

Movimiento internacional

Somos-Iglesia

Movimento Internacional

Nós somos Igreja

Movimento Internazionale

Noi siamo Chiesa

Mouvement international

Nous sommes Eglise

Internationale Bewegung

Wir sind Kirche

International Movement

We are Church

Media release

2005-06-28

“We are Church” Celebrates its 10th Anniversary Renewing its Worldwide Commitment to Reform and Aims at Dialogue with the New Pope

(Innsbruck/Austria, Hanover, Germany) Delegates and guests from 9 countries celebrated the 10th anniversary of the Church Referendum (Kirchenvolks-Begehren) on June 24 to 26 in Innsbruck/Austria where this now world-wide movement for reform in the Roman-Catholic Church began in 1995. At that weekend the movement renewed its commitment to reform and exchanged inspiring plans for their future work.

As a reform movement within the Roman-Catholic Church “We are Church” is going to write a letter to the new Pope Benedict XVI asking for dialogue to explain our demands for reform.

The debates held all over the world at the time of the death of John Paul II. and of the election of Benedict XVI. by the Cardinals, a very small number of Church members, have shown that the majority of the People of God wants an inclusive Church, a prophetic Church.

In a message of greeting the famous Swiss theologian Hans Kueng wrote: “The election of the new Pope has not changed the problematic situation in the Catholic Church substantially. The needs are still the same, but we must not bury our hopes. The renewal of the Church from the base has to go on and will go on. I will do my share, every man and every woman should do their share.”

“We are Church” evolved from the Church Referendum in Austria in 1995 that was started after the scandal of the sexual abuse around Vienna’s Cardinal Groer. The demands for more democracy within the Church, equal rights for women, voluntary celibacy, a more positive approach to sexuality and a Gospel of joy were signed by a total of more than 3 million men and women. “We are Church” is now represented in more than twenty countries on all continents and is networking world-wide with similar-minded reform groups. As international studies of renowned religion sociologists confirm, the reforms proposed by “We are Church” are supported by the majority of the people in the pews.

Until the next Council of the International Movement “We are Church” in the spring of 2006 “We are Church” Germany will continue to hold the chair.

C h r i s t i a n W e i s n e r

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