

100 years The Christian Community

CG 2022

**Worldwide Festival
Oct 7-11, 2022 in
Dortmund**

2021

**Newsletter
Michaelmas
3/2019**

2020

Over the course of the next three years, we want to initiate a process about how can we move forward into the future. Which intentions and questions will show up?

We are asking individuals and any groups around the world, to write down their concerns, topics and experiences.

Please submit no more than three topics by 15 October 2019 at the latest.

2019

to newsletter@cg-2022.org or to the conference office (see page 4). Write in your mother tongue, or anonymously if preferred. We will structure the contributions, pass them on to the Circle of Seven at the end of October 2019, and then publish the result in multiple languages.

Impulses of the younger generation will significantly shape the festival. Already young people are meeting to prepare for the festivals. In this newsletter, we therefore focus on:

**Young people in
The Christian Community**

World Youth Festival of The Christian Community, Pentecost 2018 in Cologne

"Why are you here?" "Because I'm helping in the conference bureau."- "Yes, but why are you here?" Only then did I understand what my counterpart wanted to know: an answer to the question why youth conferences are important at this time, why we invite young people from all over the world to visit us in Cologne and spend five days working on themes, laughing and singing together. The answer is simple: because meeting the other is the essence of being human. Because encounter creates peace. Because it is only through encounter that we can more and more perceive reality.

We talked about the contents of the lectures - What is reality? How do I recognize it? May I deny someone else his reality? How many different realities are there? At the end of the discussion groups we had more questions than in the beginning. But it meant that the conversations with each other became even more intense - one did not talk about the weather, but about existential, important questions that move us as a human being. Because of this, prejudices were abandoned and politics moved into the background. For example, Irena from Ukraine wrote to me that it felt to her at the conference, as if there was no war between the countries and that she had talks with young people from Russia. In this way young people carry a glimmer of peace out into the world that continues to shine in their respective hometowns.

Raphaela Pöllmann, Cologne congregation, small planning team and youth planning team

Why would I like to go to a youth festival again? Because I can understand what's important to me. I am united with people through a common idea and that gives me strength and hope, hope that someone will take care of our world.

Luba Sathkova, 19, Moscow

The architecture, especially the institute, was very impressive: beautiful footpaths with flowers, unusual buildings. In Witten itself I enjoyed the narrow quaint streets, green meadows and forests all around the city. I thoroughly enjoyed the singing and the meeting of people at the conference. The night cafe is a great idea.

Ivan Yastrebov, 17, Zelenograd

I liked to sing, dance, visit the night café and work in workshops, especially if they were in German.

Christina Schukowski, 14

This was my second time in Witten. A classmate of mine is studying eurythmy there. That's why I was very happy when I found out that the youth conference was going to take place there. Youth meetings of that kind are very important to me, and the atmosphere was very enjoyable.

We communicate in different languages, play different games, listen to interesting lectures and afterwards discuss them. Everybody helps each other, and so getting to know each other. The best part for me was in the evening, when everybody gathered in the street, played music, drank lemonade and discussed the day's events. I would love to go to such meetings more often.

Daria Matonina, 21, St. Petersburg

2019 PHANTASIE creating future

World Youth Festival of the Christian Community, Pentecost 2019 in Witten

This year, many Russian young people attended the youth conference in Witten. This makes me very happy because it is important for young people to meet people of their same age, to get to know each other and to make friends. Because the future development of our world will lie in their hands. Together, internationally, united they will certainly do better than on their own. Good luck!

Anna Geyer, priest in Russia

These days, it's always about the future. What do we want? How do we want to see our world? What can we do and how can we make our dreams come true? So many questions. But when you meet with others, when you see how many people have the same fantasies, then new ideas arise through enthusiasm. Together we can achieve anything and it is so important that we understand and experience it.

Varvara Krupskaya, 21, Moscow

2020



World Youth Festival of the Christian Community, Ascension, 2020 in Darmstadt, Germany



2018, 2019, 2020 ... our summer camps

In the nearly 100 years of the Christian community, many buds of good will have been transformed into flourishing collaboration and impulse-bearing seeds. In many established congregations it has become obvious that with the increasing age of the movement the average age of our members seems to increase accordingly. Why is that? Is The Christian Community, like many other forms of Christian faith, only accessible and interesting for older people today? The interest of young people to meet, to get to know each other, I feel, is great. But how can we reach young people? Why don't they come? Where are they at home?

René Völzke, Hamburg-Volksdorf, Helsinki & Herdecke congregations

The young people of the congregation in São Paulo feel very much part of the holiday camps, but not of The Christian Community itself. They feel that The Christian Community is more geared toward older people.

How can we give young people the feeling that religious experience can be an experience of freedom? Young people want a space where they feel welcome, without any form of prejudice. How can we create a space where young people can achieve their goals, meet and bring their cultural impulses / contributions and which does not have the label "church"?

São Paulo congregation, Brazil

In the recent Gospel reading, we heard about the feeding of the 5000. To provide food for many people can be a big task in children's and youth camps. Of course everyone is happy when it tastes good. But if all goes well, then children and youngsters can also receive spiritual nourishment during such vacations. Hopefully this spiritual nourishment will last through part of the year and remain as a memory for a lifetime.

Miriam Röger, priest in Bochum

To give musical food in large quantities, we have now published a second extensive song book, originally intended for our riding holidays, but of course it can be used in any situation.

Sylvia Stowasser, Head of Waldorf Kindergarten, Cologne Volksgarten

Ulrich Goebel, priest in Bonn, small planning team

„Fridays for Future“, „Extinction Rebellion“ and „Ende Gelände“

We do have the understanding that the future comes to us from young people. And now young people really come onto the streets every week. Is that something political that we don't have much to do with?

I have been there a few times, experiencing young people who have been emotionally affected. They have a great sensitivity towards nature, similar to our circles. A small example: during a blockade of a bridge across the river Rhine in Cologne, I experienced loving attention for a wasp that also wanted something from a pizza. *Spiegel-Online* saw "certain similarities to a religious community, because of the certainty of having discovered a truth and the desire to proselytise; they have even come up with rituals to deal with psychological crises".

But they work in earnest, professionally and fast. They wanted to prepare themselves for the upcoming political conflicts. According to the motto "Politicians take a summer break, we do not!" Fridays for Future hosted a conference for a whole week in Dortmund in late July with about 2000 participants. Skeptics warned, "You won't manage in such a short time." But they did it, finding prominent scientists as speakers and getting considerable press coverage.

They do not act naively, but with consideration. British activist and organic farmer Roger Halam studied previous social movements and concluded: "To get widespread support, the climate movement must move away from the left, abandon ideologies and become undogmatic."

The problem has long been known. Since 1968, when the Club of Rome was founded, environmental politicians have not achieved real breakthrough. Dr. Otto Ulrich warned of climate change under German chancellor Helmut Schmidt; he then designed the educational and entertaining climate change board game *Cooling Down*. Interestingly, Dr. Otto Ulrich is part of the team preparing the content for CG 2022.

Why is this environmental and climate movement catching on right now? Was it because we had two hot, dry summers? Or do social movements need a convincing protagonist? How could a 15-year-old girl trigger a worldwide movement?

I think, yes, something is coming toward us from the youth, something from the future, perhaps differently than we expected.

Wolfgang Jaschinski, Herdecke congregation

Newsletter 1, 2, 3 ... 15

Many thanks to the Kantorka Foundation. Through their donation, the newsletter can be printed and posted to the German-speaking communities. This is secured until the festival at Michaelmas 2022.

For the international distribution, we are sending multilingual PDF versions cost-effectively and speedily by e-mail to all congregations worldwide. They can also be downloaded from www.cg-2022.org.

The multilingual versions are translated by native-speaking members of The Christian Community in order to achieve a good presentation in terms of content and language. Currently there are: Anna Geyer (Russian), Gabriele Kuhn and Christian Maclean (English), Bruno Bichat (French), Dania Lucas (Spanish); Miriam Röger and Herbert Warmbrunn continue to cooperate. Thank you to all.

If printed newsletters in other languages are required, then printing and shipping from Germany would probably be too expensive; in that case it would be better done locally. We welcome and support initiatives in other countries. We might also introduce local newsletters in other continents, as the newsletter is a platform for contributions from all countries.

If we want to work together worldwide in terms of content and thus give The Christian Community a new impulse, then such a process needs to be tried out. Through the technical cooperation on the newsletter, by writing the texts and through practical action we get to know each other. In that way the newsletter is not an advertising brochure, but a tool and a means for working together in a global, voluntary team.

Imagination is needed. Let's get to work. Let's grow in numbers. Time is running out fast. From a total of 15 newsletters to Michaelmas 2022, three newsletters have already appeared.

*Wolfgang Jaschinski, Herdecke congregation,
Public Relations for CG 2022, newsletter@cg-2022.org*

The logo consists of the letters 'CG' in a large, bold, purple font, with the year '2022' in a smaller, bold, purple font directly below it.

Meetings and events

Meeting of the Big Planning Team 2019

(Applications please contact Ulrich Goebel or Tim Gottschalk: info@cg-2022.org)

Sat, Nov 09, 11 am – 6 pm, Congregation Herdecke, Huser Feld 140, D 58313 Herdecke

Meeting of the Youth Planning Team 2019

(Registrations please contact Raphaela Pöllmann: youth@cg-2022.org)

Fri., Nov. 15, 7 pm to Sun., Nov. 17, 2 pm, Congregation Bonn, Am Büchel 57, D 53173 Bonn.

As part of this meeting, a theater performance by those preparing the international youth conference Darmstadt 2020 will take place on Saturday at 7:30 pm.

Württemberg meeting "Encounters, talks, impulses"

Sat, Nov 09, 9 am - 4.15 pm, Stuttgart-Sillenbuch congregation, Schemppstr. 50, D 70619 Stuttgart (m.gerhardts@gmx.de)

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Editorial

www.cg-2022.org

Internet access for preparation and registration.

Conference office

Ulrich Goebel, Tim Gottschalk
Meckelstr. 2, D 42285 Wuppertal, Deutschland
Telephone +49 – 2104 145682
info@cg-2022.org

Young Planning Team

Raphaela Pöllmann, Lenie Gribbin
youth@cg-2022.org

Newsletter

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Next deadline is November 15, 2019