

ARBEITSGEMEINSCHAFT DER CHRISTLICHEN KIRCHEN IN DER SCHWEIZ
Plenary Meeting 22 September 2010 held in Lausanne

This meeting was held in the church of the 7th Day Adventists, just opposite the Anglican church. It was presided over by the Bishop of Chur, Vitus Huonder, and attended by representatives of the 12 churches forming the AGCK. After the welcoming coffee and croissant Revd Adèle Kelham led the group in a shortened translated (German/French) version of the Anglican Morning Prayer.

From their local pastor, Mme Emmanuelle Abt, we heard an outline of the history of the 7th Day Adventists, dating back in the USA to the 19th century and the establishment of the first church in Switzerland in 1874. Their faith is very much based on the bible, with adult baptism and believing in the imminent second coming of Christ. Sabbath is on Saturday.

The meeting continued with formalities and approvals. The budgeted income 2011 of the AGCK, based on members' quotas such as we have, amounts to SFR. 113'300.- Expenses are foreseen at Sfr. 116'100.- To this the meeting approved a further SFR. 6'000.- to cover the costs of the 40th anniversary of AGCK in 2011 – see later in this report.

Of special interest to the Archdeaconry in Switzerland was the election of Revd Adèle Kelham, Christ Church, Lausanne, representing the Anglican Church, as President for 2011 and 2012. How this works is that the 2 big churches (Catholics and Swiss Reformed) alternate every 2 years with one of the "little" churches. The present president is Bishop Huonder, the catholic bishop of Chur, and when Adèle steps down at end 2012, it will be the turn of the Swiss Reformed Church.

An important Swiss constitutional question at this time is the Church-State Relationship. Should there be an article in the constitution defining the status of religion? The AGCK working group presented the concrete question *In view of the current debate "Religious article in the federal constitution", what can the AGCK do to come to a common consensus between its member churches and to speak with a united voice?* The AGCK working group studying this is anxious that the churches speak with one voice to express their opinions. Each member church will be asked to present concrete proposals for presentation at a workshop in January 2011.

On two other questions: AGCK relationship with the New Apostolic Church and Recognition of Baptismal Rites, there was nothing further to report. Finally, various cantonal branches of AGCK said what they had been doing, especially in the line of ecumenical activities.

2011 40th Anniversary of the AGCK: How should this be celebrated? Where? When? Money? Suggestions came forth about a national church service, thanksgiving theme, publicity for the Charta Oecumenica, music, publicity, liturgy and so on..... It was generally agreed that around September would be a suitable time. The AGCK standing committee will discuss it and present some definite proposals.

The Adventists provided us with a delicious lunch and the meeting concluded at the very civilised time of 3.15 pm.

Miriam Keller, Archdeaconry Lay Delegate