

# REPORTS FROM THE REGIONS

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## EVENTS – FINANCES – FUTURE PLANS

### NO. 83 EASTER 2019

#### Australia and New Zealand

no message

#### Central Germany

Last Advent Ellinor Langen was introduced and warmly welcomed by the community of Chemnitz. During a festive act with music the keys were handed over to her and the community made her feel very welcome. A representative of the Protestant church was invited and delivered greetings and blessings. Jan Tritschel received a grateful, warm farewell and thanks to Martin Wittchow greetings from all the colleagues in central Germany were passed on.

In summer 2019 changes in Jena will be due: Elke Jacobeit will give up the sole responsibility for the community and will stay with her husband in Thuringia, supporting Andrea Fischer in Weimar. Andrea Fischer's health does not allow her to work full-time anymore. Several years ago, the Schaar family moved from Jena to Überlingen, now the Besuch family will be moving from Überlingen to Jena.

Lenker Hellmut Voigt from the region southwestern Germany writes: "The most drastic change will be felt by our colleagues Johanna and Jakob Besuch: In the summer the change to Jena is imminent. On the one hand, this means a great loss for Überlingen, as new impulses started to come to life through the young and fresh approach of the couple. On the other hand it is precisely this approach which will hopefully benefit the Christian community in Thuringia. The priests currently working there are more than willing, but restricted by advanced age and slowed down by health issues so in view of the future of the communities in Erfurt, Weimar and Jena, reinforcement is urgently required. We had to react to this call for help!"

In summer, the new lenker Andreas von Wehren will take over the communities in Hessen from Albrecht Schwenk.

Andreas von Wehren

#### Bavaria

In January 2019 the 25th workshop meeting of the areas Czech Republic, Austria, Bavaria and recently joined Hungary took place. This time the theme was: clinging – holding on – releasing, "What, if not change, is your urgent mission?" (Quote Rilke).

It was an intense, vibrant meeting carried by lots of joy and lively exchange. The jointly organised "Colorful Evening", starting with a festive dinner with the motto: „Nach allen Seiten hin offen? Mit anderen Worten: Nicht ganz dicht!“ [wordplay hinting on the fact that being completely open, permeable, to everything means risking to be a little crazy too] Considering that the Czech Republic, Austria and Bavaria were one region until 2016 and the death of our lenker Melchior Tautz marked the end of Bavaria being part of that region, we wish to maintain and keep a close connection to Eastern Central Europe in the future.

So representatives from Bavaria will attend the regional meeting of the Czech Republic, Hungary and Austria taking place in Austria in autumn, and representatives of these countries will in turn attend our workshop meeting.

Dorothea Humérez

### **Great Britain-Ireland**

We will say farewell to Paul Newton in June this year. Paul joined us following his Ordination in 2012 and took up his sending to Edinburgh in September that year. He is going to Spring Valley, New York State, to work in the congregation there. This in turn will enable the moves to take place that have been made necessary by the change in the location of the North American Seminar, which will move to Toronto, and by Oliver Steinrueck's move to Germany. Oliver has been working in the congregation in Spring Valley alongside his duties as Lenker of the North American region. He is moving to Berlin so that he can take up a position as an Oberlenker. We wish Paul well and hope that the years that he has spent in this region and the connections that we have made will strengthen the bridge between our region and the North American one.

The building of the new church in Stroud is proceeding apace. The difficulties of financing the project that became apparent in the autumn have been solved by a combination of generous low and zero interest loans that have been made by members and friends of The Christian Community, along with loans from Floris Books and German regions of The Christian Community who have building reserves that they are not currently using. Longer term, the loans will be repaid by the sale of land and property, as well as legacies that have been promised. The Christian Community Trustees held their Council of Management in Stroud at the beginning of February and we were able to view the building, whose external shell has been erected. The construction method, using cross-laminated-timber, allows for the creation of a space that has a quality of a modern cathedral. It was very moving to experience the church, even in its unfinished state. The Consecration of the church is planned for 20th October. This will be held together with our annual meeting for all the congregations in the region.

We have also been building in London. A few years ago some trees were cleared on one side of the garden and we saw that there would be space for some garden suites. These have been built with incredible skill around existing trees. Their sedum roofs allow them to blend into the garden in a wonderful way. Now we can truly say that you can stay in an oasis in central London! They are due to open later this year.

Tom Ravetz

### **Japan**

no message

### **Middle Europe**

The cooperation of priests working in the newly formed region of Central Europe (Austria, Czech Republic, Hungary, Romania, supplemented by the areas of Slovenia, Croatia and Slovakia) has recently intensified further. In the first days of April 2019, a regional synod took place in Salzburg. The region is also very happy about a newly ordained priestess.

Herbert Bitzner

### **Austria**

New pastor in the parish of Linz: We are pleased to welcome the newly-ordained priestess Ms. Ulrike Cibulka as our new parish pastor. On 31. March, she was introduced in Linz by Mr. Walther Giezendanner – lenker of the region Central Europe. For the first time, Ms. Cibulka held the act of Consecration of man in our community. After a rich buffet lunch, a welcoming celebration took

place containing a colorful and humorous program: music, singing, shadow theater, sketches played by two young people and welcome speeches alternated. During her speech Ms. Cibulka emphasized the focus of her work being the healing of earth and man. The sowing of flower seeds in a newly created bed in our community garden marked the end of the celebration: a symbol for the new future impuls indeed.

Dear Ms Cibulka, we warmly welcome you to the Linz community. Whenever a new person comes into a community, it changes and renews the whole community. We are intending to walk the new, unknown path with confidence and courage and we are certain to create a blessed and fruitful community life together.

Eva Maria Preining

### **Netherlands and Flanders**

At the end of 2018, we received an amount of € 250,000 from the International Foundation of the Christian community in order to cover the deficit we were left with when we hosted the International Witsun Conference in 2017. We are very grateful for this sign of solidarity. Much of the big deficit came from generous subsidies granted to young people from around the world. Although this was a financial challenge we were aware of, we believe that the experience we have been able to offer these young people was more than worth the investment.

The community of Zeeland in Middelburg purchased a building that is to be converted into a chapel for this small community. Last year Zeeland celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The first Act of Consecration of Man took place in 1968 in a barn part of the biodynamic farm Loverendale. Since then, several other places served as temporary home for the community, but never before did the community have its own building. In recent years, the altar would be erected twice a month in another Church in Middelburg. For years one was looking for a suitable and affordable building. Now we have succeeded in acquiring a building in the center of Middelburg. A befriended architect is helping to draw up the plans to restore the building. The time of completion of the chapel is yet to be confirmed.

Ellis Booi

### **North-America**

Three ordinations were held the last weekend of March in Spring Valley, NY for Cheryl Prigg, Luis Gonzalez and Matthias Giles. Cheryl will serve the congregation in New Zealand while Luis and Matthias will serve congregations in the U.S.

During the synod that followed the ordinations, Craig Wiggins was officially inducted into the role of lenker for North America. He will serve in this role while, for a time, also serving as the congregational priest in Chicago. Oliver Steinrueck, the former lenker for North America, has already been inducted into the circle of seven as one of the Oberlenkers, and he will move with his family this summer to Berlin. The region also welcomes Paul Newton, who will begin work in the Spring Valley congregation this summer.

Oliver Steinrueck, Craig Wiggins

### **Northwest Germany**

New Year's Youth Conference in Braunschweig

Every year since 2016, the Christian Community in Braunschweig has been hosting a New Year's Conference for young people and young adults. Braunschweig is located in the middle of Germany, the community very close to the station. At least all Waldorf students are known to be on holidays during that period of time. The conference will start on 1. January with dinner and end on 6. January in the afternoon. Six days is unusually long, but this has many advantages: A strong bond is formed and it allows one to dive deeply into content! Also, the manageable number of participants

(up to 25) has proven beneficial to the quality of the conference. You can participate from the 9<sup>th</sup> grade. Most participants are older, last time they were 16 to 24 years of age.

Anyone who urgently needs to complete school work during the holidays can do so in the mornings during the conference and will therefore still be able to join the conference. The Act of Consecration of Man is celebrated daily at 9 o'clock and you are welcome to join in but are not obliged to. Only on the last day, Epiphany, participation in the The Act of Consecration of Man is obligatory since we will perform a small Three Kings play for the community. Many opportunities and occasions to discuss theological and anthroposophical themes will present themselves. In the evening, we conclude the day in front of the altar in our Romanesque chapel.

Daily schedule: 10 h morning circle (choral singing, discussion of contents), 11.30 h projects (cooking, theater, dancing, etc.), 13 h lunch and break, 15 h walk, 17 h small discussion groups, 18.30 h supper, 20 h evening circle (singing with or without guitar, conversations about particular content, folk dance). The content is not conveyed through lectures, but developed together in conversation and discussed thoroughly. The participants must feel free to give input themselves regarding food, project groups, songs, dances, etc.

Accommodation is with sleeping bags and mats in the community centre. A shower has recently been added! Getting there has to be financed privately; But the conference fee is a „whopping“ € 50.

Last year's theme was "Man and Woman". This year's theme (2019/2020) will be "Partnership". In a conference folder we have collected literature and content-related results. For the year to come, the topic could be "self-discipline". Further details are to be found in the CG Youth Newsletter or from Marc Jungermann, priest in Braunschweig and organizer of the New Year's Youth Conference (Leonhardstraße 43, 38102 Braunschweig, Tel.: +49-531-707 68 225)

Marc Jungermann

### **Northern Countries**

no message

### **Northern Germany**

no message

### **Russia**

no message

### **South America**

no message

### **Southern Africa**

Two Camphill villages are to be found at the Cape both under the caring wing of the parish priest of Cape Town. One of them, near Hermanus on the southeast coast, is busy dealing with the aftermath, clean-up and rebuilding work after a wild, fast-paced bushfire destroyed their farm and turned the area into a lunar landscape for miles and miles. Fortunately, the villagers and staff were evacuated at the last minute. The other village on the West Coast is currently in transition, transforming from an anthroposophically oriented venture into a conventional charity. This bears the serious question how we will still continue to care for the faithful inhabitants of this village in the long term. The community in Cape Town itself also had to deal with unexpected events throughout the year, which at times made their financial base a little unstable. But with courage, sweat, good ideas and energy the many challenges at hand were always tackled.

In Natal, the small but growing community transforms its surroundings into an ever more dignified place for the sacraments and manages to replace temporary structures. The priest no longer lives on the property, so his former already renovated apartment can now be rented out and therefore provides for further renovations. The fact that the priest can still teach at the Waldorf School results in the church no longer having to provide financially for him at the moment (which they would not be able to anyway)

Our introductory seminar has started its second year. As previously we plan to have six modules per year and a core of 12 to 14 participants usually supplemented by visitors to reach a total number of 17 to 20. Although we are looking for local candidates to become priests, most participant's intention seems to be their own personal development. However one of the lecturing priests has come forth from the introductory seminar in its earliest beginnings.

Reingard Knausenberger

### **Southwest Germany**

The process of change also continues to unfold in southwestern Germany: At the beginning of lent newly-ordained priestess Kristin Kuhn was introduced and welcomed by the community of Überlingen. However, the joy was overshadowed by the fact that the young priest family Besuch with their three children will be leaving for Jena in Thuringia. The formerly very active region of Central Germany was in obvious need of help and so we felt we had to come to the rescue.

How much our communities depend on the participation of the emeritus priests is also evident in the communities around Lake Constance: our senior Frank Peschel and his wife will be moving to Vienna, leaving a big gap in the town of Villingen-Schwenningen where he regularly helped out. Another change is due in the community of Unterlengenhardt: At Easter Anca Burloi will hand over her responsibilities to Ursula Hausen, who took care of the small community Murrhardt up until January. Ms. Burloi is going to support her colleagues in Nuremberg.

Of course, such changes are always painful and a challenge for all concerned: priests, their families, and communities alike. However, it does open up possibilities for new impulses in the biographies and in the life of the communities. It also makes one aware that the individual priest is urged to act selflessly for the future: As much as he or she may reap the benefits of the work of the predecessor the fruits of his or her own work may in return be accepted by the successor. So whatever the quality of work by the current worker will always influence the way forward into the future.

Hellmut Voigt

### **Switzerland/Southwest Europe**

Nothing new to report.

Christine Jost

### **West Germany**

At the annual meeting on March 31 2019, the community of Cologne Centre (Weyertal) reached a decision regarding the renovation of the building. The construction will cost about 2.2 million euros. The community and the region will finance about one third of the costs, the other two thirds will be financed by a bank loan; the building incorporates a rentable living space of approx. 520 m<sup>2</sup>. The community Voreifel has been given a good architectural design for a new building. The architect worked out a cost estimate of about € 730 000, the community has about € 500 000 in equity, so they are positive to finance the new building through their own resources.

Klaus-Peter Hunold

### **Wuerttemberg**

On January 6 the room in Schwäbisch Hall was inaugurated. In Murrhardt a change of priests took place and on Sundays the act of consecration of man will now be celebrated every 14 days in future. In Tübingen, a well-attended conference took place in February with the theme: Church, community, individuality – What is the future of Christianity. The community in Stuttgart-Mitte is about to start building their annex for the elevator. The community in Reutlingen is still busy planning the

renovation of the building. The conference “Impuls for the Future“ will take place in April, please visit: [www.100JahreSozialeDreigliederung.de](http://www.100JahreSozialeDreigliederung.de) for further details. The Christian Community is co-organizer of the conference in Forum3 and at Hospitalhof.

Martin Merckens

**Haus Freudenberg**

no message

**Haus auf dem Berge**

no message

**Körperschaftsverband (KV)**

no message

**Publishers**

no message

**Seminaries/Hamburg**

no message

**Seminaries/Stuttgart**

no message

**Treuhandverwaltung**

The sale of the site in Scheidegg now seems to be nearing completion. The processes involved in the development of the entire area were more complicated than first expected. We hope to soon be able to reach the long awaited finish line.

In 2018, two apartments were sold in order to buy a house in the immediate vicinity of the community Witten. For the trust no significant change in the distribution will be the consequence, but this ensures that nobody buys the house who has nothing to do with us. Three families which are part of the community live there now and we hope for a prosperous and happy neighborhood. Over the past few years, longstanding members and sponsors have had to withdraw from the idea of trust management. If you can imagine supporting the work of the Trust, I look forward to your call.

Tim Gottschalk (02104-145682 or [treuhand@christengemeinschaft.org](mailto:treuhand@christengemeinschaft.org))

**Verband der Sozialwerke**

Each year in the week after Easter the teams of seven holiday camps meet near the Wasserkuppe in the beautiful Rhön to prepare for the holiday camps in summer during our helper training course (youth leadership). This time the theme will be “encounters- an adventure“, whether encounters with other people, in friendships, or in the world. At the same time our Easter camp with approximately 40 children takes place at the Vogelhof on the Swabian Alp.

The situation regarding the registrations for the children’s and youth holiday camps, is as always a mixed blessing and ranges from fully booked to hoping for last minute applicants. We face a similar situation regarding the study trips: We still have vacancies on the trips to Chartres, 16. to 22.6.2019, Ireland, 14. to 21.9.2019 and Madrid & Toledo, 3. to 10.10.2019.

Further information on [www.cg-sozialwerke.de](http://www.cg-sozialwerke.de)

Thanks to many individual donations, donations from various foundations and the Christian community in Germany, KdöR as well as individual inheritances, it has been possible to write black numbers over the past few years. We sincerely thank all sponsors for that!

Dietmar Schwarz

**Events/Other**

**Conference on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the Christian Community 2022**

The region West Germany has been asked by the Foundation of the Christian Community to organize worldwide celebrations on the occasion of our 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. Since the request has been passed

on, a small team has taken care of the first and most important issues: exact date, location and budget. Current planning update: We will invite to an international weekend of celebrations from 7 to 11 October 2022. Location: various Waldorfschools in Dortmund.

Apart from remembering the first hundred years of our existence the events focus is meant to be more about shaping the future for the “next 100 years to come”. Therefore, we are hoping for participation and cooperation of the whole, worldwide Christian community in preparation (especially content) of this large festival. The content-related preparation should take place in the “large planning team”. For this preparation, we look forward to sporadic and regular participation of all people who want to get involved. In addition, we ask you to please feel free to send your suggestions and thoughts to [info@cg-2022.org](mailto:info@cg-2022.org)

Your input is also welcome on [www.cg-2022.org/forum](http://www.cg-2022.org/forum) where you will find all relevant up-to-date information including dates for the preparatory meetings etc. Or give us a call on +49-(0)2104-145682. The postal address is: The Christian Community, Meckelstraße 2, 42285 Wuppertal. Around Easter, the first newsletter (expected to be published three times a year) will also be available in your local Christian community in print or you can request it from above mentioned email address as PDF.

Two meetings of the “large planning team” have already taken place in Bochum and Dortmund and we collected exciting ideas. We look forward to welcoming as many people as possible at the next meeting. Saturday, 6. July 2019 from 11:00 am to 6:00 pm, Johanneskirche, Glockengarten 70, 44803 Bochum | Friday, 6. September, 2019 at 18:00, place will be communicated on internet as soon as it is confirmed | Saturday, 9. November, 2019 from 11: 00-18: 00, place will be announced on the Internet, as soon as it is confirmed. Everyone is welcome!

The conference should be for both young and old (young at heart ☺) alike. The following meetings are planned primarily for the youth: Saturday, 18. May, 12:00 pm, until Sunday, 19. May, 2:00 pm in Cologne, Weyertal 96 | 7. to 11. of June during the youth conference “Fantasy” in Witten [s. next post] | Friday, 28. June, 6:00 pm, until Saturday, 29. June, 6:00 pm in Bonn, Am Büchel 57. Please register for these meetings by sending a mail to [youth@cg-2022.org](mailto:youth@cg-2022.org)

The first phase, collecting suggestions, inspirations and ideas is likely to go on until summer/autumn 2020 followed by the conclusion of a theme or motto for the event. This will be passed on to all the Christian communities and regions in the world for content preparation. We hope the international festivities at Michaeli 2022 will be a great success.

With warm regards for the preparatory circle  
Ulrich Goebel and Tim Gottschalk

## **Conferences**

Worldwide Youth Festival of the Christian Community: **Phanstasie – Creating Future**

What is fantasy to you? Singing. Let it inspire you. Food. Fairy tales. Night café. Music. Sleep. Laughter. Food. Praying. Together. Talking. Workshops. Painting. Art. Dancing. Silence. Desert. Congestion. Meditate. To be a clown. Theatre. Drumming. Philosophize. Listening. Graffiti. Parcours. Forging. Eurythmy. Singing. Celebrating life. Love. Praying. Singing. Laugh. Dancing. Life. Shaping the future. What is fantasy for you? Find out: 7.-11. Juni 2019

Witten Annen Institut für Waldorfpädagogik | Blote Vogel Schule Witten | Stockumer Straße 100 | [www.iyfestival.org](http://www.iyfestival.org)

Fabienne Buchmuller, Thomas Stott

*Translated by Michaela Cramer – many thanks to her!*

\*\*\**End*\*\*\*