

## Protestant faith professionals visit church center at Frankfurt

Frankfurt, Germany, 13. November 2013



For decades the Working Committee for New Religious Movements of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Hesse and Nassau has been in touch with new religious movements of all kinds. Pastor Fritz Huth (now retired), former "sect expert" of the Lutheran church of Hesse, has his own style of operating this committee: First, talk the believers concerned, because only then you can be sure to have the correct information about them.

The sister of one of our members Matthias Wiesner works on this board and arranged the meeting. This time (it was the second meeting with our church), on November 7, 2013, the 12 participants were especially interested in the topic: what has changed in the Unification Church since Rev. Moon Seong-hwa in September 2012? Among the participants were pastors, some still in office, some already retired, and other religious scholars.

Even upon arrival, guests showed great interest in our chapel and the way we organize our services. The meeting started with a round everyone introducing him- or herself. We came to understand that the working group consisted of theologians and pastors, but also of teachers and students. Fritz Piepenburg gave an overview of the changes in the Unification Church since last year. In particular, he pointed to the leading role of True Mother as new head of the church. He also highlighted the importance of the Foundation Day as the beginning

of Cheon Il Guk, recognized externally by the new heavenly calendar, which started with the year 1.

The presentation was rounded off by two short video clips of Korean news channel with coverage of the 1. anniversary of the Seong-hwa ceremony.

After a cup of coffee with biscuits discussion began. Fritz Piepenburg, Claus Dubisz, and Matthias & Claudy Wiesner explained the surprising fact (for the Working Committee) that the wife of Rev. Moon, Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, has actually taken the leading role. Our concept of Messiah includes both man and woman who are both equally theologically relevant for redemption. We also talked about future succession issues and the new church constitution.

When somebody mentioned Rev. Moon as being a "communist hater" (which he later rescinded and took back), we took the opportunity to elaborate on father's role in the Korean reunification and world peace. All participants were presented with the autobiography. Interestingly, only a very few knew the book. Only one participant had already received a copy, given to her by one of our Korean sisters in front of the University of Frankfurt.

The atmosphere of the entire meeting was very open and friendly, only the chiming of the clock brought the lively discussion to a final end.

*Claus Dubisz*