

REPORTS FROM THE REGIONS

EVENTS – FINANCES – FUTURE PLANS

NO. 97

MICHAELMAS 2022

Bavaria

The Bavarian Region wishes everyone a courageous and energetic Michaelmas!

Dorothea Humérez

Central-Germany

Farewell gathering for the *Haus auf dem Berge*

On Saturday, 27 August, more than 60 people of different generations came together to say goodbye to the 'Haus auf dem Berge'. It began very mysteriously: The key from the evening before could not be found. Raccoon or thief? We do not know. So, those who were waiting started conversing in the courtyard – where so many conversations had taken place in the past. Finally, a way was found into the house... and we were able to celebrate the Act of Consecration of Man together with the lenker Andreas von Wehren and a sermon. Afterwards, the reminiscent reports of those who had been connected with the fate of the house early on began: Mrs Buchholz, Mrs Göbel, Mr and Mrs Pechmann, Mr and Mrs Diebes. Course leaders and members of various congregations and course participants brought together many vivid memories.

In between – without running water, but with a lot of food brought along – there was a delicious and sumptuous meal. The Markus community had kindly cooked for us. Gudrun Becker had begun to illustrate the history of the house on several boards and told us, among other things, how a farmer left her a large field: "That people still appreciate it..." and how she had the impression that the elementary world was becoming more and more friendly with the people and the happenings in and around the house. We also said goodbye to these beings with instruments made of various materials – seeking them out in various places in and around the house.

Greetings were read out, gratitude and hopes for the future were expressed standing in a circle, memories were also exchanged during the breaks, gratitude and hopes for the future were expressed for Mr. Knabe and his family. A sacramental conclusion with a sermon concluded this memorable day. It ended when we left the house cleaned and with new locks, with a sense of sadness, grateful and hopeful.

Kirsten Rennert

Great Britain-Ireland

The centenary of our movement, which comes only a short time before we celebrate one hundred years of work in our region in 1929, is a time to take stock and to think of the future. If I think back to the community that I encountered in the 1980s, some things seemed established and secure which are no longer there. The spread of our congregations was bound up with that of other institutions that were inspired by the work of Rudolf Steiner, particularly the Waldorf Schools and Camphill. This world of institutional Anthroposophy has changed beyond recognition in the last couple of decades. We can feel grateful that the gifts that we received at our founding have enabled us to con-

tinue to work in line with our founding purpose. We can also be grateful for the support of members and friends which has enabled the congregations to survive and thrive.

I sense that the world needs what has been entrusted to us ever more deeply: places where true deepening can happen, where we can search for the spirit without dogma; where we can experience the transforming power of Christ. However, it is also true that many people are but off by anything called ‘church’ or ‘Christian’. As we look ahead to the next century, this could be a challenge to our sense of mission. In the time when we could rely on a pool of like-minded people on our doorstep, this was perhaps less pressing. Now, however, we – priests and members alike – may need to develop new skills and find new courage to fulfil the charge that is given to us at Easter: to proclaim Christ as the meaning of the earth. Like any true conversation, this engagement with a wider world would surely begin not with our speaking, but with learning to listen better and better. Then we might find the words that reach our fellow human beings in their concerns and needs.

At the end of July, Jonah Evans from the Seminary in Toronto, came to Forest Row to hold a weekend on *Living Life as a Priestly Service*. Around fifteen people joined us for a weekend of discernment and deepening of their priestly path in life and at least two of them are living with the question about when they might join the Priests’ Training.

Tom Ravetz

no message from:

Australia and New Zealand

Central Europe

Netherlands and Flanders

Japan

Russia

South America

Southern Africa

Southwest Germany

West Germany

North America

In February of 2023 there will be a first time conference for affiliate organizers of The Christian Community from across North America. Join us in Tucson and get to know one another and share in community. For more information go to: <https://www.adventurecampsc.org/tucson-conference>

Craig Wiggins

North Germany

From Northern Germany I would like to report from Rendsburg: The congregation has received a large legacy from a long-standing member of the congregation. With this, not only could the contribution from the congregation to the central fund of the Christian Community be increased, but in particular the debts of many years, which had still burdened the congregation’s budget, could be paid off. And above all, there was enough money left over to carry out important renovations to the church hall and the church building.

There was also a major inheritance in the Hamburg-Mitte congregation, which will make it possible to balance the budget deficit in the coming years. Here, too, loan liabilities could be repaid, which from now on will no longer burden the budget.

In our house fund, which we use in the North and Northwest regions to finance housing for priests, there were unfortunately some larger loans that had to be repaid. In most cases, the funds are now needed for the lenders’ own retirement provision. We hope that there will also be younger people who have saved money for their retirement and would like to put it into our house fund in the meantime. You are welcome to contact me about this.

Thomas Nayda

North- and Northwest Germany

Meeting in Davide on Gotland

This year was the 10th meeting of people around the Baltic Sea region, which took place in Davide on Gotland in the last week of July in mostly good weather. Already by Easter we were fully booked with over a 100 people and sadly had to cancel many applications, as Davide already reached its limits with 100 participants. Again, people came from Lithuania and so, thanks to Rasa Kabailaite, the Act of Consecration of Man could be celebrated not only in Lithuanian but also in Russian. Tiiu in't Veld from Schwerin took care of the Estonian. So, this summer, at 7:30 and 9:00 a.m., the Act of Consecration of Man came alive in a total of eight languages and formed the absolute centre of our meeting. After optional eurythmy outdoors, painting in the tent and Kalevala recitation on the threshing floor, this year's theme was: *Ego Sense – Christ Sense – Earth Sense*.

The themes, conceived in November last year in the congregation in Copenhagen, were worked on in conversations in many different ways during the mornings. In the afternoon, there were the usual excursions to the countless sights of the island. In addition, this year we had Anna Rubin, a gifted kite maker from Carinthia, as a guest, who coloured paper with us, used it to make colourful kites, and – lo and behold – they flew too, and with little wind. And Ralf Cederqvist from Järna found friends for the Bothmer gymnastics.

It is always amazing what interesting things our participants bring with them and make available to the community in the evenings through poetry, stories, music and much more. Even our Flensburg 'Musikus' Jena Peter Müller succeeded for a second time to dance ambitiously after the evening meal.

Yes, over the ten years we have become a Baltic Sea community that comes together every summer for a week but at the same time does not lose itself over the year. Even though the German participants are in the majority, the diversity of those who meet from the different countries, through the Act of Consecration of Man in many languages, creates a listening that unites us in the source of the same. Finally, a thought that came to us at the end of the conference: We no longer want to call it a conference, but an encounter that is designed for the long term, for the future.

Gerhard Ertlmaier

Nordic Countries

Developments in Finland: While life goes on as usual in the Finnish congregations, an important decision has been made in the Helsinki congregation: In the middle of the city, part of a property that had previously been used as a business premises was acquired and will be converted into a centre for community life. This was preceded by a long, rather difficult history. Several years ago, the former property of the Christian Community was sold for various reasons and the congregation moved into a rented building far away from the centre, where a pizzeria spread its smells in the basement.

Then began an odyssey through various offers of more or less suitable properties. After much toing and froing, the decision for the new location was finally taken in May of this year. At the beginning of August, the conversion into a space of worship and a community space began. If all goes well, the congregation will be able to use the rooms during Advent. – Unfortunately, this long road to new rooms has been accompanied by great differences, divisions and animosities among the members in the congregation. We are confident that with the start of congregational life at the new location, fruitful cooperation will develop again.

Hans Hasler, Chairman of the Church Council Finland

Switzerland/Southwest Europe

Nothing new to report.

Christine Jost

Wuerttemberg

Nothing new to report from Wuerttemberg.

Anne Fechter

no message from:

Körperschaftsverband (KV) **Haus Freudenberg** **Verband der Sozialwerke**
Treuhandverwaltung zur Förderung der Christengemeinschaft e.V. **Priest's Seminaries**

Translated by Gabriele Kuhn – many thanks to her!

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