

First Orthodox Chairman of ACK Germany



The new board of the ACK (from left to right): Bishop Prof. Dr. Martin Hein, Bishop Harald Rückert, Archpriest Radu Constantin Miron, Reverend Christopher Easthill, Auxiliary Bishop Dr. Nikolaus Schwerdtfeger

On 4 April 2019, the General Assembly of the ACK held the routine election of a new board at their meeting in Hofgeismar. For the first time in the history of the ACK, an Orthodox Christian assumed the office of Chairman: Archpriest Radu Constantin Miron. He succeeds Bishop Karl-Heinz Wiesemann from Speyer, who was not entitled to be re-elected according to the statutes. Reverend Christopher Easthill from the Anglican Church and Bishop Harald Rückert from the United Methodist Church were elected to the new board as deputies. Other board members are Auxiliary Bishop Nikolaus Schwerdtfeger from the Roman-Catholic diocese of Hildesheim and Bishop Martin Hein from the Evangelical Church of Kurhessen-Waldeck.

New Apostolic Church is the latest guest member

The leaders of the member churches of the ACK have approved the application of the New Apostolic Church for guest membership in the ACK with the necessary two-thirds majority. The membership was formally affirmed



in a church service at the General Assembly in Hofgeismar. The New Apostolic Church belongs to the family of Apostolic denominations and numbers around 330,000 members in 1,700 congregations in Germany. The admission as a guest member marks the end of many years of encounters and talks between the ACK and the NAC on various levels.

Statement by the ACK on the assembly of the World Council of Churches in 2021

In 2021, the assembly of the World Council of Churches (WCC) will be held for the first time in Germany. The invitation came from the Evangelical Church in Germany together with the ACK and the Evangelical Church in Baden. Under the title „United in Jesus Christ – together for this world“, the General Assembly of the ACK adopted a statement valuing the assembly as an ecumenical chance. On the occasion of the WCC assembly, the ACK calls on the churches in Germany to give visible expression to the fellowship that has grown between them.

ACK Ecumenism Award 2019

The ACK has called on local congregations to submit clever ideas and compete for the Ecumenism Award which is endowed with



€ 3,000. Cardinal Walter Kasper, the former president of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, has kindly agreed to act as patron. The prize will be awarded at a ceremony during the ACK General Assembly on 18/19 September 2019 in Augsburg. Closing date for applications is 31 May 2019.

ACK at the Kirchentag in Dortmund

From 19 to 23 June 2019, the ACK will be present in the "Market of Opportunities" at the 37th German Protestant Kirchentag in Dortmund. From Thursday to Saturday, the German ACK and the ACK of North Rhine-Westphalia invite all interested visitors to their stand in the Westfalenhalle, Hall 8, Theme Area 1 "Living Ecumenism", Stand No. 8-G26, in order to get acquainted with the diversity of the ecumenical landscape.

Service during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

The motto for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity this year is: "Justice and only justice, you shall pursue ..." (Deut 16:20a). The texts were prepared by the churches in Indonesia. The ACK held its central service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity on 24 January 2019 in the Berlin Cathedral. In his sermon, the chairman of the ACK, Bishop Dr. Karl-Heinz Wiesemann, called for a common witness of the churches to the Gospel's message of salvation.



from left to right: former German President Christian Wulff, Metropolitan Augoustinos, Bishop Dr. Karl-Heinz Wiesemann, Archimandrite Emmanuel Sfiatkos (Photo: Sören Philipps/ÖRBB)

Following the service, Metropolitan Augoustinos, chairman of the Orthodox Bishops' Conference in Germany, was honoured for his ecumenical life's work. In his laudation Christian Wulff, former President of the Federal Republic of Germany, praised Metropolitan Augoustinos as an "outstanding integrator and bridge-builder". The tribute was bestowed jointly by the Chairman of the ACK in Germany



and the Chairman of the Ecumenical Council Berlin-Brandenburg. In his speech of thanks, Metropolitan Augoustinos emphasised the importance of ecumenism and characterised the time he had invested in ecumenism as "a gift of time".

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity can be celebrated not only in January, but also in the week before Pentecost.

The theme of the Week of Prayer 2020 is: "They Showed Us Unusual Kindness" (Acts 28:2). The texts were prepared in Malta and finalised by the international preparatory group. The German version is expected to be published on the ACK website in June.

New ACK Publications

Salz der Erde ("Salt of the earth"). Liturgical material and information on the Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation (free of charge).

„Bittet für alle Heiligen ...“ ("Pray for all the saints" - Eph 6:18). Texts and prayers for persecuted and oppressed Christians (free of charge).

Wie viel Kirche braucht das Land? ("How much church does the country need?") Christian witness in a secular society, eds. Elisabeth Dieckmann and Karl-Heinz Wiesemann, Würzburg 2019 (19,90 €; from bookstores).

ACK Diary

6 September 2019, Heilbronn: Central service of worship for the ecumenical Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation. www.schoepfungstag.info.

29 October 2019, Erfurt: Nonconformists – Martyrs – Visionaries. The contribution of the Anabaptist churches to theology, ecumenism and the interpretation of the world. www.taeuferbewegung2025.de.

25.-27 October 2019, Bovenden: Future workshop of the Ecumenical Peace Decade. www.friedensdekade.de.

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