

## The Anglican/Episcopal Church of St. Boniface, e.V. Augsburg

*“The only English-speaking Anglican/Episcopal Church in Augsburg  
Where all are welcome; no exceptions.”*

VICARS REPORT TO THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM) - 1 May 2022

Dear members of St Boniface, all visitors and guests, welcome.

A lot has happened at St Boniface since we last met more than a year ago. Just a few weeks after the AGM, our Warden, Dave Wagner had to tender his resignation – because he and his wife Beth had to leave Germany (due to job-related reasons). Back then we were still in the middle of the pandemic. Fortunately we were able to find others, who could continue as wardens and were also able to appoint someone (Dagmar Hamberger) to fill the vacancy on the BC, temporarily. That allowed us to remain functional as a mission congregation.

I would also like to mention that we continued to have weekly, Eucharistic services. You may be surprised, that I am even mentioning this – after all, that is what churches do, that is their “core-business”, so to speak, isn't it? But that already shows, in what strange times we live now, where even such basics cannot be taken for granted. We cannot deny, that the Covid-19 pandemic has influenced the way we operate, and – let us be honest – taken it's toll. Take children's ministry, for example, which though it used to be a rather tender plant, had managed to survive for many years – but has ceased to exist, effectively blown away by the rough storms of the past two years. Another example would be the after-church fellowship, our beloved (and famous!) coffee hour, which we had to give up, due to public health restrictions on all levels; but which might just experience a resurrection.

It is more than obvious, that the crisis situation – meaning Corona and the consequences on public life – have more than any single other thing left its trace in our life as a community: hybrid services, online BC-meetings, a lot of “virtual” interaction among the leadership and with members, changed plans, canceled meetings, you name it: all, that happened in the public space around us did not stop short of the church – and happened to us as well. Another year without bishop's visitation, often very limited room for social interaction within our community. On the one hand, a reason to moan – and we do recognize the emotional burden that Covid has added to our church life, to every one of us, over the last two years: at the same time, and on the other hand, we rejoice and proudly say: we have survived, St Boniface is still there, still alive and kicking. To summarize this from a personal perspective: in 2018, when I started as a vicar here, I had plans and dreams of growth and expansion; at the moment I am more than happy to assure that we do not fall apart. (Obviously that does not mean, that the dreams have died; they have just been shelved for a while).

Considering activities like our (first and tentative) participation in the Open Air Service in the Botanical Garden, the Take-Away Thanksgiving Dinner for the homeless (with the *Wärmestube*),

a series of monthly “Virtual Banquet” (with sharing of recipes and an online dinner fellowship), a first attempt at observing the so-called “Season of Creation” in our liturgical calendar, a second time of doing “Lessons and Carols” as a pre-recorded, online event and many more makes me think that this was not a “year lost” - not at all.

And even beyond the boundaries of our immediate community of St Boniface, this year was also important for us as part of larger bodies, like the Convocation (which met in Nice, France & online for the convention in October), TEC, ACK and CAECG. Not all meetings were happening as planned, but still. Even for me, as a member of the clergy, 2021 brought the first “Clericus” meeting after a long break, in September.

Our host church, *Auferstehung*, had to get their roof repaired, so for a better part of 2021 they were not able to use the church building – and the same goes for us, too. It took us some time to get used to the “exile” in the church hall - but we managed. And, while speaking of our host congregation, they had to bid farewell to their Pastor (Benjamin Lorenz) recently (the position of pastor is currently vacant, there).

I am expecting that we will experience a time of new beginnings, as we continue to reclaim some kind of “normality” again – bit by bit. And my hope would be, that we see this as an opportunity, granted to us by our God, who is a God of new beginnings.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lutz Ackermann". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

The Reverend Dr. Lutz Ackermann+ (Vicar)