Evangelisch-methodistische Kirche

Ich bete für meine Kirche 2014

13–19 July — Educational Department (Bildungswerk)

If possible, to the best of your ability, live at peace with all people.
(Romans 12,18 CEB)

It is up to us!

"Well, that's not up to me!" This sentenced is often heard in conflicts. As far as we are concerned, we have done everything to live peacefully together – guilty are the others. Paul's very practical list with many clear requests tells us that it is not enough to play dead and deny conflicts. He suggests practical actions. He is convinced that such actions will come from people who have been embraced by God's love and are now enabled to live a new life in Christ. They can handle conflicts completely differently and act as troubleshooters. Paul describes a wide range of alternative actions: Don't bear grudge but think positive, don't take revenge, don't let your enemies starve and die of thirst, overcome evil with good. We talk quite differently these days in our Western culture. Self protection is most important. We say: Watch out for yourself and your rights, stand up for your own values, protect your freedom, live only for your own benefits. This self-protecting attitude seems necessary and justified in view of violence and threatening situations in so many places in our world. However, the two attitudes are not as contradicting as they may seem, they describe two different possibilities. Paul admonishes us not to see only our own problems. Even if we should already have suffered injustice, we are supposed to trust in God's righteousness and justice. That is the source of life. God's justice creates and sponsors relationships. We as Christian have this peace-making commission. Let's live it! It is up to us!

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I give thanks

- For all male and female helpers who work professionally or as volunteers in refugee works and charity organizations.
- For the courageous who reach out and forgive and who are ready for new beginnings.
- For the peacemakers who in seemingly hopeless confrontations never give up their hope for peaceful solutions.

It is my prayer

- That people fleeing from war and hunger will find acceptance and help.
- For people who work hard to solve conflicts through diplomatic activities.
- For families who are so estranged that the hurts seem to make further living together impossible.
- For the work of male and female mediators of the EmK.
- For the work on a new peace slogan in the committee for peace, justice and protection of creation.
- For the preparation of the summer course "Reading and Writing" in August.
- For all holiday camps this summer.

The **Education Mission of UMC** Is concerned with adult education in the congregations supporting parent-child groups, devotional home-groups, senior meetings and congregation workshops by providing working materials and courses for co-workers.
The Education Mission acts as a consultant and support in conflict management, and development processes of congregations. Lay volunteers are educated for preaching, counseling and congregation management.

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