New Apostolic Church
International



Fellowship of the baptised

Church denotes the fellowship of faith, hope, and love. It can be experienced there wherever the baptised practise their faith actively. And this is not limited to a certain denomination.

→ A part of the church of Christ
→ Respectful dialogue
→ Active at the local level

A part of the church of Christ ↑

The New Apostolic Church understands itself as part of the church of Christ, in which believers are united with Jesus Christ, as the head of the church, through the common bond of baptism. The Apostles were—and are still—given by Jesus Christ for His church as a whole. This encourages the New Apostolic Church to increasingly cultivate relationships with other Christian denominations. In an ever more secularised society, the New Apostolic Church also seeks to participate in interdenominational dialogue with all Christian churches in order to collectively pursue Christian values and goals, and to deepen mutual understanding of doctrine and divine service practice.



Respectful dialogue

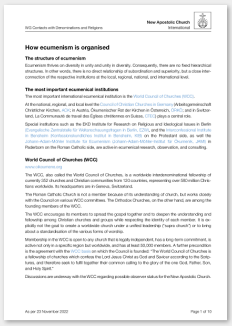
The New Apostolic Church and its members respect the religious practices of other people, and refrain from making derogatory remarks. They endeavour to have a good and peaceable relationship on the basis of mutual respect. The Church rejects any kind of religious fanaticism.

The Apostles were and are given by Jesus Christ for His entire church. This encourages the New Apostolic Church to foster an increased dialogue with other Christian denominations. In a pluralistic society, the New Apostolic Church participates in interdenominational dialogue in order to jointly represent Christian values and deepen mutual understanding.

Active at the local level

The New Apostolic Church is open to the ecumenical movement. The motto of this collaboration is: unity in a reconciled diversity that preserves the identity of the respective churches. All ecumenical contacts always revolve around Jesus as the mediator and principal focus. Since the 2000s, the Church has been increasingly represented in ecumenical bodies.

The New Apostolic Church actively cultivates good neighbourly relations with other churches and denominations at the local level. This is primarily accomplished by way of invitations to special events and through benefit events for charitable purposes.



WG Contacts with Denominations and Religions

New Apostolic Church International

How ecumenism is organised

The structure of ecumenism

Ecumenism thrives on diversity in unity and unity in diversity. Consequently, there are no fixed hierarchical structures. In other words, there is no direct relationship of subordination and superiority, but a close interconnection of the respective institutions at the local, regional, national, and international level.

The most important ecumenical institutions

The most important international ecumenical institution is the World Council of Churches (WCC).

At the national, regional, and local level the Council of Churches (Churches in Germany) (Arbeitsgemeinschaft Christlicher Kirchen, ACK) in Austria, Ökumenische Rat der Kirchen in Österreich, ÖRCK) and in Switzerland, Lei Communauté de travail des Eglises (Intérieures en Suisse, CTE) plays a central role.

Special institutions such as the EKD Institute for Research on Religious and Ideological Issues in Berlin (Institut für Kirchen- und Weltanschauungsfragen in Berlin, IKWB), and the Institute for Ecumenism and Culture in Bavaria (Institutsbeschreibung Institut in Bavaria, IKB) (in the Protestant side, as well the Johann-Adam-Möhler Institute for Ecumenism (Johann-Adam-Möhler-Institut für Ökumenik, JAMI) in Paderborn on the Roman Catholic side, are active in ecumenical research, observation, and consulting.

World Council of Churches (WCC)

www.oikumene.org

The WCC, also called the World Council of Churches, is a worldwide interdenominational fellowship of currently 350 churches and Christian communities from 120 countries, representing over 500 million Christians worldwide. Its headquarters are in Geneva, Switzerland.

The Roman Catholic Church is not a member because of its understanding of church, but works closely with the Council of Churches (WCC) committees. The Orthodox Churches, on the other hand, are among the founding members of the WCC.

The WCC encourages its members to spread the gospel together and to deepen the understanding and fellowship among Christian churches and groups while respecting the identity of each member. It is explicitly not the goal to create a worldwide church under a unified leadership ("supra church") or to bring about a standardization of the various forms of worship.

Membership of the WCC is open to any church that is legally independent, has a long-term commitment, is active not only in a specific region but worldwide, and has at least 50,000 members. A further precondition is the agreement with the WCC basis on which the Council is founded: "The World Council of Churches is a fellowship of churches which confess the Lord Jesus Christ as God and Saviour according to the Scriptures, and therefore seek to fulfil together their common calling to the glory of the one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit."

Discussions are underway with the WCC regarding possible observer status for the New Apostolic Church.

As per 23 November 2022

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