



Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2022

The central service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity was celebrated on Sunday 23 January 2022 in Cologne Cathedral by the ACK in Germany together with the ACK in North Rhine-Westphalia and the ACK in Cologne. The chairman of the ACK, Archpriest Radu Constantin Miron, gave the sermon, in which he took up the motto of this year's Week of Prayer „We saw the star in the East, and we came to worship him“ (Mt 2:2). The texts had been prepared by the Middle East Council of Churches. Four other members of the board of the ACK in Germany, took part in the service together with Auxiliary Bishop Rolf Steinhäuser, Church Councillor Barbara Rudolph, other representatives of the ACK at the regional and local levels and a group of carol singers. The service was musically accompanied by two Orthodox choirs: the Byzantine Choir of Bonn and the Komitas Choir from the Armenian Church in Cologne. A Moravian star which had been specially produced for this ser-

vice was hanging in the cathedral.

For the second time, a baton was handed over by representatives of the Evangelical Alliance in Germany shortly after their week of prayer, as a sign of the growing solidarity with the ACK. It was also encouraging that Cologne's Mayoress Henriette Reker took part in the service and also gave a welcoming address. The service was streamed, so that a broader public was able to follow the service this year via social media.

In 2023, the texts will be prepared by a group from Minneapolis under the motto: „Do good! Seek justice!“ (Is 1:17). The ACK in Germany will celebrate the central service on Sunday, 22 January 2023, in the Free Evangelical Church in Frankfurt together with the ACK Hessen-Rhein Hessen and the ACK in Frankfurt am Main. The translation of the texts into German is in progress and should be available by the end of May.



General Assembly

The 250th General Assembly of the ACK was held in Lutherstadt Wittenberg on 16 and 17 March 2022. The Mayor of Wittenberg, Torsten Zugehör, welcomed the delegates to Luther's home town. The board members were elected at the regular interval. The current chairman, Archpriest Radu Constantin Miron, was re-elected with a large majority. Bishop Harald Rückert from the Evangelical-Methodist Church and Reverend Christopher Easthill from the Council of Anglican and Episcopal Churches in Germany were once again elected as his deputies. Further board members of the ACK are Bishop Friedrich Kramer from the Evangelical Church in Germany and Auxiliary Bishop Dr Nikolaus Schwerdtfeger from the German Bishops' Conference, who were also confirmed in their offices.

The 250th General Assembly of the ACK also marked the beginning of a new delegation period. Some of the delegates from the member churches were new, others have been re-appointed by their churches. To mark the occasion, the members celebrated a thanksgiving service in the Schlosskirche (Castle Church) in Wittenberg on the evening of 16 March, in which Colonel Hervé Cachelin from the Salvation Army preached the sermon.

The agenda included the war in Ukraine, the 11th Assembly of the World Council of Churches, which will take place in Germany for the first time from 31 August to 8 September 2022, the ACK-Polis at the Katholikentag in Stuttgart and reports on various projects and from the member churches.





War in Ukraine

At the 250th General Assembly of the ACK, a declaration was passed condemning the „invasion contravening international law“ and the war in Ukraine. The delegates of the ACK in Germany emphasised that war and suffering contradict the confession of Jesus Christ. No Christian church should misuse the Gospel of Jesus Christ in conflicts over political interests, as is currently happening. At the same time, the ACK in Germany rejected any form of stigmatisa-

tion of people of Russian origin as well as attacks against them and their places of worship. The delegates affirmed their trust in the power of prayer for peace and called on all war-mongers to repent.

The declaration is available in German, English and French and can be downloaded from the ACK homepage: Statement by the General Assembly of the ACK on the war in Ukraine (oekumene-ack.de)



ACK-Polis at the Katholikentag in Stuttgart

The 102nd German Catholic Convention (Katholikentag) will take place in Stuttgart from 25 to 29 May 2022. For the first time, the ACK will not be present with a stand on the Church Mile, but with the ACK-Polis on the Kleiner Schlossplatz.

Under the motto „Experience ecumenism“, the square will be turned into a place which shows the wide variety of ecumenism, leading the visitors to be astounded, to relax, play and gain information. The

Kleiner Schlossplatz will form a „city within the city“ with a market square, town hall, playground, café, library and other areas. On the stage, short information events will take place as well as midday and evening prayers and an attractive music programme. There will always be something going on in the „Ecumenical City“ at the Katholikentag. Come along and be enthused. You are cordially invited and heartily welcome! Entrance to the ACK-Polis is free of charge.

Ecumenical Day of Creation



The central service at this year's Ecumenical Day of Creation will take place on 1 September 2022 in Karlsruhe as part of the 11th Assembly of the World Council of Churches. The day is being prepared in cooperation with the ACK in Baden-Württemberg and the ACK in Karlsruhe. At 5 p.m., a festive service with international visitors and delegates of the Assembly will take place on the stage on the market square.

Bishop Athenagoras of Nazianzos (New York) will preach the sermon. The service will be followed by a reception. During the whole day there will be a supporting programme with stands, information and hands-on activities. The logo and the worship materials invite people to celebrate the Ecumenical Day of Creation in many places in Germany under the motto „God's love reconciles and unites the suffering creation.“



ACK Diary

- 17 May 2022, 5 - 7 p.m.: Second Information meeting on the WCC Assembly, online
- 25 - 29 May 2022: ACK-Polis at the Katholikentag in Stuttgart (Kleiner Schlossplatz)
- 31 August - 8 September 2022: 11th Assembly of the World Council of Churches in Karlsruhe
- 1 September 2022: Central service of the Ecumenical Day of Creation in Karlsruhe



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