

REPORTS FROM THE REGIONS

EVENTS – FINANCES – FUTURE PLANS

NO. 98 ADVENT 2022

Bavaria

Our endowment impulse was reawakened after a six-year dormant period at the regional gathering in mid-November. We would like all congregations in the region to be debt-free and we immediately took action. At that gathering it was decided to donate a building loan from the region of € 129,000 to the congregation in Augsburg.

The Coburg congregation has a building loan (about € 25,000) too from the Nuremberg congregation. The following comment was received from Coburg: We can pay back the loan if it is needed, because we are The Christian Community, and whether the money is in Coburg or in Nuremberg does not matter; if we don't have any money left, we are depending on everyone in the region. – Everyone is welcome to make up their own minds about this.

Dorothea Humérez

Great Britain-Ireland

The autumn had a different quality as we had decided not to hold an Autumn Synod, so that as many of us as possible could attend the International Synod in Dornach. This and the Logos Conference in Dortmund meant that our thoughts were filled with the centenary, even for those who were unable to attend.

On Sunday, 13th November it was announced in Temple Lodge that Peter van Breda will be retiring from his duties as congregational priest on 8th January, 2023. We are glad that Nigel Lumsden has taken up the work alongside Peter, and he will carry the congregation from January on. We are grateful to Peter for his long years of service, and grateful too that he will support our guesthouse, Temple Lodge Club, until we have found a solution for the future.

The Perspectives editorial team have decided to give 2023 – the first year in our new century – a particular emphasis on the experience of Christ. You can find out more via this link: <http://perspectives-magazine.org.uk/>

Tom Ravetz

no message from:

Australia and New Zealand

North- and Northwest Germany

Central-Germany

Russia

Japan

South America

Nordic Countries

Southern Africa

Netherlands and Flanders

A conversation has arisen in the Regional Council of Congregations about the subject: Why are members and friends treated differently in the congregations. Why are there certain meetings for members only? And why are only members expected to participate and contribute financially according to their means?

On 21 September, at the General Synod in Dornach, the responsibility of the lenker for the Dutch-Flemish Region was transferred from Ernst Terpstra to Paul-Philippe Stevens.

In October the Region got a new priest who was ordained in Dortmund during the Logos meeting; we are very grateful for this! We hope to welcome some more new ordained priests next spring, which we urgently need due to upcoming retirements.

It should also be reported that the regional website <https://christengemeenschap.nl/> has been updated since July, both technically and in terms of content. There is now an editorial team that has set itself the task of updating the content on a regular basis.

Ernst Terpstra

North America

No news from North America this time.

Craig Wiggins

Southwest Germany

Half a year has passed since our last report and a lot has happened since.

The priests who have been sent to our region, Mrs Hübner (to Karlsruhe), Mrs Kolb (to Überlingen) and Mrs Peter-Schult (to Mannheim) were welcomed by their congregations and have settled in well. Mr Yoshino said goodbye to the congregation in Pforzheim in May and took up his work in Tokyo/Japan in October.

In Freiburg, the impulse for a new building for community rooms together with the cooperative LeWo 50+ for assisted living could not be realised. In Mannheim, the church building (an old villa) needs to be renovated. Higher costs are expected due to regulations by the Office for the Preservation of Historical Monuments. The congregation in the southern Black Forest region, in Schopfheim, has planned an extension for rooms to their church and is waiting for the building approval.

Three new members from different congregations were elected to the Regional Council, so that the responsibility is now divided amongst eight people. Our space on the Sacrament of Confession at the LOGOS conference had received much interest and recognition. The Region wishes everyone a light-filled Advent season and a blessed Christmas.

Irma Gössler, Jutta Rother

Switzerland/Southwest Europe and Central Europe

In the region of Switzerland/Southwest Europe we are eagerly waiting for some priestly reinforcements for France and Italy. In both countries, our priests are constantly travelling, sometimes over great distances, in order to keep up the work and allow for community life to continue.

In Switzerland we are currently quite well staffed; nevertheless, sometimes it is difficult to find replacements in case of illness. With the first posting of Mrs. D. Grieder to Switzerland, there were reshuffles during the summer that affected a total of four congregations.

The fact that our former lenker of many years, Mr. W. Giezendanner, passed away at the beginning of September after a serious illness, was already mentioned in the German *Mitteilungen* (bulletins), but should also be mentioned here once again.

In Geneva, a building project that had been in the planning for a long time can now finally be started on the congregation's land, thus largely relieving the congregation of its debt.

It was also nice to be able to hold a few small multilingual meetings this year – an important event in a quadrilingual country like Switzerland.

Christine Jost, Coordinator

Hungary

Due to the laws and circumstances in the cemeteries in Hungary, the laying out and the blessing were rarely possible until now. In recent years it has become even more difficult, and even for the funeral itself we sometimes struggle to be allowed to perform it (e.g. when someone died with Corona). We have started a regular group which works on the development of a funeral culture conducive to our congregations. In the short term we would like to make better use of existing opportunities and contacts with funeral directors nationwide. In the long term, we would like to develop plans for a burial ground (possibly also for a cemetery), in keeping with the spirit of the Christian Community. The Middle Europe Region has been accompanied by Andrea Gulyas as coordinator since September. For more information about the congregation in Hungary, go to our website at: <https://akereszténykozosseg.org/die-christengemeinschaft-in-ungarn/>

Imre Silye, also on behalf of Anna Bozókiné

West Germany

Many congregations in the region had concentrated their energy on the *LOGOS – Consecrating Humanity* in Dortmund event, this year. We are happy and grateful that such a wonderful event was made possible in these turbulent and distressing times. In some places, the clean-up and follow-up work is gradually being completed. The church hall in Wuppertal, for example, has served as a large workshop for the altars and altar steps used at the conference and is now being given back its original appearance. Some things are carefully packed and stored away to be brought out again in the future for the next youth conference.

With the images and memories of the conference in their minds and hearts, the congregations are now also looking at their own foundation anniversaries and celebrating the start of their second century in different ways.

Tim Gottschalk

Wuerttemberg

The past few months have been marked, as everywhere else, by events to mark the beginning of the new century of the Christian Community. A specially hired bus travelled from the region to Dortmund: an initiative of a member of the congregation in Winterbach and organised by himself. There were also various celebrations in the region itself. The Stuttgart congregations jointly organised a weekend during which the events leading to the foundation were celebrated with various activities in all four congregations. In Göppingen, a weekend of celebrations took place on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the consecration of the church. The congregation of Mittleres Remstal is celebrating its 30th anniversary and on 1 Advent there will be a celebration in the congregation of Ulm to mark the 100th anniversary of the founding of their church.

There is also a new book by Erdmut-Michael Hoerner: *Earth Substances as Christ's Body. The transformations of substances in Christian worship.* (Schneider Edition 2022)

Anne Fechter, Martin Merckens

no message from:

Körperschaftsverband (KV)
Priest's Seminaries

Haus Freudenberg

Verband der Sozialwerke

Treuhandverwaltung zur Förderung der Christengemeinschaft e.V.

There is nothing to report from the Trust Administration other than warm greetings for an expectant Advent season, a Merry Christmas and best wishes for a good and peaceful New Year.

Tim Gottschalk

Translated by Gabriele Kuhn – many thanks to her!

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