Retirement and ordinations: Karlheinz Schumacher is the new district apostle in Northern Germany

Bremen. Karlheinz Schumacher is the name of the new district apostle of the District Church of Northern Germany. He has thus taken on the pastoral and organisational direction of some 300 congregations counting approximately 45,000 members of the New Apostolic Church in the German federal states of Bremen, Hamburg, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Schleswig-Holstein and the northwest region of Lower Saxony. Beyond this, the District Church of Northern Germany also coordinates the activities of the New Apostolic Church in the countries of Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Greenland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden.

Dr. Karlheinz Schumacher lives in Bremen. He is 61 years of age and is a jurist by profession. He was ordained an apostle in 1992. His ordination as a district apostle had already been planned for July 2005, but had to be postponed on account of an illness. The now Chief Apostle Wilhelm Leber had previously led this northernmost German district church for some 13 years. On the first Sunday of Advent he served some 2,000 listeners in the Bremen Congress Centre with the Bible passage: "Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour" (Matthew 25: 13), and later ordained his successor in ministry.

After 42 years of ministerial activity for the New Apostolic Church, Bishop Ekhard Möller (65) was also granted a well deserved retirement. The chief apostle wished him and his wife peaceful days under the protective hand of God.

Wolfgang Novicic (48) was ordained as the new bishop. His task will be to support Apostle Rüdiger Krause, who was ordained this past July.

In the afternoon Chief Apostle Wilhelm Leber and the new District Apostle Karlheinz Schumacher met with representatives from the media for a press conference. For more information, visit the Webseite der Neuapostolischen Kirche Norddeutschland of the New Apostolic Church of Northern Germany.

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