

REPORTS FROM THE REGIONS

EVENTS – FINANCES – FUTURE PLANS

No. 85 MICHAELMAS 2019

Australia and New Zealand

no message

Central Germany

no message

Great Britain-Ireland

no message

Bavaria

We have a Lenker of our own again!!!

At the general Lenker conference in September, Harry Lohse was co-opted to handle the region of Bavaria. He will exercise this position alongside his work in the community of Würzburg, supported by Gisela Hübner from Erlangen. Given the number of parishes and priests within the region this task is well manageable. Also, many Lenker feel a loss of connection to their priesthood when they are not actively involved in community work. So Mr. Lohse will try to combine being Lenker and parish priest at the same time and we wish him all the best, much strength and joy.

Dorothea Humérez

Central Europe

In the course of early summer, Frank Peschel and his wife moved from Überlingen to Vienna. He is assigned to support the foundation work in Slovakia and Slovenia. He also represents colleagues in Vienna and throughout Austria.

The new preparatory group for ordination also includes a candidate from Romania. If he will be consecrated in February, he will be the third ordained priest from Romania. The people in Romania are very happy about this and even contribute financially to the final part of his studies. Hopefully he will soon be one of the group of active priests in Romania.

Regarding financial matters we work very hardly, creating awareness in the communities and individual countries in order to create the necessary financial flows. A greater awareness among the priests of this region and a willingness to support each other across the borders has been observed.

Another topic in our region is my upcoming replacement as a Lenker. As you can see, a lot is “in motion” the participation of individuals in the Eastern Conference in Vilnius being living proof of.

Walther Giezendanner

Japan

no message

Northwest Germany

no message

West Germany

no message

Netherlands and Flanders

In autumn this year a few anniversaries will be celebrated: The community of Alkmaar celebrates the 25th anniversary of the church. On 20 and 21 September, a symposium will take place in the Lukaskirche. The title is “building spirituality, about the connection of religion, art and science”.

The symposium begins with an interreligious dialogue with participants and representatives of various denominations: Islam, Judaism, Buddhism, Humanism and Christianity. The symposium is based on the insight that Christ works in every person and every religion can make us more receptive when we are in contact with people of other denominations and religions.

The community of Eindhoven celebrates its 50th anniversary on 22 December. Especially prepared for this occasion, a community chronicle will be presented on the day.

Some younger people have taken the initiative to organize a „year of immersion“. This year is about the role of spiritual reality in ourselves, how it manifests itself in worship, in the world, now and in the future. Seven weekends are organized throughout the year. The weekends are to deepen one's understanding of the act of Consecration of Man and the New Testament, to work on one's artistic development and inner discipline and there will be room for discussion and exchange. The year of immersion is aimed at persons between the ages of 21 and 42.

Karel-Jan Tolsma will be working as parish priest in Rotterdam from 22 September onwards. He takes over duties from Ignaz Stegeman, who would like to lighten his burden of responsibilities in the years to come due to his age.

The small community Zeeland could acquire a building in the center of Middelburg, which is suitable to be converted to a chapel. In recent years, the services were held in the Mennonite Church. After the renovation, the community of Middelburg will have its own church building for the first time in 50 years.

Ellis Booi

Nordic Countries

The Nordic countries have founded their regional council:

When Armin Knabe visited the synod of the Nordic Countries in Helsinki in 2014, the possibility of setting up a nordic regional council was among the topics being discussed. Since then, this idea has repeatedly come up in conversations among the priests in the north.

During a meeting in autumn 2017 between the Lenker of the Nordic Countries, Gisela Thriemer, and the community in Copenhagen, the idea of raising awareness of the Christian Community in the Nordic Countries emerged again – especially with regards to the economy. This thought resulted in a meeting scheduled for May 2018 in Copenhagen which priests and parishioners from all over the north were invited to.

At the same time, Lisa Bratlann, a member of the community in Copenhagen, was invited to attend the coordinator meeting in Southwest Germany in April 2018. At this meeting, it became apparent that the group of coordinators had no in depth knowledge of the Nordic Region and Lisa Bratlann from Copenhagen was not aware that the Foundation considered the north as a region – the region „Nordic Countries“

During the meeting in Copenhagen in May 2018 it became clear that the north has no coordinator – someone usually elected by the regional council. However, the north currently does not have a regional council. Everyone agreed that a regional council should be put in place. Another meeting was scheduled for October 2018 to continue working towards founding a regional council and establishing all details involved. When this work was completed successfully, the ideas were submitted to the nordic synod of priests in February 2019, requesting the approval to form the nordic regional council. The synod agreed!

From 6 to 7 May 2019, the circle met again in Copenhagen to discuss the final details. By the afternoon of May 6, the discussions had reached a common vision on how the regional council should work. At that moment, everyone present realized that the nordic regional council had to be established right there and then with the assembled round as the first members. The individuals present at the time of the foundation of the northern regional council were:

Markus Schultze-Florej, priest in Norway

Johan Eide, member of the community in Oslo, Norway

Per Andersen, priest in Sweden

Olle Andersson, member of the community in Norrköping, Sweden

Tuula Huhtala-Salmisto, priestess in Finland

Sakari Harima, member of the community in Helsingfors, Finland

Mette Weinhard, priestess in Denmark

Stephan Frister, priest in Denmark

Troels Lindow, priest in Denmark

Lisa Bratlann, member of the community in Copenhagen, Denmark

The regional council of the Nordic Countries has herewith begun its incarnation process. We need to support this process with care and patience in order for the nordic regional council to develop into a strong committee. It is encouraging to think that after just a year of work, we now have a regional council – a truly important development!

Lisa Bratlann, newly elected coordinator for the Nordic Countries

North-America

Paul Newton has been sent from Edinburgh to Spring Valley where he will carry out the priestly work together with Franziska Hesse.

We are eagerly looking forward to the opening of the English language priest seminary in Toronto at Michaelmas. We will report on this more on the next edition of the 'Infos'.

Craig Wiggins

Northern Germany

During the summer months, the regional office of the region Northern Germany moved out of their former office space in Mittelweg 13 and moved into the building of the Christian community in the center of Hamburg in Johnsallee 17. Since the office space now occupied by the regional office was basically unused and the large office in Mittelweg will be rented out to the neighboring dental practice, a meaningful financial synergy will result in two places simultaneously. The new telephone number of the regional office is 040-413 08 61. The fax number would be 040-413 08 620, but this connection does not work yet. Please note that the postal address remains unchanged as Mittelweg 13 in 20148 Hamburg.

Thomas Nayda

Russia

no message

South America

no message

Southern Africa

no message

Southwest Germany

Various staff changes turned out to be beneficial to the colleagues in Überlingen, the largest community in the region. After the emeritus Frank Peschel left the parish in spring and the priest couple Jakob and Johanna Besuch and their three children moved to Jena at Whitsun, Hieronymus Rentsch and his wife came to Überlingen just in time for the new school year. Subsequently the work here can be continued in its usual intensity. However, the departure of Frank Peschel means a great loss for the area of Lake Constance that cannot be compensated: He often helped out in Konstanz and Wahlwies and regularly contributed to the work in Villingen-Schwenningen. So we are hoping for a "sprightly emeritus" as his successor ...

Furthermore, it can be reported that in Wangen the semi-attached townhouse inhabited by Pastor Wijnberg and his wife was acquired from the previous owner. Conveniently situated and very suitable as a future home for a family were the deciding factors for this solution.

Two topics have recently become more and more urgent in the consciousness of priests and communities: The one topic is "public welfare and economy", a theme already pursued in Germany

and beyond in recent years. This approach enhances awareness of the sustainability of economic and social life by focusing on the impact of corporate behavior on ecosystems, human dignity, and the reasonable cooperation of producers, traders and consumers, Particularly interesting is the question whether and how this also concerns the churches of the Christian community, including spiritual aspects and how this could be implemented to a reasonable degree.

The other issue is how we can make the most of the remaining three years until the 100th Anniversary of the Christian Community 2022 in the communities of our region in order to not only find but also implement effective approaches for renewal. In order to start the process the day of St. Michael will serve as “moment of impulse”. The time between the Act of Consecration of Man and the cultic service in the evening can be filled with open discussions with no particular time frame.

Different forms of encounters, movement and dialogue are intended to create an inspirational atmosphere leading to new and even unfamiliar ideas and approaches. On the 3 of October delegates from the communities will come together to share their ideas hopefully creating a future orientated and energetic momentum for the 100th anniversary.

Hellmut Voigt

Switzerland/Southwest Europe

As already reported in the last issue, A. Mandaiker started working in Bern in May thus starting a change of generations in this community which is also taking place in the Romandie, in our French-speaking communities, where Mr Wild will hand over the main responsibility to Mrs Bihin. This will free him to focus on the large construction project on the site of the community in Geneva.

In November, the 3rd annual conference on the “Economics of Brotherhood” takes place at the Goetheanum, this time themed: “Money in Light of Freedom and Karma”. It is supported by a wide range of anthroposophical initiatives and institutions, the Christian Community of Switzerland, the Anthroposophical National Society and the Section for Social Sciences.

After a few years of declining participation a very lively, well-attended summer camp took place in Italy again last August. In a country where our friends partly live far from each other and their next community, these camps play a very important role in community building.

Christine Jost

Wuerttemberg

It is to report that the community in Ulm had a change of priest. In other news: Two regional tented children’s camps have taken place: one in the Danube valley, another on the Alb. One of the communities organized a youth trip to Greece. In addition to visits to the mysteries sites on Samothrace, an art installation was carried out aimed at creating awareness of the problem of litter on the beaches. In the community of Stuttgart central the new elevator is expected to be operational from November this year.

Martin Merckens

Foundation

The consolidated annual account 2018 of the whole movement were examined externally by the tax accountant Stefan Dieterich. There were no complaints.

Due to the assumption of a larger share of the 2017 Whitsun Conference deficit of €250,000, the budget closed with a deficit of €180,000. The underfunding was offset by the release of the budget reserve and withdrawal from the free reserve. At its meeting on September 9, 2019, the Council adopted the annual financial statements and the appropriation of reserves and unanimously approved the actions of the Executive Committee for the 2018 financial year while the involved abstained from voting.

Armin Knabe, Managing Director Foundation

all figures in €	Plan 2019	2018	Plan 2018	2017
current income				
gifts	1	57.584,79	1	27.871,29
contribution by regions	1.017.399	1.024.925,70	1.000.159	1.030.611,23
legacy				376.669,21
payout by German „Treuhand“	60.000	48.671,61	60.000	69.142,60
other income	500.000	95.145,09	33.000	34.709,70
for development		47.607,82		10.897,79
refunds	33.000	45.552,13		32.526,38
interest		2.923,37		15,51
sum	1.610.400	1.322.410,51	1.093.160	1.582.443,71
current expense				
development	140.000	131.649,81	147.800	99.907,92
seminaries	150.000	165.889,00	150.000	165.480,00
international retirement	70.000	54.902,05	70.000	59.341,44
emergency assistance	100.000	159.817,51	90.000	102.590,80
newly ordained	70.000	116.389,45	50.000	109.025,67
international removals	20.000	17.658,35	20.000	12.680,56
archive	40.000	41.754,40	40.000	32.708,53
academy/further training for priests	3.000	400,00	3.000	3.613,55
public relations	25.000	12.265,16	25.000	18.242,70
leadership of priesthood	560.000	481.825,38	540.000	581.146,93
other matters	357.000		7.000	9.950,00
administration	140.000	162.950,01	145.000	148.825,49
sum	1.675.000	1.345.501,12	1.287.800	1.343.513,59
current result	-64.600	-23.090,61	-194.640	238.930,12
extraordinary income				
appropriated gifts		513.500,00		558.588,43
synod/congresses		5.390,23		78.703,42
further training fund		10.110,00		120,00
antique gold and other funds		24.505,49		24.303,09
result retirement fund		4.307,07		
sum		0,00		6.693,94
		557.812,79		668.408,88
extraordinary expense				
seminaries				
antique gold and other funds		25.877,32		13.572,11
appropriated gifts		386.251,47		414.588,43
further training fund		10.249,50		1.313,50
synod		11,97		1.462,27
Chr. Morgenstern edition		7.211,00		35.000,00
result vestment prod				2.312,98
result retirement fund		31.000,10		
congresses		253.000,00		162.394,00
sum		713.601,36		630.643,29
extraordinary result		-155.788,57		37.765,59
total	-64.600	-178.879,18	-194.640	276.695,71
from reserve	64.600	178.879,18	194.640	-276.695,71
total	0	0	0	0

Decision of the Council on Internships for Students of Seminars of the Christian Community

At its meeting in Starnberg on 9 September 2019, the Council passed its resolution unanimously, without dissenting votes and abstentions:

- The training to become a priest takes place at own training places (seminars) with own training profiles.
- An essential part of the training course is the internship in a congregation. Place and duration are determined by the seminar leaders in consultation with the leadership.
- For trainee positions the country-specific law applies.
- For internship positions in Germany is determined: In the time of the practical course the students of the seminars can receive an appropriate amount for the life guidance. The amount is determined individually according to the needs of the trainee and the possibilities of the congregation in an interview between the trainee and the representatives of the congregation and paid out by the seminar free of wage tax and social security contributions. The congregations (and thus the regions or corporations) make these funds available to the seminar.

Armin Knabe

Haus Freudenberg

Correction of the text of issue no. 84: The painter of the altarpiece in Haus Freudenberg is Gabriele Block (not Bock).

Haus auf dem Berge

no message

Körperschaftsverband (KV)

no message

Publishers

no message

Seminaries/Hamburg

no message

Seminaries/Stuttgart

no message

Treuhandverwaltung

no message

Verband der Sozialwerke

no message

Conferences/Events/Other

Meeting in Davide on Gotland from July 27 to August 2, 2019

The wind blows where it wants – IN THE BREATH OF TIME,

that was our theme in the summer of 2019. About 85 people from 10 countries came together, from Poland, Lithuania, Russia, Finland, Sweden, Denmark, Norway, Germany, the Netherlands and Switzerland. Almost all Baltic Sea countries were represented.

During that week, at 7:30 and 9:00 am the Act of consecration of Man was celebrated in the Sigun Chapel. 12 colleagues took turns celebrating in six languages and short sermons were held during the evening ritual. Members from Järna, Hamburg, Munich and Basel were involved in the organization and content design of the conference. Spontaneous contributions from participants of the conference during the evening gatherings were always welcome. In the morning there were workshops about folk tales, the revelations of the Credo, giving space to eternity, meditation and thoughts on the Mystery of Golgotha and on biodynamic agriculture. A special feature was the group “Land-Art”, inspiring everyone with their works of art at the end of the conference. In the afternoons excursions to the surrounding area – to old churches and burial grounds from the past-

took place. In addition, there was a lot of singing, music and dancing and during the breaks plenty of Viking chess was played.

It was a special moment for the friends from Lithuania when they had the opportunity to visit the place where the preparation of the independence declaration of Lithuania took place in 1989, leading to independence in 1991. About ten kilometers from Davide, in an old manor house, they were able to talk to the current Swedish owners, who still talked about their encounters with Vytautas Landsbergis, head of the government-in-exile at the time, who later returned for holiday there many times.

All in all the weather God was very kind to us, the Baltic Sea temperature very pleasant for swimming and we all had a real sense of community – the Baltic Sea community. Next year's conference is scheduled for Saturday, 25 to Friday, 31 July 2020.

Gerhard Ertlmaier

Translated by Michaela Cramer – many thanks to her!

****End****