

Bonner Querschnitte

Bonn Profiles – Press Reports

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The one body of Christ includes people of all nationalities, countries, cultures, languages, and also people of all classes and social milieus

The World Evangelical Alliance welcomes “Jesus Unites”

(Bonn, 28.11.2016) Thomas Schirmmacher, the Associate Secretary General of the World Evangelical Alliance responsible for relationships among the churches, praised the “Jesus Unites” platform in a welcoming address at the Free Evangelical Church in Bonn and described it as a model for other countries. “Jesus Unites” is making a significant contribution as German churches and mission agencies work faithfully with the growing number of immigrant churches, congregations holding worship services in languages other than German, and multi-cultural churches. Schirmmacher thanked the



Thomas Schirmmacher giving his welcoming address at the Free Evangelical Church in Bonn. © Martin Warnecke / BQ

Arbeitsgemeinschaft evangelikaler Missionen (Consortium of Evangelical Missions) and the German Evangelical Alliance for their foresight and engagement, extending far beyond their own member organizations.

Within the framework of the western regional conference taking place in Bonn, Schirmmacher emphasized that it has never done true Christian belief any good for the church to think and live in a nationalistic and ethnically limiting manner. “Belief in

Jesus Christ,” he observed, “transcends all national borders, languages, and cultures. There is only one body of Christ, which comprises all countries, cultures and languages, and also all classes and social milieus.”

Schirmmacher acknowledged that the state has the right to ensure that all its citizens know a particular language so that they will be in a position to participate in public life. “That role begins at the age when formal schooling starts,” he explained. “The state

A joint platform for the following Bonn organizations on the basis of the Evangelical Alliance:

Commission for Religious Freedom of the German and the Austrian Evangelical Alliance
www.ead.de/akref

Culture and Science Publ.
www.vkwonline.com

Giving Hands – International Charity
www.gebende-haende.de

Help Worldwide – International Charity
www.hilfe-weltweit.de

Institute for Pro-life and Family Studies
www.bucer.de/ilfw

International Institute for Islamic Studies of the World Evangelical Alliance
www.islaminstitut.net

International Institute for Religious Freedom of the World Evangelical Alliance
www.iirf.eu

Martin Bucer Seminary
www.bucer.org

Pro Mundis e. V.
www.thomasschirmmacher.net

Theological Commission of “Hope for Europe” (European Evangelical Alliance)
www.hfe.org

Theological Commission of the World Evangelical Alliance
www.worldevangelicals.org/tc/

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may legislate this and even use its power to ensure that people learn the country's official languages.”

“Jesus’ church, however, has received another task, for which the majority language and majority culture are secondary. The Reformation fought to allow people to worship God and to learn the Word of God in their own everyday languages. Christians with other cultural and linguistic backgrounds should not merely be permitted to honor God on German soil in the language closest to their hearts or in the language of their choice; they should be encouraged to do so. It would be absurd to force Christians to pray to God in German because they are in Germany. Also, conversations about faith with members of their own ethnic group touch on such personal and deeply felt topics that they are usually better discussed in one’s mother tongue.”

Downloads and Links:

- <http://www.jesus-unites.org>
- [Photo 1](#), [photo 2](#), [photo 3](#), [photo 4](#): Thomas Schirrmacher giving his welcoming address at the Free Evangelical Church in Bonn. © Martin Warnecke / BQ

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