



General Assembly

The 251st General Assembly of the ACK met in Hamburg on 14 and 15 September 2022. Ernst-Wilhelm Gohl, Regional Bishop of the Evangelical Church in Württemberg, was elected to the Board. In this function, he succeeds Bishop Friedrich Kramer of the Evangelical Church in Central Germany.

The General Assembly also appointed two full-time staff members to their offices. The new Orthodoxy Officer is Pastor Marius-Adrian Călin. Pastor Jens Daniel Haverland will take over the EKD department as well as press and public relations as from 1 November 2022.

In addition, the participants of the Assembly held a study session on „The war in Ukraine - a touchstone for Christian peace ethics“. With regard to the current war in Armenia, all participants emphasised the special responsibility of the churches and the Christian message for peace, which is the grammar of creation.

War was contrary to the will of God. An ethics of peace based on confessionality was no longer appropriate; rather, in view of the current threat, it was important to find a common Christian language, whereby the diversity of opinions should not lead to arbitrariness.



ACK-Polis at the Katholikentag in Stuttgart

At the 102nd Katholikentag in Stuttgart from 25-29 May 2022, the ACK “constructed” a „polis“ on the square „Kleiner Schlossplatz“ in Stuttgart with a team of around 30 volunteers and staff. Symbolically dressed in hi vis vests and caps, the team was working in a city with a town hall, marketplace, library, playground, café and various places of hands-on action – ecumenism being rebuilt and changed.

Around 1,000 Katholikentag visitors participated actively in the project, where they could vote on the question where ecumenism is most urgently needed

(they chose the preservation of creation), had themselves caricatured or photographed for the cause of ecumenism, helped to knot together a „bond of peace“, wrote down a personal message, or held a conversation with the ACK representatives. Many more visitors came and took away information material.

Apart from that, several representatives of the ACK were also actively involved in public debates, whether giving input statements, leading or participating in the discussion. ACK members had also helped to prepare the large ecumenical service on Friday evening.



Ecumenical Day of Creation

The central celebration of the Ecumenical Day of Creation 2022 took place on 1 September in Karlsruhe as part of the 11th Assembly of the World Council of Churches. The ACK in Germany together with the ACKs in Baden-Württemberg and Karlsruhe had issued invitations to the celebration.

Under the motto „God’s love reconciles and unites the suffering creation“ (based on the motto of the WCC Plenary Assembly), the ACK presented itself with a supporting programme on Friedrichsplatz

together with parishes and people from civil environmental groups.

The highlight of the day was the joint ecumenical service on the market square in Karlsruhe. Bishop Athenagoras of Nazianzos from the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America gave the sermon, in which he emphasised, among other things, that the responsibility for the care of creation lies with each individual.

The service was led by the Chairman of the ACK in Germany, Archpriest Radu Constantin Miron. Representatives of the



Die Liebe Gottes
versöhnt und eint die
leidende Schöpfung



ACK in Baden-Württemberg and the ACK in Karlsruhe also took part, along with all the other board members.

About 500 people attended the service. The collection of around 2,200 euros was donated to people in need in Ukraine and also used for integration projects in Karlsruhe. Afterwards, the annual reception of the ACK took place in the town hall. In his welcoming address, the Lord Mayor of Karlsruhe, Dr Frank Mentrup, described

1 September as a "day of hope", because the Day of Creation had shown that more and more people are prepared to take responsibility for protecting the environment.

The central celebration will take place next year on 1 September 2023 in Bremen under the motto "That you may have life in abundance (John 10:10)".

The day is being prepared together with the ACK in Bremen.



WCC Assembly

Together with the EKD, the ACK was present in the networking zone on the Assembly grounds from 31 August to 8 September. As co-host, it presented the diversity of ecumenism in Germany with an ecumenical candy bar. It turned out that the candy bar was a good opportunity to talk to people in a direct and uncomplicated way – and this led to profound conversations. Furthermore, visitors and delegates were able to inform themselves about the work of the EKD and ACK at the joint stand, take a souvenir photo in a VW van, or test their sportiveness with the help

of a large table football. In addition, ACK representatives were involved in the various programme items of the Assembly and in the encounter programme.

The Chairman of the ACK, Archpriest Radu Constantin Miron, gave a welcoming address at the beginning of the Assembly on behalf of all member churches in order to greet all the international delegates in Germany.

As a delegate of the ACK, PD Dr Andrea Riedl observed the Assembly and its sustainability for ecumenism in Germany.



Das Projekt der drei großen Religionen für friedliches Zusammenleben in Deutschland

Do you know who I am?

No more project applications can be submitted for the current funding phase 2020 - 2022. Since mid-September the project coordinator is Anna Rose, who is

standing in for Maria Coors during her maternity and parental leave.

The contact details are: anna.rose@weisstduwerichbin.de.

ACK Diary

- 6 November 2022, 6 p.m.: Central service for the Ecumenical Peace Decade in the Kaiser Wilhelm Memorial Church, Berlin
- 22 January 2023, 5 p.m.: Central service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in the Free Evangelical Church, Frankfurt
- 21 March 2023, from 3.00 p.m.: 75th anniversary of the Council of Churches in Germany, Magdeburg Cathedral



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