

REPORTS FROM REGIONS

EVENTS – FINANCES – FUTURE PLANS

NO. 73

MICHAELMAS 2016

Australia and New Zealand

no message

Austria and South-Eastern Europe

no message

Bavaria

no message

Czech Republic

no message

Central Germany

Congregation Mainz: As many of you could already read in the St John's edition of the messages, the congregation has been shut down. That was for the members of this small congregation a severe step, because they had attended the Sunday Act of Consecration of Man most faithfully. Questions had been raised at the other pole of the congregational life for some time: new members, especially those with children, could hardly foresee a workable future, even after many efforts.

After the retirement of the priest, who had been officiating till then, it wasn't possible to send another priest because of shortage of colleagues; the congregation of Mainz now was looked after as a branch of Frankfurt. Soon it became clear that this double burden could not be borne. So the question arose with renewed intensity how to proceed. A rigorous activation of the congregation were only possible if a priest with abilities of a founder would be sent there. He would have to work with full and manifold commitment till it showed whether a new step for the congregation might be feasible. Surely, there are priests like that, but they are needed for tasks elsewhere. There are congregations nearby and we considered again and again to join the forces.

So we took this difficult step. During the last meeting between 4th and 6th March and its last Act of Consecration of Man we observed, in addition to the sorrow, a great gratitude with regard to, the responsible people and the spiritual beings for making it possible that through so many decades Christ's healing substance could flow.

There are decisions where only future will show how to appraise them; this is surely one of them. It is important whether we accept and shape the new facts actively. For the members the question remains unanswered whether the people in the congregation – and the surrounding congregations – should not be integrated more responsibly in such a grave process. That's something we must work on further. Most touching was the decision of the congregation to give the really beautiful equipment of the services to the Romanian congregation; it should work at a new centre of germinating. That was received with great joy. The remaining finances will not go into the general funds but will be given aimed at the "vacancies" as for instance the priests' training, working with youths and music for the service.

Albrecht Schwenk

Eastern Europe

Lithuania: On Friday 8th September Milan Horák celebrated the Act of Consecration of Man for the first time in the Lithuanian language during a meeting of the Circle of Seven in Berlin. This special event will also happen in the congregation of Vilnius on the New Year's day 2017. We all may send good wishes to them at the beginning of the year, for it is an important new step in the development of a congregation when the service can be celebrated in their native language.

Georgia: In Georgia too, a new chapel has been constructed. In September 2015 already the consecration of the "Michael-church" took place, and in October last year the Eastern-Europe conference happened in Tbilisi with far more than 100 participants from many different countries. Both events were highlights which stimulate the development of the congregational life.

Gisela Thriemer

Great Britain-Ireland

Forest Row bade farewell to Kirsten Thomassen, who had been with us through our year of transition, at the beginning of August. We welcomed Monika Knight, who had spent the eight years since her Ordination in Stourbridge at the end of August. The renewed link between Forest Row and Canterbury bore some fruit with a congregational outing from Forest Row to Canterbury to meet the congregation and visit the Cathedral. The London congregation celebrated the third anniversary of the consecration of their church in September with a talk and a concert.

The children's camp at Oaklands Park was a success. Aaron Mirkin is taking a well-deserved break for a few weeks, and Paul Corman will stand in for him in Stroud. We are glad that our Region supports the International Youth Camp through Paul Newton. This is a truly international collaboration, which was held this year on a biodynamic farm near Guarda, Portugal with a Dutch camp organisation, British priest, young helpers from Holland, Ireland, UK and 75 participants from Ireland, UK, Holland, Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Czech Republic, Poland, Russia, Algeria Taiwan, S. Korea, and New Zealand. Some of these have a background in The Christian Community and/or Waldorf education, but many do not.

Preparations are in hand for our regional synod, which will be held in County Clare, Ireland, this October, and for our Annual Meeting, which will take place in Manchester. Hosting such meetings is always an opportunity for smaller congregations and visited centres to get on the map. It is remarkable what a difference it makes once members and priests have seen the altar where we celebrate and have some memories of the surroundings. One feature of our Region is the many congregations that offer guest accommodation. Rooms are available in Tuamgraney and Devon, and in London we have Temple Lodge with its noted Bed and Breakfast.

Tom Ravetz

Netherlands and Flanders



We are glad that now the third and last volume of our series of new books on "Sacraments" has been published. This third volume deals with the Anointing, the funeral and the Act of Consecration of Man for the Dead. The author Myriam Driesens also deals with several actual questions on the subject of the end of life. We expect that this book isn't interesting only for our members but for a larger group of people as well.

This year on 7th February 1926, 90 years have passed since the first Act of Consecration of Man was celebrated in the Netherlands by Friedrich Rittelmeyer in German language in The Hague. The first Act of Consecration of Man in Dutch was celebrated by Heinrich Ogilvie in Amsterdam on 24th June. And the first Dutch congregation has been founded on 13th November 1926 in The Hague. During our annual meeting for members and interested

people we will commemorate this anniversary in Amsterdam on 8th October and look ahead to the future of the Christian Community in our Region.

Ellis Booi

Japan

no message

North-America

no message

Northern Germany

no message

Northern Countries

In February we moved into the new rooms of the congregation in Tampere and consecrated the chapel. We appreciated this new beginning with a great and joyful festival, people from all Finnish congregations took part.

The congregation of Oslo will sell their old parish hall, which is very much in need of renovation. At the same time they began the renovation- and reconstruction work, because new rooms for the congregation will be built over the present foyer. On the occasion of 90 years of existence of the Christian Community in Norway a festive weekend will take place in the middle of March.

Gisela Thriemer

Romania

no message

Southern Africa

no message

South America

no message

South-West Germany

Nothing new to report.

Thomas Gerber

Switzerland, Italy, Hungary, France, Spain and Portugal

On 11th September we welcomed our new lenker Michael Bruhn. He lives in Zurich and has now replaced W. Giezendanner in the lenker's office for Switzerland and Spain/Portugal; France and Italy will be transferred during the year. The task as lenker for Hungary remains with Mr Giezendanner for the time being.

In our Region we work on strengthening the mutual exchange, the mutual getting to know each other not only inside the priesthood during our synods, we also began visits between our and other congregations, something we want to extend further. Last year there was a meeting of French and Spanish youths in Madrid; at Pentecost guests from Spain visited a conference in Paris, at the end of August guests from Italy and Ticino came to Lucerne. Therein as well as financially we try to support each other, even across borders.

In some Swiss congregations we are occupied in solving the question how much room for our chapels respectively our congregations we can afford. Here it is necessary to let go of long appreciated views to the advantage of a more realistic pay ability. The initiative "confoe-dera" (www.confoedera.ch) investigates the question how to handle large sums of money, as well as the possession of land and property more adequately. In November 2017, as last year, there will be a public conference about this topic in the Goetheanum take place.

In Italy and Hungary we still face great challenges with regard to self-sustaining financing of our activities. For the time being, work in Portugal is still a small germ. Mrs Hecker, who speaks the Portuguese language, visits the interested people there by order of the lenker three times a year for several days.

Christine Jost

Foundation

The consolidated annual account 2015 of the whole movement were examined externally by the tax accountant Stefan Dieterich. There were no complaints. The Council ascertained the annual accounts during its meeting on 12th September 2016 and the Executive Committee approved the annual accounts for the fiscal year 2015 unanimously while the involved abstained from voting.

Armin Knabe, Managing Director Foundation

currency: €	plan 2016	2015	plan 2015	2014
current income				
gifts	1	12.249,56	1	123.182,36
contribution by regions	1.046.329	982.456,90	943.275	948.999,42
legacy		139.445,00		
payout by German "Treuhand"	60.000	77.236,43	60.000	80.422,90
other income	15.000	22.280,00	15.000	6.555,00
for development		2.872,33		3.532,65
refunds		18.113,66		19.225,27
interest		11.427,98		2.118,95
	1.121.330	1.266.081,86	1.018.276	1.184.036,55
current expense				
development	97.000	77.877,70	113.000	118.783,12
seminaries	150.000	139.435,04	150.000	117.801,37
international Retirement	70.000	52.935,83	70.000	70.342,71
emergency assistance	100.000	87.603,69	100.000	89.330,14
first sending/vestments	50.000	27.023,15	50.000	104.120,94
international removals	20.000	22.347,75	20.000	15.468,78
archives	40.000	34.175,77	40.000	20.391,03
academy/further training for priests	3.000	3.018,84	3.000	1.129,59
public relations	25.000	30.430,70	25.000	30.013,13
leadership of priesthood	518.000	492.724,79	505.000	519.007,98
other expense	7.000		7.000	
administration	145.000	142.218,10	135.000	132.597,65
	1.225.000	1.109.791,36	1.218.000	1.218.986,44
current result	-103.670	156.290,50	-199.724	-34.949,89
extraordinary income				
gifts				35.000,00
synod/congresses		16.146,07		12.485,00
education fund for priests		243,00		25.585,32
antique gold and other funds		15.725,49		37.290,89
result retirement fund		1.063,43		4.824,43
liquidity equalisation		440.000,00		140.300,00
		473.177,99		255.485,64
extraordinary expense				
antique gold and other funds		35.938,68		37.042,97
education fund for priests		4.309,50		1.805,00
Floris Books				
synod		4.273,74		2.428,97
Chr. Morgenstern edition		39.000,00		39.000,00
result vestment prod		14.119,79		1.582,12
congresses		7.698,00		15.800,88
liquidity equalisation		440.000,00		140.300,00
		545.339,71		237.959,94
extraordinary result		-72.161,72		17.525,70
total (before reserve)	-103.670	84.128,78	-199.724	-17.424,19
use of reserves	103.670	-84.128,78	199.724	17.424,19
total (after reserve)	0	0	0	0

West-Germany

no message

Wuerttemberg

no message

Seminaries

no message

Körperschaftsverband (KV)

Nothing new to report.

Dietmar Schwarz

Verband der Sozialwerke

The plans for the next year are under way. The advanced training for the managers of the holiday camps takes place between 2nd and 5th October 2016 in Haus Freudenberg. Its topic will be: Effects of and dealing with pictures during holiday camps. The dates of these camps are certain at the end of October.

The advanced training for full-time- and voluntary co-workers in the geriatric care takes place between 8th and 13th March 2017 in Frankfurt/Main in the Haus Aja Textor-Goethe. Its topic will be: The miracle of the immune system – the carcinoma as a challenge.

There will be study trips to Montsegur, Spiekeroog, Chartres and Ireland. Already at the beginning of February between 1st and 11th February 2017 a trip to Israel will take place. You find more information on our website www.cg-sozialwerke.de.

Dietmar Schwarz

Haus auf dem Berge

no message

Publishers

no message

Haus Freudenberg

Nothing new to report.

Jutta und Dietmar Reisch

International Whitsun Conference of the Christian Community

Den Bosch: The International Whitsun-Conference will finally take place in Den Bosch next year between 2nd and 6th June 2017. At first the location of the event should have been Rotterdam. Yet when it came out that the conference-centre Ahoy would accommodate a great dancing-festival, The Flying Dutch, at the same time, the committee of organisers decided that wouldn't go well with our conference and we began looking for a new location. It isn't easy to find a new place only one year in advance for such a great conference, where we expect 1,500 to 2,000 people of the Christian Community from around the world. Luckily, it ended well, and we will greet the participants of our conference in Den Bosch in the conference-centre 1931. Den Bosch (or s'Hertogenbosch – for this south-Dutch town two names are used) is a lively provincial capital, which is connected to one of its most famous inhabitants, the painter Hieronymus Bosch.

Programme: Under the responsibility of those who prepare the programme it gains a clear shape. As speaker in the plenum you find among others in this programme:

- * Otto Scharmer – founder of the Presencing Institute, well known for his “Theory U, leading from the future – *Theorie U, Von der Zukunft her führen* – From the ego-system to the eco-system – *Von Ego-System zu Öko-System*”;
- * Bastiaan Baan – manager of the Seminary in Spring Valley in the United States;
- * Constanza Kaliks – on behalf of the managing board of the General Anthroposophical Society.

Booking on the website: The website in four languages <http://www.whitsunconference2017.org> will be quickly filled with a lot of information. Through this website you will be soon able to book in for the conference and for the youth-conference. Children at the age from 10 to 14 years can be booked in for the youth-camp on Berka, and children younger than 10 years for the care of children.

Admission – price and support: The price for the admission to the conference and to the youth-conference will be soon published on the website, it will also be possible to participate in only a part of the conference. The people responsible for the organisation ask every congregation to collect a small internal fund so that members can donate for people who can't afford the admission-fee and thus make their participation possible. Perhaps your congregation is in contact with a pioneer-congregation abroad and you make it financially possible for some of their members to attend this conference.

Ellis Booi



Translated by M.-E. Förster