kirchentag and the Assembly of the World Council of Churches. In addition, several regional jubilees will take place to promote ecumenism. The ACK has therefore proclaimed a "Year of Ecumenism 2021" in order to make the diversity of the ecumenical landscape in Germany visible and to harmonise the various events planned.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2020

The central worship service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity will take place on Sunday, 19 January 2020, at 3 p.m. in the St. Johannis Church (Neustädter Hof- und Stadtkirche) in Hanover. It will be prepared in cooperation with the ACKs of Lower Saxony and Hanover. The international texts and liturgy come from the churches in Malta. The theme "They Showed Us Unusual Kindness" (Acts 28:2) is taken from the story of the shipwreck of the apostle Paul in Malta.

Ecumenical Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation celebrated in Heilbronn



The central celebration for this year's Ecumenical Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation took place on 6 September 2019 on the grounds of the Federal Horticultural Show (BUGA) in Heilbronn. Minister-President Winfried Kretschmann delivered a speech at the opening of the ceremony, which was attended by around 1,000 people. This was followed by a film presenting successful practical examples in local churches, information on the EMAS Forum and guided tours of the BUGA site. The ecumenical service was held by Board members of the Council of Churches in Germany, Chairman Archpriest Radu Constantin Miron (Cologne) and Bishop Harald Rückert (Frankfurt),



together with the Chairman of the ACK board in Baden-Württemberg, Prelate Prof. Dr. Traugott Schächtele (Schwetzingen), and the Chairman

of the ACK Heilbronn, Rev. Markus Pfeiffer (Heilbronn). The sermon entitled "Salt of the Earth" was held by the Baptist pastor Andrea Schneider, Broadcasting Commissioner of the Union of Protestant Free Churches (VEF). The service was accompanied musically by the ACK project choir, the trombone choir BUGA BRASS and the band "Qohelet", and the opening ceremony by Anda Grawert and Andrej Heinrich Klassen. The collection at the service was taken for needy people, who were invited to a delicious meal at the BUGA.

Declaration of the General Assembly on 20 Years of JDDJ

"Jesus Christ is our righteousness, our sanctification and our redemption." Under this title the General Assembly of the ACK has issued a statement by the Study Commission DÖSTA and a declaration 20 years after the "Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification".

ACK Diary

29. October 2019, Erfurt: Nonconformists – Martyrs – Visionaries. The Anabaptist churches' contribution to theology, ecumenism and world interpretation. www.taeuferbewegung2025.de

17. November 2019, 6 p.m., Saarbrücken: Central worship service for the Ecumenical Peace Decade. www.friedensdekade.de

4. December 2019, 2.00 – 8.00 p.m., Berlin-Spandau: Closing event of the project "Do you know who I am". www.weisstdu-werichbin.de

19. January 2020, 3.00 p.m. Hanover: Central worship service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. www.gebetswoche.de

20-22 March 2020, Hofgeismar: Future Workshop Ecumenical Peace Decade.

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