



Peace Committee Report 2009 - Germany

Christa Duesberg, Anne Pommier, Frank Hoffmann, Freimut Luft,
Jürgen Menzel (clerk)

The Committee met 4 times in 2008/2009 – in September `08 with the Outreach Committee; January `09 with our Church and Peace Representative, Brian Tracy; in April `09 with Freddy hut from the ZentralstelleKDV (Conscientious Objection) and with Quäker-Hilfe; and in July in the Community Jannishausen with Davorka Lovrekovic from the Versöhnungsbund (German Fellowship of Reconciliation).

Consideration of our Peace Testimony (which will be 350 years old next year) together with the Outreach Committee, led us to the insight that Peace Work can no longer be seen as separate from work for the Environment, or for Human Rights, as these issues have huge implications for Peace on a global scale. Our Testimonies for Simplicity and Equality are therefore very closely connected with our Peace Testimony.

Our close working with other groups and committees, both within and outside the Yearly Meeting are one outcome of this realisation.

Encouragement of concrete activities within the YM:

We encouraged local and regional Meetings in Germany to consider what the Peace Testimony means to us today, in preparation for potential outreach activities on the theme in 2010. Some Meetings have taken us up on our suggestions, and are organising events locally.

We actively supported Helga and Konrad Tempel in the compiling of the „Kompendiums zum Friedenszeugnis. „ This small book is to be a record of peace work being undertaken in the Yearly Meeting at present.

Our Friend Julia Kramer travelled as a Peacemaker to Sudan in the Autumn, and took with her donations of English books on Non-Violence and other training material.

As a result of the meeting with ZentralstelleKDV, 2 Friends have volunteered to provide advice to Young Friends about Conscientious Objection.

Contacts within the Peace Movement:

„Vorrang für Zivil“ (Priority to Civil Defence) Campaign

Mennonite Peace Committee

Versöhnungsbund

Bund für Soziale Verteidigung

FriEnt- Round Table Sudan/Tschad

We are working together with other Peace Organisations to organise a conference in 2010.

Contact with International Quaker Organisations:

2 Friends participated in the QCEA Seminar on Energy, Climate Change and Conflict. (True Security) in Brussels 2008.

Jürgen Menzel is our new representative in Friends House Moscow.

We expect to participate in the next Peace and Service Consultation from EMES in November 2009.

Communication about our work takes place through our newly revived Weblog (<http://friedenszeugnis.twoday.net>) –and through articles in the Quäker.

Our annual Open Gathering „Offene Treffen“ will take place in Berlin 13-15 November on the theme of Lobbying – a new chance for Civil Peace Work.

Contact: Juergen Menzel, friedensausschuss@quaeker.org