

ACK Arbeitsgemeinschaft
Christlicher Kirchen
in Deutschland
Mitgliederversammlung

253rd General Assembly on 20/21 September



The 253rd General Assembly of the Council of Churches in Germany (ACK) took place on 20/21 September 2023 in the conference centre „Auf dem Heiligen Berg“ in Wuppertal. Beforehand, the conference of the regional ACK directors had met and exchanged news from the regions. During a joint study day, two lectures by Barbara Rudolph, a retired church councillor, and Lea Schlenker dealt with the past, present and future of the Charta Oecumenica on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of its signing at the German level.



The subsequent General Assembly was largely marked by the escalation of the conflict in Arzakh / Nagorno Karabakh. During the meeting the chairpersons of

the ACK, the German Bishops' Conference and the Evangelical Church in Germany published a joint press release, criticising the massive military action of the government of Azerbaijan, which endangered the existence of the predominantly Armenian population in the region. Together, the chairpersons called for solidarity and support for the people in the Caucasus. The delegates heard reports from the Armenian Church and prayed for the victims of violence and for peace in the region.

In the evening, the delegates had the opportunity to discuss which future topics should determine the work of the ACK and how they can be further developed.

World Council of Churches – Follow-up



After the Assembly of the World Council of Churches (WCC), the ACK, the Association of Protestant Missions and Churches in Germany (EMW) and Bread for the World have taken on the task of compiling the themes of the Assembly and impulses for further work in a publication that will be produced by the Evangelische Verlagsanstalt Leipzig. With short contributions from more than 40 authors, the workbook entitled „In der Liebe Christi weitergehen“ (Continuing in the love of Christ) is dedicated to eight key topics from the fields

of theology, missiology and development policy issues and offers suggestions for further ecumenical work in the future. The publication will appear in Autumn 2023.

Given the great interest in digital exchange meetings, it is planned to offer further information meetings on WCC topics at irregular intervals. A first digital meeting is planned for 6 November, 5.00 to 8.00 p.m. This will also include the evaluation of the results of the Central Committee at its meeting from 21-27 June 2023.

38th German Protestant Kirchentag



The 38th German Protestant Kirchentag was held in Nuremberg from 7-11 June 2023 under the motto „Now is the time“. For the first time, the greetings of the ecumenical community were spoken by the chairman of the ACK, Archpriest Radu Constantin Miron, following the opening service.

tions in the courtyard and the inside rooms, accompanied by a lively brass band, appetising Greek delicacies and good weather. They were also offered a guided tour of the church.



For the first time, the ACK issued an invitation to an ecumenical reception on Friday evening in the rooms of the Greek Orthodox Church St. Paul the Apostle in Nuremberg. Around 200 guests accepted and were able to meet and hold conversa-

A project team consisting of members of all denominational families had organised a three-day programme of panels, workshops and encounters at the “City of Ecumenism” on and around the Jakobsplatz and in the neighbouring churches. The ACK-Polis with its town hall, playground, market place and library invited the Kirchentag participants to find



out about the diversity of Christian faith in Germany and in Nuremberg. The café bus from the Lutheran Church of Braunschweig was used as a backdrop for the „KlönchnACK“ (roughly “ACKchat”) and for short talks with representati-

ves of the member churches of the ACK. Furthermore, the Evangelical Alliance in Nuremberg was present with its „Event Church“, offering a colourful programme in cooperation with the international congregations.



Ecumenical Day of Creation in Bremen

Under the motto „That you may have life in abundance“ (Jn 10:10), the ACK opened the Season of Creation in Bremen on 1 September. The central celebration of the Ecumenical Day of Creation was organised together with the local ACK in Bremen.

In the afternoon, a street festival started with stalls and hands-on activities for young and old, an Ethiopian coffee ceremony and a concert by the Bremen Brass Ensemble on the square in front of the cathedral. Guided tours on various topics such as „Reformation in Bremen“, „Places of Poverty“ or a walk in the Bible Garden and an animal safari for children in Bremen Cathedral rounded off the programme.

The highlight of the day was the jointly celebrated ecumenical service at 5 p.m. in the Cathedral attended by more than 400 visitors. The sermon was preached by Dr Bernd Kuschnerus, President of the Evangelical Church of Bremen. The service was musically accompanied by the choir of the New Apostolic Church of Bre-

men, the Brass Ensemble of the Evangelical Church and the organ. The board members of the ACK in Germany and the ACK in Bremen shared in leading the liturgy, which was translated into sign language on site. The service was streamed live and can still be viewed on the ACK YouTube channel.

Afterwards, the annual reception of the ACK took place in the House of the Bremen Parliament (“Bürgerschaft”) with a keynote speech by Professor Dr Wolfgang Lucht of the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research. The President of the Bremen Parliament, Antje Grotheer, spoke a word of greeting.

The central celebration of the Ecumenical Day of Creation will take place next year on 6 September 2024 in Eberswalde under the motto „Let all the trees of the forest rejoice“ (based on Psalm 96:12). The day is being prepared in cooperation with the Ecumenical Council Berlin-Brandenburg, the Christian congregations in Eberswalde and the University for Sustainable Development Eberswalde.



ACK Diary

- 27 October 2023, 10 a.m. - 5.30 p.m., Study day „Daring! Living without violence - the peace potential of ecumenism“ at the Dietrich Bonhoeffer House in Berlin
- 30 October; 13 November; and 27 November 2023, 6.00-8.00 p.m., a series of webinars on „50 years of Leuenberg from an Ecumenical Perspective“ on Zoom
- 6 November 2023, 5.00-8.00 p.m., „Where do we go from here?“ Digital exchange meeting one year after the 11th WCC Assembly on Zoom
- 20 November 2023, 2.00-7.00 p.m., Interreligious Symposium „Do we meanwhile know who we are?“ at the Evangelische Akademie zu Berlin
- 22 November 2023, 6 p.m., Central Prayer Service for the Ecumenical Decade of Peace in the Klosterkirche in Cottbus
- 21 January 2024, 5 p.m., Central Service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in the Cathedral of the Romanian Orthodox Metropolis in Nuremberg