

## GERMANY UNIT

### Activities and Events in 2017

Exemplary reports from a few events held in the three conferences: North, East and South Germany.

13.05.2017

#### „Facetten unseres Glaubens – Leben in Vielfalt“

##### Facets of our faith – living in diversity (North German Conference)

District women´s day in Recklinghausen

The participants worked with the newly published working aid “resilience” under the leadership of reverend Ruthild Steinert and Ulrike Wenneborg, the president if the Women´s Work in the North German Conference.

Based on bibliographical reports in the book and from the workshop leaders the group tried to find out how they can live authentically with God´s support. One of the tasks was to think about situations in live where the participants felt God´s embracement, either in a good childhood or through individual incidents like an act of love from a friend.

An example from the bible was the narrative of Maria and her sister Martha. Latter was not really acting authentically as she was caught in the expectations having to be a good host.

15.10.2017

#### "Erd-Charta"

##### Earth Charter (North German Conference)

About 45 women joined the event hosted by the congregation EmK Bookholzberg. The topic was „Bewahrung der Schöpfung - Unsere Verantwortung“ (preservation of creation– our responsibility).

The earth charter is a declaration of foundational ethical principles to drive sustainable development globally. The main themes: respect for life - ecological wholeness - social justice - democracy – peace.

In pairs the women discussed the omnipresent grievances such as waste, high energy consumption, over production, throwaway society etc.. Starting point was the imagination what next generations in 200 years would experience. Will everything be better? Will they understand our current problems? Will they still exist?

Reverend Ruthild Steinert (right photo) led the final worship and asked all participants, sitting in a big round, to stand up and experience how strong they are standing on the ground.

The participants felt the need for prayer and the responsibility for everyone to preserve this precious gift – the earth - God has given humankind to subdue and to protect.



25. - 27. August 2017

„Wochenende des EmK-Frauenwerks Distrikt Hamburg - „Ich wünsche dir Rückenwind!“

Weekend of the United Methodist Women, Hamburg district, „I wish you tailwind!“ (North German Conference)

23 women from different congregations met in the very north of Germany at a lake. The pleasant and friendly atmosphere in the leisure center was very supportive to have an inspirational and encouraging weekend.

The two leaders of the weekend, Gabi Fellenberg und Monika Pohl, welcomed the participants in a lovingly decorated meeting room. The narrative of Hagar and Ismael (Gen 1-21) showed the experience of help from God in a desert. In small groups the women discussed their own „desert experiences“ and how they personally got through those times with God´s help. A liturgical walk offered the opportunity to lay down the own „desert experiences“ under the cross. In the Sunday worship, the women heard about Elia (1 King 19:1-15) and the confirmation that God is seeing them and providing them tailwind.

The whole weekend was a good alternation of tension and easing of tension and ensured a joyful gathering.



## Activities and Events in 2018

This is a list of all activities and events organized by the German Women´s Work.

03.02.2018	Women´s day of the Reutlingen and Tübingen region	„Mir fehlen die Worte“ (word fail me)	South German Conference
10.03.2018	Women district meeting	„Facetten unseres Glaubens“ (facets of our faith)	North German Conference
16. - 18.03.2018	Women´s encounter weekend		East German Conference
24. - 29.03.2018	Fasting week 1/2018	„Dem Leben Richtung geben“ (giving life direction)	East German Conference
27. - 29.04.2018	Women´s seminar	„aufstehen, Krone richten, weitergehen“ (resilience)	South German Conference
25.06. - 1.07.2018	Recreation for women	„Ich sammle Farben für den Winter – Für die Seele Sorge tragen“ (taking care for our soul)	South German Conference
03. - 07.10.2018	Recreation for mothers and children		East German Conference
27.10. - 01.11.2018	Fasting week 2/2018	„Dem Leben Richtung geben“	South German Conference

		(giving life direction)	
30.11. - 02.12.2018	Bibliodrama weekend for women during Advent	„Macht hoch die Tür, die Tor macht weit – sich öffnen für das, was segensreich entgegenkommt“ (open up for blessings approaching us)	South German Conference

## From our board



Heike-Ruth Klaiber, president of the German Women ´s Work from 2003 to 2012, passed away after a short and serious illness in January this year. She was only 61 years old.

During her presidency, Heike-Ruth continued the restructuring efforts of her predecessor, which reflected in a developed profile and corporate design. Her passion to strengthen women in church and society became also visible in her contribution to the book

“Mit Weisheit, Witz und Widerstand” (with wisdom, wit and resistance), publish by the German Women ´s Work and a description of the German Women ´s Work history of more than 130 years.

## Supporting women in other countries

The German Women ´s Work is financially supporting women ´s projects and training programs in Ghana, Liberia, Mozambique, Estonia and Romania in alignment with the German World Mission and the United Methodist Church in Central and Southern Europe.

## WFMUCW

### Area Seminar Belfast

Based on the exciting experiences at the World Assembly in Houston in 2016 the board encouraged one of her presidents to join the seminar in Belfast. They also decided to financially support a young woman to join this international event. Kerstin Pudelko-Chmel, president of the South German Conference, will travel with Susanne Meister, correspondent and delegate, and 9 other women from all over Germany. In 2014 only 3 German women were present.

### World Methodist Council

For the current quinquennium from 2016 to 2021 the German Women ´s Work is part of the World Methodist Council and participating in the Inter-Religious Relationships Committee.

As the Women ´s Work correspondent and delegate can´t join the next meeting in Seoul in July 2018 reverend Mareike Bloedt, who will be ordained in June 2018, will participate in the assembly.

## Public Relations

### FrauenWege - the quarterly Women ´s Work journal

In autumn 2017 the editor in chief for FrauenWege (women ´s paths) changed from Britt Müller to Iris Hahn. The transition went very smoothly and Iris enjoys her new role very much. Since then the journal is fully in colour, which is very much appreciated by the readers.

## Editions and their key topic:

2/2017  
**Wunder**

*Miracles*



3/2017  
**Frau Luther**

*Martin Luther ´s  
Wife*

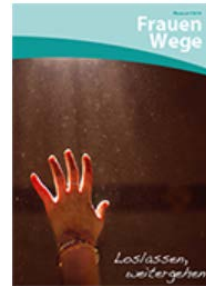


4/2017  
**Adieu**

*About dying*



1/2018  
**Loslassen &  
weitergehen**  
*letting go &  
moving on*



2/2018  
**1968**

*1968 movement*



## Internet presence – [www.emk-frauen.de](http://www.emk-frauen.de)

Webmistress Beate Lindner introduced a new homepage design to the Women ´s Work board and implemented it November 1, 2017. The new design simplifies the access to the different content sections and provides a much clearer website structure.

## Gift Book “Facetten – Leben in Vielfalt”



Under the leadership of Ulrike Wenneborg, the president of the North German Conference, the gift book “Facetten – Leben in Vielfalt“ (facets – living in diversity) has been published to encourage women (and man) to enjoy their diversity.

This collection of short articles touches topics related to church and society, identity and authentic living. They describe God ´s embracing love.

Women share their lives and dreams, describe moments of sorrow and joy.

The articles encourages to reflect individually or in a group. Every Saturday at 11 am the readers are called to pray for a few moments in unity wherever they are.