



Kirchen VolksBewegung

Reform Movement 'We Are Church', Germany

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About recent project of We are Church Germany since Spring 2009:

Ecumenical bicycle pilgrimage 2009 and 2010 in three stages from Berlin to Munich

“We bring the ecumenical hope from Gethsemane church in Berlin to Munich!” This is the motto of the ecumenical bicycle pilgrimage in three phases from Berlin, site of the 1st Ecumenical Church Convention in 2003, to Munich, city of the 2nd Ecumenical Church Convention in May 2010.

The picture shows the 26 *We are Church* pilgrims shortly after the start of the pilgrimage at the Brandenburg Gate in Berlin.

→ More information: www.wir-sind-kirche.de/index.php?id=530



Wave of church membership resignations – not only because of the church tax

121,155 people left the Roman-Catholic church in Germany in 2008. In the last ten years the exodus amounted to more than 1.1 million. The positive “Benedetto factor” is spent. This is a serious question for the Catholic church, not only because of the associated loss of church tax revenues. More and more Catholics find it increasingly difficult to identify with the institution ‘church’. → More information: www.dbk.de/zahlen_fakten/statistik/index.html

Catholic without German church tax?

We are Church published, in 2006, the German translation of a Vatican letter which stated that non-payment of the church tax does not automatically translate into having resigned one’s church membership. In 2007 Professor Emeritus of Canon Law, Dr. Hartmut Zapp, in Freiburg showed a way how to stay Catholic in Germany without paying the church tax automatically collected by the government. In July 2009 a German court of law essentially confirmed the position taken by Professor Zapp, however, the Archdiocese of Freiburg filed an appeal against the decision. → More information: www.wir-sind-kirche.de/?id=170

We are Church appeal to the Conference of Bishops: “Keep the course of the Council!”

In the face of the talks between the Vatican and the Priestly Society of St. Pius X. starting in October the German reform movement *We are Church* appealed to the Conference of German Bishops at the end of September 2009: “Continue to keep the Roman-Catholic church on the course of the Second Vatican Council!” This appeal which was also cited by Radio Vatican states, amongst other things: “Make yourself clearly heard in Rome if the slightest impression arises that the Vatican is going to make concessions in the interpretation of the Council in the upcoming talks with the Priestly Society of St. Pius X! We, the church, will very carefully watch how the talks between the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith and the Priestly Society of St. Pius X progress and what results will emerge.”

→ More information: www.wir-sind-kirche.de/?id=128&id_entry=2132

54,104 signatures for the “Petition Vaticanum II” / Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith refuses to enter into dialogue

Petition Vaticanum

The international petition “For the full recognition of the decrees of the Second Vatican Council” co-organized by *We are Church* Germany was signed by 54,104 people. On 14 August 2009 the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith conveyed the following brief message via the Apostolic Nunciature in Germany to the initiators of the PETITION VATICANUM II: “The Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith confirms receipt of the two letters of yours. The speech of the Holy Father to the Roman Curia on the occasion of the Address of His Holiness Benedict XVI to the Roman Curia Offering them His Christmas Greetings (22 December 2005)* states the hermeneutic principals for a correct interpretation of the II. Vatican Council documents.” The initiators of the petition have published an international declaration in reply for 11 October, the 47th anniversary of the opening of the Council.

* http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/benedict_xvi/speeches/2005/december/documents/hf_ben_xvi_spe_20051222_roman-curia_ge.html

→ More information: www.petition-vaticanum2.org



26th Public General Meeting of *We are Church* Germany from 23 - 25 October 2009 in Munich

»Ecumenism without hope? – Perspectives before and after the 2nd ECC« is the main topic of the 26th Public General Meeting with Prof. Dr. Urs Baumann (rom.-cath.) and Prof. Johanna Haberer (protestant) in Munich.

→ More information: www.wir-sind-kirche.de/?id=124&id_entry=1426

Preparations for the 2nd Ecumenical Church Convention 12 - 16 May 2010 in Munich

Intensive preparations and discussions for the 2nd Ecumenical Church Convention scheduled for 12 to 16 May 2010 in Munich are well underway on many different levels. More than 100,000 people are expected for the event. → More information: www.wir-sind-kirche.de/?id=520

→ Even though it is still early we invite everybody to participate in this grand event in Munich.

Further activities of *We are Church* Germany since Spring 2009 (selection)

- 25th Public General Meeting with the topic “Spirituality” 27 - 29 March 2009 in Magdeburg
- Call to the ChurchPeopleSermon on 3 May 2009
- Big information booth at the Protestant Church Convention 20 - 24 May 2009 in Bremen
- “Spiritual Meeting Days” of *We are Church* Germany on 6 - 9 August 2009
- *We are Church* education offensive about the Second Vatican Council → www.wir-sind-kirche.de/?id=527
- Call to the parish council elections that take place in 2009/10 in half of the German dioceses
- Several other activities of the diocesan groups and project groups

Important statements of *We are Church* Germany

- 4 years Pope Benedict: Growing disappointment about the pastoral stagnation
- Year of the Priest: No visible trend reversal in ordinations in Germany
- Taboo subject in Germany: Upbringing in an institution

Permanent offers of *We are Church* Germany

- Six counselling offices for women contemplating an abortion, by *Frauenwürde* → www-frauenwuerde.de
- “Cypress emergency telephone” for children and youths sexually abused by priests and religious

International work of *We are Church* Germany

- Cooperation in the team of the *International Movement We are Church* (IMWAC)
- Meeting of German-speaking church reform groups 20 - 22 March 2009 in Bernried/Starnberger See
- Organisation of the Council of the *International Movement We are Church* 16 - 18 October 2009 in Freising
- Participation in the inquiry “Church reform and human rights” on 20 November 2009 in Vienna

Preview of events of *We are Church* Germany

23 - 25 October 2009	26th Public General Meeting to ecumenism in Munich
31 October 2009	Action “10 years after signing of the Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification“ in Augsburg
from 29 November 2009	<i>We are Church</i> advent calendar in the internet
16 December 2009	30 years ago: Revocation of the right to teach of Prof. Hans Küng (1979)
19 – 21 March 2010	2nd Perspective Meeting of German-speaking church reform groups in Innsbruck
26 - 28 March 2010	27th Public General Meeting with Prof. Dr. Friedhelm Hengsbach SJ in Würzburg
19 April 2010	Five years ago: Election of Pope Benedict XVI.

Donations in Germany: *Wir sind Kirche* e.V. Account 18 222 000 Darlehnskasse Münster e.G. (BLZ 400 602 65)

NEW: Donations in Switzerland: *Wir sind Kirche* Account 501015.20 Raiffeisenbank St. Gallen (BC 80005)

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Assembled by: Christian Weisner