

Report from the Netzwerk Ökumene: Konfessionsverbindende Paare und Familien in Deutschland

Interchurch Families in Germany

Annual conference, 16 – 18 March 2007 in Schwarzenshof (Thüringen)

Theme: My Faith: How I got here, what I am. Speakers: Bishop Wanke (RC) and Pastor and Frau Hess (Lutheran). Nearly 100 people took part, including about 25 children. Participants were unanimous in finding this a very successful conference. Everybody found the Schwarzenshof Methodist conference centre ideal, and it was decided to hold the 2009 conference there again.

Together for Europe: Christian Movements and Communities, Stuttgart, 10 – 12 May 2007

3000 participants from more than 240 very varied Christian communities and movements came together for this Assembly – ranging from the most committed evangelicals to conservative Catholic communities. Jörg Beyer represented our Network as a member of the organizing committee. Our Network took part in Forum 21 'The Future for Marriage and the Family' through an exhibition arranged by Rosmarie Lauber.

German Protestant Kirchentag, Cologne, 6 – 10 June 2007

At the Kirchentag Convention in Cologne, attended by more than 100,000 people, ecumenism played a big part. Our Network again had an exhibition stand in the so-called 'ecumenical village'. The Network was also involved through a Forum facilitated by Gudrun Steineck: 'It must go further – learning processes in the question of the Eucharist/Lord's Supper'. Rosmarie Lauber and Jörg and Beate Beyer worked alongside, with a discussion group on the theme: 'What God joins together, let no man divide – interchurch families between the lighthouse and the glowing wick'.

Methodist Church Conference, 24 June 2007, Böblingen

Rosmarie Lauber again represented the Network with an exhibition stand.

Next Annual Conference, 22 – 24 February 2008

This will be held in Braunfels bei Wetzlar on the theme: 'Liturgy – Word – Gifts of the Spirit. How important are Forms for my life of faith?'

Network Mailing List

This now contains about 600 addresses of interchurch couples and families as well as others interested in ecumenism. From August 2007 we will be sending a twice-yearly e-mail newsletter to those whose e-mail addresses we have.

Rudolf Lauber

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