

# REPORTS FROM THE REGIONS

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## EVENTS – FINANCES – FUTURE PLANS

### NO. 86 ADVENT 2019

#### **Australia and New Zealand**

no message

#### **Central Germany**

no message

#### **Central Europe**

no message

#### **Japan**

no message

#### **Great Britain-Ireland**

The event towards which we have been working for the last few years was finally fulfilled with the consecration of the new church in Stroud, which took place on 20<sup>th</sup> October. The financial hurdles that we faced last year were solved through loans from friendly organisations and individuals, which we have started paying off through legacies that have come in in the last year. The church was built to a beautiful design using cross-laminated timber. The old church space has been repurposed into the new community room. The events of the weekend started with the decommissioning of the old space, which followed a final Act of Consecration of Man on 19<sup>th</sup> October. Then on Sunday, 20<sup>th</sup>, the new church was consecrated and a large congregation took part in the inaugural Act of Consecration of Man. There is a gallery that shows the phases of the church's construction and the final result at [stroud.thechristiancommunity.co.uk/gallery/](http://stroud.thechristiancommunity.co.uk/gallery/)

The last year has seen a number of changes in the priests' circle. Paul Newton was asked to take up a sending to Spring Valley, USA. Peter Holman came to Edinburgh after his years in South Africa. Carmel Iveson retired from her sending as a congregational priest in November this year. We are currently supporting one priest in training, who is attending the preparation course for Ordination in the spring of 2020.

Tom Ravetz

#### **Bavaria**

From Bavaria there is nothing new to report this time. We wish everyone a bright Christmas season and a Happy New Year!

Dorothea Humérez

#### **Netherlands and Flanders**

It is with great pleasure that we can report that eleven people from our region are now training at our seminaries. In Stuttgart, three started their training in September and one candidate is doing an internship in Johannesburg. In Hamburg six people started their part-time training, and one person started in Toronto.

The book by Hans Werner Schroeder 'Vom Erleben der Menschenweihehandlung' was translated into Dutch by one of our priests and is now available from the publishing house Aan de Tijd.

Latin America will be in the spotlight again early next year. Maarten de Gans, who has been working in Latin America for almost forty years, will celebrate the Act of Consecration of Man in Spanish on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> and Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> February in the Netherlands, in Rotterdam and in Am-

sterdam. He will also lead a workshop on money and money issues in Rotterdam. His experience in Latin America, where the gap between rich and poor is so extreme, has led him to focus on the theme of ‘money’.

Ellis Booi

### **North-America**

Nothing new to report.

Craig Wiggins

### **North and Northwest Germany**

In the two regions of North and Northwest Germany we had for the first time this autumn separate “regional meetings”. This was to differentiate them from the actual regional meetings, which continue to take place once a year in the spring as a corporate meeting of the Corporate Association of the Christian Community in North Germany. These regional meetings do not focus on formal reports and decisions, but on the perception of the Christian community in the region, getting to know members from other congregations, engage in discussions and to work on a specific topic. In Bremen, more than 50 community representatives from the region of Northwest Germany met. Besides presentations from the congregations about their origins, the question ‘What do I want for CG2022’ was raised in a large discussion group. In Kiel a meeting of the North German region took place with the theme ‘Zeitgeist Michael und die Zukunft unserer Gemeinden’ (Michael impulse and the future of our communities).

In autumn, regional synods took place – in Benefeld for NW and in Volksdorf for N. Among other things, it was discussed and decided that in the whole of northern Germany, for both regions together, the salary structure for the priests should continue in its present form.

In summer 2020 there will be changes in the regional office in Hamburg: Thomas Nayda will succeed Armin Knabe in Berlin as Managing Director of the Foundation. He will continue in his role as coordinator of the North German region, but will hand over some tasks to Wolfgang Wohlfarth, the coordinator in Northwest Germany. Thomas Nayda will continue to oversee the administration of salaries, the housing fund, the property management of Mittelweg 13 and the North German joint account (Bankenverbund der Gemeinden in N und NW).

Thomas Nayda

### **Nordic Countries**

no message

### **Russia**

no message

### **South America**

no message

### **Southern Africa**

no message

### **Southwest Germany**

no message

### **Switzerland/Southwest Europe**

no message

### **West Germany**

Iona house, where the East end congregation of Cologne has lived since the 1950s, has been evacuated and some of it has already been gutted; the start of the renovation work is planned for the beginning of January and the completion of the work is envisaged for the end of 2020; it is hoped that Christmas will be celebrated in the new rooms. The quotes for the main trades – roof, windows, shell and demolition work – are within the budget of the cost calculation prepared in advance. In 2020, the community will team up with the congregation of Central Cologne on their premises. The priests Yaroslava and Ben Black will also work there together with the local priest Anna Hofer.

The Sozialwerk der Christengemeinschaft in Nordrheinwestfalen decided to dissolve on 28.11.2019. All previous activities under the umbrella of this social institution have come to an end and new initiatives are currently not in sight. Should new impulses emerge in the future, then these should also include a new organisational approach.

Klaus-Peter Hunold

### **Wuerttemberg**

In Central Stuttgart the installation of the elevator is delayed. Those who are coming to the priest's ordination in February will perhaps only be able to guess where the last traces of the construction site are and will be able to enjoy the redesign of the building. In Reutlingen, the congregation has done a lot of preparatory work of its own, so that the workmen were able to start the fundamental renovation of the community hall in November. In Schwaebisch-Hall, the external design of the site is currently being implemented. The region is still looking for a person who would like to contribute to the administrative tasks and who can also work as a part-time coordinator in the cross-regional committees German Conference (DK), Coordinators' Group (KOO) and Administrative Conference (VK).

Martin Merckens

### **Foundation**

As planned in the summer of 2020 Armin Knabe will end his term as Managing Director of the Foundation (international) of the Christian Community. The Executive Committee (EC) of the Foundation, aware of the need for a new appointment, has for some time been thinking about a successor and examined various options.

At its last meeting, it was unanimously decided – on the recommendation of the Circle of Seven – that Thomas Nayda should succeed Armin Knabe as Managing Director of the Foundation. Thomas Nayda is coordinator of the North German region. He had applied for this position after he had earlier rejected the question put to him. Just as Armin Knabe was also the coordinator for the Central German region, Thomas Nayda will remain the coordinator for the North German region. He will keep his residence and the regional office in Hamburg but will regularly spend one to three days a week in Berlin. He will step down as a member of the board of the Körperschaftsverband Deutschland.

We thank all participants for their valuable contributions and hope for a smooth transition during the summer of 2020.

Christward Kröner for the (EC) and the Siebenerkreis

### **Vestment workshop and substances dispatch**

For the last five years, reimbursement for the vestments have remained unchanged. For 2020, we have decided to recalculate for the following reasons:

- The purchase prices for almost all materials have gone up;
- The remuneration of employees and seamstresses needs to be adjusted to the changing economic situation.
- Furthermore, the coordinators have decided to no longer charge postage for each shipment separately, but to add it to overhead costs – thus increasing the overhead allocation to 45%;
- Weleda has announced a 15% price increase for charcoal and incense.

**New Price list from January 1st 2020:**

Cassock with fitting	581,00 €
Cassock without fitting	526,00 €
Alb with fitting	594,00 €
Alb without fitting	552,75 €
Short Alb with fitting	402,00 €
Short Alb without fitting	360,75 €
Short Alb for wedding with fitting	424,00 €
Short Alb for wedding without fitting	382,75 €
1 x washing	13,75 €
Stole, Belt	309,00 €
Chassuble	1.114,00 €
Chassuble for Passion	1.139,00 €
Chassuble for Ascension	1.210,00 €
Cloak (Silk) Passion	1.131,00 €
Cloak (Silk) other	1.114,00 €
Changeable collar	151,00 €
Changeable collar Ascension	189,00 €
Mantle (Wool) Passion	882,50 €
Mantle (Wool) other	865,00 €
Servers Vestment (2 x, Gr. M)	572,00 €
Servers Collar (1 x)	87 €
Servers-Short Alb (2 x, Gr. M)	430,00 €
Cloth for Cup 40 x 40, double, in colour	34,00 €
Cloth for Cup, in white	29,00 €
Weleda Charcoal	8,00 €
Epiphany Charcoal	1,50 €
Incense	25,00 €
Tapers	4,00 €

Berlin, 10 December 2019, Armin Knabe

**Haus auf dem Berge**

In spring we marveled at the forces of nature again: the wind was so strong that it managed to break off big branches and knock over garbage bins. A second time the power was even stronger and it pulled roof tiles off the office building, dislodging them from their clamps.

During summer the water supply was scarce again, but our helpers and water transporters are by now well coordinated. Six trees on the property did not survive the drought and I had to learn that, here in Thuringia, you need a logging permit even for dead wood: a representative of the nature conservation authority came and inspected each tree individually. Now there is a protocol. And it is painful! The biggest worry for me now is the huge birch tree next to the playground: it only produced a few small leaves and shed them again early. When we have replenished the supplies on the days when there are no guests, I let a ton of water run onto the grass in the evening. It is a bit of a ridiculous attempt: a thousand litres for such a tall tree! Will we also lose this one?

In autumn technical issues gave me a lot to do. I remember a day at a peace exercise week, when three sudden repairs needed attention. Unfortunately, I rarely manage to work through such unexpected tasks with equanimity: The question “What am I doing wrong?” almost always resonates. For the winter we hope for snow, much, much snow, which would bring melt water, which could then become groundwater.

Tobias Knabe

**Haus Freudenberg**

no message

**Körperschaftsverband (KV)**

no message

**Publishers**

no message

**Seminaries/Hamburg**

no message

**Seminaries/Stuttgart**

no message

**Treuhandverwaltung**

The purchase agreements with the purchasers of property shares in Scheidegg have now all been signed. In spring and summer, the work for the development of the properties is scheduled to be carried out and with that the project, as far as the trust administration is concerned, will be completed.

In recent years, long-standing members and sponsors of the idea of the trust administration have had to step down. If you feel you could support the work of the Treuhand, I would love to hear from you: 02104-145682 or [treuhand@christengemeinschaft.org](mailto:treuhand@christengemeinschaft.org)

Tim Gottschalk, Treuhandverwaltung zur Förderung der Christengemeinschaft e.V. (Trust Administration for the Promotion of the Christian Community)

**Verband der Sozialwerke**

In the coming year, our holiday camps for children and young people invite you to “go on holiday”: make friends, sing and play together, listen to stories. The camps offer a lot of exercise and the opportunity to get to know and try out new things: horse riding, hiking, canoeing, musicals or a theatre summer.

‘Community and individuality’ is the theme of our youth leader course. It will take place from 13 to 17 April 2020 at the DJO-Landesheim, Poppenhausen. Everybody is welcome who is interested in working with us during our holiday camps and/or who would like to further their pedagogical qualifications.

In the coming year we are offering study and art trips as well as seminar weeks with very different topics:

- **Spiekeroog:** Creation Time, ‘In breathing, there are two graces’ 17 to 24 August 2020 with Ilse Wellershoff-Schuur
- **Chartres:** ‘The Angelic World of the Cathedral’, 6-12 September 2020 with Sabine Rosenbruch and Christophe M. Rogez
- **Krakow:** ‘In the Heart of Europe’, 19 to 24 September 2020 with Johannes Roth
- **Madrid and Avila:** ‘Mysticism, Art and Spanish Contrasts’, 15 to 22 October 2020 with Regine and Michael Bruhn

Brochures for all events will be available from 4<sup>th</sup> Advent Sunday in the congregations.

E-mail: [info@cg-sozialwerke.de](mailto:info@cg-sozialwerke.de) [www.cg-sozialwerke.de](http://www.cg-sozialwerke.de)

Dietmar Schwarz

**Conferences/Events/Other**

100 Years Christian Community – International Conference 0-11 October 2022 in Dortmund, Germany

The first year of preparation for our international conference on Michaelmas 2022 is coming to an end and with this in mind we want to inform you about the state of affairs and outline the next steps we want to take together with you.

The practical organisation on the ground has taken on shape and we are now focusing on initial topics that need to be planned in advance. The small planning team, which is carrying out the planning and organization on site, would be happy to receive offers from people who would like to help in some or the other way. You will soon find a link on our website where we will have a list of tasks

needing attention. Regarding the Internet page: this will be thoroughly revised in the near future, to make it easier to find the relevant information: [www.cg-2022.org](http://www.cg-2022.org)

As already mentioned (e. g. in the Info No. 83) we want to organise this event with the broadest possible involvement of the Christian Community worldwide. To this end, we have already attended various church events, regional meetings, etc., and had the opportunity to enter into a conversation with you. We would be very happy to receive further invitations, because nothing is more fruitful than a one to one dialogue!

At the previous five meetings of the Main Planning Teams, the preparation of the content and the search for a conference theme advanced in various ways. The idea crystallised that we wanted to focus on a central aspect of our work, the meaning, virtue and purpose of the sacraments. Around this central theme, a diverse programme of lectures and workshops could emerge. All this will be further considered and worked on. The Main Planning Team will meet again in 2020 on the following dates:

Saturday, 8 February 2020 from 11.00-18.00 in the Rudolf Steiner School Dortmund (Mergelteichstraße 51). The inspection of the conference facility as well as further considerations regarding the planning of the content and the conference topic/title are on the agenda.

Saturday, 25 April 2020 from 11.00-18.00 o'clock in the congregation in Essen (Moorenstraße 41)

Saturday, 20 June 2020 from 11.00-18.00 in the congregation in Dortmund (Hainallee 40)

Saturday, 3 October 2020 from 11.00-18.00 in the congregation in Witten (Crengeldanzstraße 24a)

Saturday, 21 November 2020 from 11.00-18.00 at the Rudolf Steiner School Dortmund (Mergelteichstraße 51)

The Main Planning Team is open to welcome any new participants! Be it to regularly join in or as a one off to share your ideas!!!

It is our main concern to hold a conference which will bring all generations together. Young people and younger adults should ideally be involved in the preparations as well. In addition to events for all ages there should of course also be events that are more geared at young people. The youth planning team has taken on these preparations. This group will be meeting on the following dates:

Saturday to Sunday, 28-29 March 2020 in the congregation in Cologne east (Hauswiesenweg 1) and on Saturday and Sunday, 13-14 June 2020 in the congregation Cologne east (Hauswiesenweg 1).

**Further dates are still to be confirmed and will be published on the website.**

We are also in regular contact with the Circle of Seven and the Executive Committee (EC) to coordinate our work. Regarding the finances: a first draft of the budget was prepared and discussed with the EC. It is understood that such an undertaking cannot solely be financed through the contributions by the participants. There is a team in place dedicated to raising funds for additional requirements from the Foundation etc. **Here, too, we are always grateful for propositions and suggestions.**

We are very grateful to have received about 60 contributions from the wider Christian Community in response to our call *What moves you?* The exchange of ideas with the senders will continue. Our medium for international communication is the quarterly newsletter available in several languages in the download area at: <https://cg-2022.org>. German-speaking congregations receive the newsletter by post. We welcome short contributions to the newsletter.

Another, new way of communication within the Christian Community is the Internet forum; you can register under <https://cg-2022.org/dialog/> and have discussions with people from across the Christian Community. We look forward to working with you in the coming year!

With warm greetings for the Preparatory Circle

Ulrich Goebel and Tim Gottschalk

*Translated by Gabriele Kuhn – many thanks to her!*

