



Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2021

In 2021 the central service of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity will take place in Hamburg. It will be jointly held by the ACK in Germany and the ACK in Hamburg in the Evangelical-Lutheran St. Peter's Church on Sunday, 24 January, at 5 p.m., and is open to all interested worshippers. The texts for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2021 were prepared by the Communauté de Grandchamp, a mo-

nastic community of sisters in Switzerland. The theme that was chosen is „Abide in my love and you shall bear much fruit“, based on John 15:1-17, and it recalls the vocation of this community to prayer, reconciliation and unity in the church and in the family of humankind. Following the service, the Year of Ecumenism 2021/2022 will be solemnly inaugurated.



First General Assembly in digital form

After the cancellation of the spring General Assembly 2020 due to the Corona situation, the autumn session of the Assembly was held in digital form for the first time. In addition to topics such as the „500th Anniversary of the Anabaptist Movement“ and the Assembly of the World Council of Churches, the agenda included the election of a new executive board. The regional bishop Friedrich Kramer (Evangelical Church in Central Germany) was elected as a member of the EKD board. He succeeds Bishop Prof. Dr Martin Hein (Evangelical

Church of Kurhessen-Waldeck). Bishop Dr Bertram Meier (Diocese of Augsburg) was elected to represent the German Bishops' Conference on the deputy board of directors as successor to Bishop Dr Georg Bätzing (Diocese of Limburg). The General Assembly also dealt with the Year of Ecumenism 2021/2022, the planned app for the Pilgrimage of Justice and Peace, and the preparations in advance of the 3rd Ecumenical Kirchentag 2021. The delegates also shared their experiences during the coronavirus crisis.



Year of Ecumenism 2021/2022

Following the postponement of the Assembly of the World Council of Churches, the Year of Ecumenism 2021 was extended to 2022, thus creating a longer time

span for all the small and large ecumenical events taking place during this period. The logo is going to be adapted appropriately.



Ecumenism Award 2021

The closing date for applications for the Ecumenical Award 2021 is 31 December 2020. The main prize is endowed with €2,500, and there is a €1,000 Innovation Prize for particularly clever and creative

ecumenical projects. A multilateral jury is looking forward to receiving numerous entries and will select the winners from the applications.



ACK Publication

Verantwortung für die Schöpfung. 10 Jahre ökumenischer Tag der Schöpfung, (Responsibility for Creation, 10 years of the Ecumenical Day of Creation), in German,

edited by Elisabeth Dieckmann, Verena Hammes und Jochen Wagner, Freiburg i. Br. (Herder), 2020.

Project "Do you know who I am?" restarted

The triological project „Do you know who I am?“, a joint initiative of the ACK together with the Central Council of Jews and four Muslim associations, has entered its fourth funding phase 2020-2022. Coordinator since September is Maria Coors (Maria.Coors@weisstduwerichbin.de).

From October onwards, it will once again be possible to apply for funds for inter-religious projects up to a maximum of €15,000 each. All information and application documents can be found online at <http://weisstduwerichbin.de>.



Ecumenical Day of Creation 2020 in Landau

The central celebration of this year's Day of Creation took place on 4 September 2020 in Landau in the Palatinate. Due to the hygiene protection measures in connection with the Covid-19 pandemic, the number of visitors was limited. About 150 people attended the worship service, which was also broadcast live and can still be heard under <http://schoepfungstag.info>.

Members of the board of the Council of Churches in Germany led the ecumenical service: the chairman, Archpriest Radu Constantin Miron, and the retired bishop Prof. Dr Martin Hein, assisted by the chairman of the ACK Southwest, Pastor Dr Jochen Wagner, Superintendent Jutta Walber, the chairman of the ACK in Landau, Dean Axel Brecht, Pastor Katharina Helbig and two scouts. The sermon on the motto „(w)einklang“ was held by the Roman Catholic bishop Marc Stenger (Diocese of Troyes/France). The collection at the service was taken in aid of tree planting in the Landau urban area. At least 500 new trees, in particular types suited to the regional cli-

mate, are to be planted close to Christian churches.

The service was accompanied musically by members of the Landau brass choir conducted by Christian Syperek, and the ACK project choir under Horst Christill (deanery cantor), the district cantor Anna Linss (at the organ) and the music group „One Team“ under Dr Thomas Kaplan.

After the service, words of greeting were spoken by the Landau Mayor Thomas Hirsch, Church President Dr h.c. Christian Schad (Evangelical Church of the Palatinate), Vicar General Andreas Sturm (Diocese of Speyer) and Pastor Dr Jochen Wagner (ACK Southwest).

Following the service, there was an accompanying programme of workshops and walks through the town centre concentrating on the environment. A reception at 7 p.m. in the vinotheque Par-Terre on the site of the former Landesgartenschau (regional horticultural show) marked the end of the event.

ACK Diary

- 10 October 2020, 5 p.m., Hamburg-Altona, Mennonite church: Inauguration of "500th Anniversary of the Anabaptist Movement"
- 13-15 November 2020, Berlin: Creative workshop "Your pilgrimage"
- 18 November 2020, 6 p.m., Dresden,

Kreuzkirche: Central worship service for the Ecumenical Peace Decade.

- 24 January 2021, 5 p.m., Hamburg, St. Peter's Church: Central worship service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, followed by the official inauguration of the Year of Ecumenism

