



Rev. Ekkehard Zipser (l.) and Rev. Roland Herpich (r.)

PRESS RELEASE

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The Berlin Mission has a new director

On May 8, 2010 Rev. Roland Herpich was installed as new director of the Berlin Mission (BMW) in a festive inauguration ceremony at the French Cathedral of Berlin presided over by Bishop Dr. Markus Droege. The ceremony also marked the retirement of Rev. Ekkehard Zipser who served as director of the Berlin Mission from Oc. 1, 1998 – March 31, 2010. Rev. Zipser also was responsible for ecumenical relations of the Evangelical Church Berlin-Brandenburg-Silesian Upper Lusatia and gained recognition for his efforts to stabilize the financial situation of the Berlin Mission.

The new director Rev. Roland Herpich, 57, was born in Gorndorf/Thuringia and served as dean of the church circuit Berlin-Wilmersdorf from April 1, 1997 – March 31, 2010. He and his wife have two adult sons. At the beginning of his new office he stated, "The Berlin Mission could play a major role regarding the future of our church. The BMW is a link between our church and Christians worldwide: from Cuba to East Asia, from the Wolga region in Russia to South Africa. They share their experiences regarding church growth. It is important to enter into a dialogue concerning the mission of the church, and I am looking forward to taking charge of this important task.

I have always been interested how people elsewhere live their lives. During my time as pastor of the Hohenzollernplatz church we often hosted guests from our partner church in Tanzania. I also initiated the partnership with the United Church of Christ (USA/West Coast). I took an active part in the partnership of our church circuit with the Anglican Diocese of London. In addition I became involved in establishing relations with the Presbyterian Church of Taiwan.

The commitment to God's mission in this world and the efforts towards just peace and sustainable development often seem to be futile or impossible due to the alarming condition of our world today. A good example is the situation in the Holy Land. However, I am convinced that we can make a contribution to peace and justice. For us it means: patience, love and being realistic. The main pillars of this commitment are education and diaconal work.

The responsibility for Talitha Kumi (as well as the sponsorship) is of utmost importance. I am very happy that we have a good network of supporters. In this connection I also would like to mention the Jerusalem Society and the co-workers of the Berlin Mission who are fascinated with their task and co-operate as a team."

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