



Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2024



The central service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity took place for the first time in an Orthodox church - the Nuremberg Cathedral of the Romanian Orthodox Metropolis. As usual, representatives from the national, regional and local levels of the ACK took part in the service. The chairman of the ACK, Archpriest Radu Constantin Miron, gave the sermon and referred to the story of the Good Samaritan, which also contains the theme of the Week of Prayer: 'You shall love the Lord your God ... and your neighbour as yourself' (Lk 10:27). In addition, the solidarity

of the ACK with the Evangelical Alliance was particularly emphasised in the service. The texts for the 2024 Week of Prayer were written by a preparatory group from Burkina Faso and can be found on the ACK website at www.gebetswoche.de or purchased in bookshops.

In 2025, the texts under the motto 'Do you believe this?' (John 11:26) come from the Italian monastic community of Bose and focus on the Creed in the year which commemorates the First Ecumenical Council of Nicaea in 325.



Ecumenical Award of the ACK 2023



The Ecumenical Award 2023 was presented at two ceremonies in Hamburg and Munich. The initiative 'Spiritual Moments - Pieces for Peace' received the additional Peace Prize on 3 February during the St. Ansgar Vespers in Hamburg's main church, St. Petri.

The main award went to the project 'Pasinger Friedensweg - von 2015 bis heute

nachhaltig weiterwirkend' at a ceremony in Munich's Pasinger Fabrik on 10 March. The idea of organising the award ceremony in consultation with the winners in places where ecumenism is personally shaped and experienced locally was seen as an expression of appreciation and recognition. More information: www.oekumenepreis-der-ack.de.



254th General Assembly



The 254th General Assembly of the ACK took place on 13/14 March 2024 in Fulda. In addition to receiving information about current ACK projects and finances, the delegates had the task of electing a new board member. Following the retirement of Auxiliary Bishop Dr Nikolaus Schwerdtfeger (Diocese of Hildesheim), the General Assembly unanimously elected Auxiliary Bishop Dr Peter Birkhofer (Freiburg) as Roman Catholic member of the Board. The Secretary General of the AGCK in Switzerland, Dr Anne Durrer, reported on their work in Switzerland. The delegates focussed on the situation of persecuted and

oppressed Christians, taking the situation in Armenia and Ethiopia as examples. Eyewitnesses reported on the life-threatening devastation of religious sites and on oppression in both countries. The delegates showed their sympathy for the fate of the churches, prayed for the persecuted brothers and sisters and expressed their solidarity with them.

The opening event for the project 'Living in Hope for the Earth', which aims to draw attention to the issues of peace, justice and the integrity of creation until September 2024, took place in the evening as part of the General Assembly.

Living in Hope for the Earth. Justice – Peace – Creation

During the 254th General Assembly of the ACK on 13/14 March 2024, the multid denominational project 'Living in Hope for the Earth. Justice - Peace - Creation' was launched.

Until the autumn, decentralised events on the topics of justice, peace and environmental and climate protection will take place throughout Germany and are listed in a central calendar on the website www.hoffnungleben2024.de. On this site it is possible to submit further projects. At

the end of the campaign there will be a varied and colourful festival in Dresden from 13-15 September 2024, which is expected to attract 400 ecumenical participants from Germany and other countries.

Information on the campaign, background details about the conciliar process and opportunities to get involved can be found on the project website. There one can also subscribe to a newsletter, in order not to miss any further news.



Ecumenical Day of Creation 2024

On 6 September 2024, the Ecumenical Day of Creation will take place in the Family Garden in Eberswalde. Under the motto 'Let all the trees of the forest sing for joy' (Psalm 96:12), the day will include a varied supporting programme, an ecumenical service and a moderated discussion on the topic of responsibility for creation with representatives from politics, the church and science. Afterwards, there will be an invi-

tation from the ACK to the annual reception. The service booklet will be published in April. The event is being organised in cooperation with the Ecumenical Council of Berlin-Brandenburg, the Eberswalde University for Sustainable Development as well as many congregations of different denominations from Eberswalde and the surrounding area. More information: www.schoepfungstag.info.



Save the Date: 1700th Anniversary of Council of Nicaea

In 2025, Christians around the world will be commemorating the first Ecumenical Council, which took place 1,700 years ago in Nicaea in 325. To mark the occasion, the German Commission on Faith and Order (DÖSTA) is organising from 6-8 March 2025 an academic conference in cooperation with the Protestant and Catholic Academies in Frankfurt am Main. It will examine the matters covered by the

Council from a historical, systematic and ecumenical perspective. Scholars from various denominations and specialist disciplines will shed light on the significance of the Council's decisions for the present day and address the question of how decisions are currently taken in the churches. The invitation and registration details will be published in summer 2024.

Termine

- 5 May 2024: Orthodox Easter. All Christians are invited to take part in the Easter celebrations in Orthodox congregation
- 9-12 May 2024: Southern German Kirchentag of the New Apostolic Church, Karlsruhe - www.skt2024.de
- 29 May - 2 June 2024: 103rd German Katholikentag, Erfurt
- 6 September 2024: Central celebration of the Ecumenical Day of Creation, Eberswalde
- 13-15 September 2024: Conference 'Living in Hope for the Earth', Dresden

