The first European Unification Church legally registered in Germany

Peter Koch
December 11, 1964

Rev. and Mrs. Peter Koch in Mauny, France, May 1978. To the right, Rev. Reiner Vincenz, spiritual son of Rev. Koch

The German Unification Church was the first to be established in Europe, and its founding is considered also to be the beginning of the European church.

The roots of the European and German church go back to 1961, when several Germans who lived in the United States joined under Dr. Young Oon Kim in San Francisco. After three years, several returned to their home country.

The first was Peter Koch, who arrived on June 11, 1963, in his hometown of Muenster, Germany. Following him were Ursula Schuhmann, Barbara Koch (Vincenz), Paul and Christel Werner with their 11-year-old son, Klaus, Elke Klawiter [Elke Vanderstok], and Peter Politzki. The first member who joined in Germany was Reiner Vincenz, who joined in the summer of 1964.