

UPF-Germany plans to attend 35th Protestant Church Day in Stuttgart next year

Neumühle Seminar House, Bad Camberg, Germany, 4. October 2014



More than 30 members of UPF Germany gathered out Seminar House Neumühle near Bad Camberg for the annual meeting 2014. Karl-Christian Hausmann in his capacity as current Chairman of the German UPF opened the session by calling for a minute of silence in commemoration of the deceased Karl Meier, long-standing Chairman and lately honorary Chairman of UPF Germany. He then proceeded to give an overview of the many activities that took place in the local chapters of the UPF over the year. The 10 chapters in Germany had organised between 3 to 7 events, 46 altogether. Furthermore UPF-Germany participated in various European events, such as the Prague conference on family values and the UN Geneva conference. UPF Germany also participated in the two international gatherings in Seoul.

In addressing the current world affairs, Hausmann remarked that the founder Rev. Moon addressed the world Muslim community already 25 years ago and proposed ways to realise peace in the Middle East and elsewhere. He quoted from the speech "Islam and the Establishment of World Peace", held in Cairo in October 1990 (see

http://www.unification.net/1990/901021_2.html

UPF, being a NGO with UN recognition, is following a "Track 2" diplomacy to contribute its share to world peace. Religion does play an important role in people's lives and its forces can contribute considerably to world peace, if properly channeled.

The treasurer then gave an overview of the financial situation of the association. While 2013 saw a modest plus at the end of the year, 2014 up to now sees a small minus. Financial resources thus have to be dealt with wisely.

It was then unanimously decided to attend the nationwide "Church Day" of the Protestant church to take place in June next year in Stuttgart. UPF could be present, explaining its projects and offering presentations and talks on various topics, such as interreligious dialog, family values, MEPI and the like.

Hildegard Piepenburg was commissioned to work on an educational plan for family education, which then can be presented in all local chapters.

Another proposal meeting with approval of the members was the idea to organize a cycling tour along the former border between East and West Germany in support of Korean unification. This follows similar cycling tours organised by the Japanese and the Korean UPF chapters, from Japan all the way to the DMZ in Korea.

Other points included the establishment and growth of a youth-UPF in the example of the Giessen community. Dusseldorf is planning an interreligious football game. It is also planned to add a block to the current homepage, where people can directly address relevant issues and world affairs.

Fritz Piepenburg