

IKV FOUNDATION BOARD REPORT ON THE YEAR 2020¹

The Board of the IKV Foundation met four times during the year 2020, respectively on February 18, June 16, October 20 and December 1st. Due to the restrictions caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, only the first meeting in February was held in the PAX office in Utrecht; the following meetings were video-meetings.

New PAX director

In the meeting of February 18 the Board members had the opportunity to get to know Mrs. Anna Timmerman, the new PAX director, who started in office on January 6, 2020. Her appointment was officially approved by the Board.

Exploration of merger with Pax Christi

The most important theme for the Board in the year 2020 was an in-depth investigation regarding the possibilities to come to a merger with the Pax Christi Netherlands Association. But the reflection on the mutual relationships between the three organisations and their governance models led to the preliminary conclusion that the merger of the *Association* of Pax Christi with the *Foundation* of IKV with its member churches was too difficult for a quick implementation. Both parties decided to put the plans on hold, but to continue to work together and to strengthen their mutual relationship.

An advisory report by Houthoff on the governance of PAX, IKV and Pax Christi, issued on request of the new PAX director in the summer of 2020, revealed some shortcomings in the field of governance. Due to new legislation, the director of PAX could not be member of the Board of the IKV Foundation any longer. This issue was immediately resolved.

Other important issues

Other themes on the agenda of the Board were *a new procedure for selection and appointment of the members of the Supervisory Board of PAX*. This was necessary as part of the appointment procedure, because in March 2021 three new Board members have to be appointed, among them the new Chairperson of the Supervisory Board.

In the joint meeting with Pax Christi, the IKV Board members were informed about the *Peace Week 2020*, which - due to the Covid-19 pandemic - met some limitations. The theme was "*Vrede verbindt verschil*". In cooperation with the Dom Church in Utrecht, the Peace Week Lecture could be held in the church building with the participation of members of local churches and members of the local Peace Embassies.

¹ To be added to the Financial Statements 2020

In this same meeting also the *Budget for the year 2020 and the Financial Statements of the year 2019* were approved by the Board.

In the October meeting the Budget for the year 2021 was approved by the Board.

The issue of *Racism in the Netherlands* was discussed in the meetings of October and December. The experience of the Moravian Church in the Netherlands (consisting of a great number of members with Surinam roots) was taken into account in a preparatory video-meeting. In the October meeting the proposal was accepted to invite a representative of the Association of International Churches in the Netherlands SKIN (Together Church in the Netherlands) to hear their experiences and plans. In the meeting of December 1st, Mrs. Madelon Grant of SKIN shared information about local practices on how to discuss racism in local congregations and parishes.

In several meetings the support to the Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel (EAPPI) was discussed. As the Protestant Church in the Netherlands was not able to continue its financial support, this was assumed by the Remonstrant Brotherhood. Unfortunately, due to the travel restrictions, it was not yet possible to send a Dutch observer to Israel and Palestine.

Another ongoing subject on the agenda refers to the investment policies of Dutch Pension Funds. As a result of a profound investigation by PAX and other NGOs into the investments of the most important Dutch pension funds, the members of the Board started conversations with those member churches that have their pension arrangements accommodated in the Pension Fund for Care and Welfare (PfZW), in order to exercise pressure on the managing board to stop investments in arms-producing companies.

Visit to member churches

On March 10 an IKV delegation and the new PAX director Anna Timmerman met with the members of the Executive Committee of the Protestant Church in the Netherlands. Due to Covid-19 restrictions a meeting with Bishop De Korte was held via Teams on June 17.

Moral and Political Consultation

The Moral and Political Consultation, an activity with a firm participation of some IKV Board members, was put on hold in 2020, awaiting the end of the Covid-19 restrictions and the input of the PAX director.

Composition of the Board

In 2020 the IKV Foundation Board consisted of the following members:

Ineke Bakker, chairperson

Ad van der Helm (Roman Catholic Church)

Ben Schennink (Roman Catholic Church)

Karin van den Broeke (Protestant Church in the Netherlands)

Geesje Werkman (Protestant Church in the Netherlands)

Arrien Kruyt (Remonstrants Brotherhood)

Fulco van Hulst (Mennonite Church)

Christine Welschen and Waldo Idoe (Moravian Church)

Sem Krepel (Old Catholic Church)

Jack Bogers (Quality seat).

Utrecht, July 2021