

REPORTS FROM THE REGIONS

EVENTS – FINANCES – FUTURE PLANS

NO. 80 ST. JOHN'S TIDE 2018

Australia and New Zealand

no message

Central Germany

no message

Bavaria

After many decades a synod was held in Bavaria, at the Michael Church in Central Munich. It was a joyful affair for the congregation and a challenge at the same time. Congratulations to all involved for organising this event so successfully.

A tip for future synods: Please ensure that the name of the attending priest or congregation is mentioned when transferring monies directly into the organisers account. In several cases we struggled to match payments to the appropriate attendee. It challenged our investigative skills but also meant extra work for the administration staff. Hopefully we will see some progress in the future. Hope springs eternal, as they say!

Dorothea Humérez

Austria/Czechia/Hungary

Nothing new to report.

Christine Jost

Eastern Europe

no message

Japan

no message

Great Britain-Ireland

Nothing new to report.

Tom Ravetz

Netherlands and Belgium

Pfingstfeuerwanderung (Whitsunfirewalk)

During the international Whitsun Conference at Den Bosch in 2017 two participants from Switzerland came up with the idea to send a book on a journey to all congregations across Europe.

The journey began on 1st April 2018 in Zutphen and will culminate in the celebration of the Centenary of the Christian Community on 16th September 2022. Via Arnhem and Driebergen, where the cyclist shared a meal with the congregation and a close of day service, they moved on to

Eindhoven passing through Den Bosch, where the idea was conceived a year ago. In Eindhoven a communal meal was offered and a close of day service in Swiss celebrated. On it went to Antwerp and Middelburg and then Rotterdam. From here the book was delivered by bicycle to the congregation in Amsterdam. Via Alkmaar, Leeuwarden and Groningen the book has now left our region. Several of the visited congregation have expressed their wishes to participate in a relay across Germany in the coming year.

Ellis Booi

North- and Northwest Germany

As we reported in our last issue the region North Germany has since spring 2018 been divided into the North German and Northwest German region. Coordinators are Thomas Nayda for North Germany and Wolfgang Wohlfart for Northwest Germany. Management and administration for both regions will still remain in the hands of Mr Nayda in the Hamburg Office at Mittelweg.

Our traditional staff conference for the region took place during Ascension at Lake Mözen near Bad Segeberg. However, we have decided to change the name of our conference to: meeting for all actively involved in the congregations and their families. The meaning of the word ‘staff’ has many different connotations with regards to our work and, was often misunderstood in the context of our conference. Around 80 people and 25 children attended. The theme this year was: “We learn, to understand the world”. In workshops the theme was approached from different angles but mainly in the context of the Children’s Service. “Haus Rothfos” has proven to be a very suitable location for our conferences but now and then the idea is muted to find another venue in a different part of the rather big region of North- and Northwest Germany.

Thomas Nayda

North-America

After a two-year process of exploration and deliberation, a decision has been reached to relocate the North American Seminary. The Seminary Future Group of Julia Polter, Jonah Evans and Patrick Kennedy submitted their proposal to the leadership of our worldwide movement in March. In their meetings at the end of April, the Circle of Seven, which holds the responsibility for priest training, accepted the proposal and made the decision to move the seminary from Spring Valley to Toronto after the spring semester 2019.

Our central concern for our training in the coming years, now that Bastiaan Baan is returning to the Netherlands at the end of 2018, is to have a strong leadership in directors, and we see that in Patrick Kennedy and Jonah Evans, and the move to Toronto will make that constellation possible. We also took into consideration the positive financial benefits this move would have, as well as the persistent issue of student visas, which is becoming ever more prohibitive in the goal of an international English-speaking seminary. In the course of this year we will also be exploring forms and places of a continued seminary presence in the USA, for possible open courses or an intensive summer program.

Also looking ahead, we will have a North American, continental-wide conference in 2020, hosted in Atlanta, Georgia. This conference marks the first of its kind since 2005, when one was held in Staten Island, New York.

Finally, over the course of the past year, we revamped our North American website, a project that involved the efforts of many people, priests and lay people alike. You can visit it at: <https://www.thechristiancommunity.org/>

Oliver Steinrueck

Northern Countries

no message

Romania

no message

South America

no message

Southern Africa

no message

South-West Germany

Nothing new to report.

Thomas Gerber

West Germany

On 30th April 2018 a resolution was taken to incorporate the congregation of Marburg as a full member into the region and corporate body of West Germany. The Whitsun youth camp was a success with around 400 participants from 18 countries.

We have two new sendings to our region: M. Thiele (Voreifel) and Mrs K. Mogi (Dortmund). Both priests are settling in well in their new places of work.

In December 2017 the retirement place Christofferushaus in Siegen was successfully sold by the Sozialwerk of the Christian Community. Monies received from the sale will allow us to pay off all outstanding loans. As the buyer does not fall into the non-profit category we are at present investigating if foundation monies need to be paid back. As the function of the Sozialwerk has now ceased it will be dissolved and the house in Marburg put on the market.

The overall budget for the region shows a considerably financial deficit. The management board therefore decided to contact the congregations in the regions to ask for a concerted effort to alleviate the situation. If this is to no avail it will be necessary to take draconian measure in the form of an overall reduction of salaries for all priest.

Klaus-Peter Hunold

Switzerland/Southwest Europe

Nothing new to report.

Christine Jost

Wuerttemberg

Renovations and refurbishment of the recently acquired property in Schwäbisch Hall are steadily proceeding. The congregation in Reutlingen will shortly decide if they are going ahead with their masterplan. During the summer months Mr and Mrs Wijnberg will move from Heidenheim to Wangen and Mr Affeldt will leave Göppingen for Heidenheim. Stephan Ness will augment the priest's contingent in Möhringen.

We are still looking for somebody to take on the post of regional coordinator. We would love to hear from anybody who would be willing to take on this task. This part-time position requires proficiency in DATEV and the ability to assist the various congregations in dealing with legal and financial matters. Committee meetings in the region and with central bodies in Germany are part and parcel of the appointment. We eagerly await a response, hopefully in the not too distant future.

Martin Merckens

Körperschaftsverband (KV) (Corporate body)

We have all recently become aware of the changes regarding data protection in Europe. The Christian Community too has an obligation to conform with this new legislation. The responsible body for the regions and congregations in this respect lies with the board of the Körperschaftsverband.

The data-processing within the Christian Community solely serves to fulfil our mandate as a church. Information provided will only be used for our own use and will not be shared with third parties. Within the Christian Community access to personal data will be restricted to individuals who require such information as part of their duties. Everybody is entitled to request information about what personal data are on record in the Christian Community. If there are incorrect details, we will update your information at your request.

The new Data Protection Policy is not wholly applicable to the Christian Community. The Christian Community is called upon to apply the policy as it deems fit within its remit but in accordance with the new legislation. The Christian Community therefore has implemented its own Data Protection Policy in compliance with the EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). More information is available online: www.datenschutz.christengemeinschaft.de

Thomas Nayda

Seminars/Hamburg

no message

Treuhandverwaltung (Trustadministration)

At the AGM on 15th June 2018 the members of the Trustadministration adopted a motion to support various congregations, projects and the Foundation with the sum of € 73,870. Additionally, dividends for 2017 amounting to € 250,000 were transferred to purchase a house in Aachen for use as priest's accommodation.

During the course of the next few months three flats belonging to the Trustadministration will be sold, thus allowing these funds to be made available to acquire a building adjacent to the church in Witten. The building is also earmarked to offer rented accommodation to people who are connected in any way to the congregation. This arrangement is only possible because several years ago these properties were gifted to the Trust. The unavoidable sale of the Scheidegg property has been delayed. We hope to be able to sign the deed of sale during the third quarter of 2018.

Due to age and health reasons several of our members had to resign from the Trust. We are now looking for individuals who would be interested to join and support us in our work. I am looking forward to hearing from you: Tel. 0202-747 8058 or treuhand@christengemeinschaft.org

Tim Gottschalk

Verband der Sozialwerke

no message

Publishers

no message

Haus auf dem Berge

no message

Haus Freudenberg

no message

Seminaries/Stuttgart

no message

Seminaries/Hamburg

At the end of our first year of the full-time study course we can look back over a lively development within the manageable group of seminarists in Hamburg. The shift of focus on a more independent course of studies which included presentations on the monthly modules and exchange of experiences and lessons learned in various encounters have contributed greatly to the enlivening of the course which we greatly welcome. Subjects which we dropped in favour of the new direction have meanwhile been re-introduced but in a different form. It was felt that the reduction of theoretical contents versus a more practical approach has significantly stimulated more activity. This has encouraged us to publicly refer to our "Full time Study Manual". We hope that this will draw some more students

for the next course which will commence 10th September 2018. The brochure is available from the seminary and can also be downloaded from our website:

<https://www.priesterseminar-hamburg.de/studieninteressierte/zum-studium.html>

A bigger number of our students, which are part of the part-time course, have reached the final phase of their studies. In July the sixth of seven modules concludes with a week-long course on the sacrament of marriage. This will be followed by the last module in preparation for the ordination with contributions by Götz Werner, Angelika Sandtmann and Vicke von Behr. For some of the participants this will be the end of their training, some have decided to take a break and a few have already started with their practicum or will commence in the new year. For the latter it is planned to arrange full time placements in spring 2019 after which invitations for an interview with the circle of seven are issued concerning decisions with regard to the final preparation for ordination.

Looking back over a two-year experience with part-time tuition we are convinced that this offers a manageable alternative to the full-time course. Based on enquiries by more than 50 interested applicants we are planning to discuss with the circle of seven when a new intake for a part time course could be considered.

Ulrich Meyer

Kasseler Treffen

Wandlungszeit – Fürchtet Euch nicht! (Time for Change – Do not Fear!)

In five different workshops and through extensive conversations we will address this theme and try and find ways in which we can meet the challenges of our time and approach them with courage. The meeting will take place in Kassel over the weekend 3rd + 4th November 2018. Invitations will be sent out in September and the organising committee would be delighted if each congregation in Germany could send at least one representative.

On behalf of the organising Committee, Tim Gottschalk

Translated by Gabriele Kuhn – many thanks to her!

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