



Evangelisch-reformierte Kirche Schweiz
Église évangélique réformée de Suisse
Chiesa evangelica riformata in Svizzera
Baselgia evangelica reformada da la Svizra

15

Synode
vom 12.–14. Juni 2022 in Sitten

Ökumenisches Institut Bossey: Zielsumme 2023

Antrag

Die Synode beschliesst, für das Ökumenische Institut Bossey und seinen Stipendienfonds 2023 eine Sammlung mit der Zielsumme von CHF 60 000 durchzuführen.

Bern, 12. April 2022
Evangelisch-reformierte Kirche Schweiz

Der Rat
Die Präsidentin Die Geschäftsleiterin
Rita Famos Hella Hoppe

Kommentar

Das 1946 gegründete Ökumenische Institut in Bossey (Bossey) ist das Zentrum des Ökumenischen Rates der Kirchen (ÖRK) für akademische ökumenische Aus- und Weiterbildung sowie ein internationales Zentrum für Begegnung und Dialog. Es bietet Postgraduate- und Doktoranden-Studiengänge sowie Weiterbildungskurse für Theologinnen und Theologen sowie Laien an. Folgende Abschlüsse können erlangt werden: *Complementary Certificate (CC) in Ecumenical Studies*; *Master of Advanced Studies in Ecumenical Studies*; *Doctorate in Theology (Mention Ecumenical Studies)* sowie das *Certificate of Advanced Studies (CAS) in Ecumenical Studies*. Bossey wird auch für Sabbaticals von Pfarrerinnen und Pfarrern genutzt. Wichtiger Bestandteil des Studienbetriebs und des ökumenischen Lernens in Bossey ist das gemeinsame soziale und geistliche Leben. Seit 2011 wird erfolgreich ein interreligiöser Sommerkurs für Studierende mit christlichem, jüdischen und muslimischen Hintergrund durchgeführt.

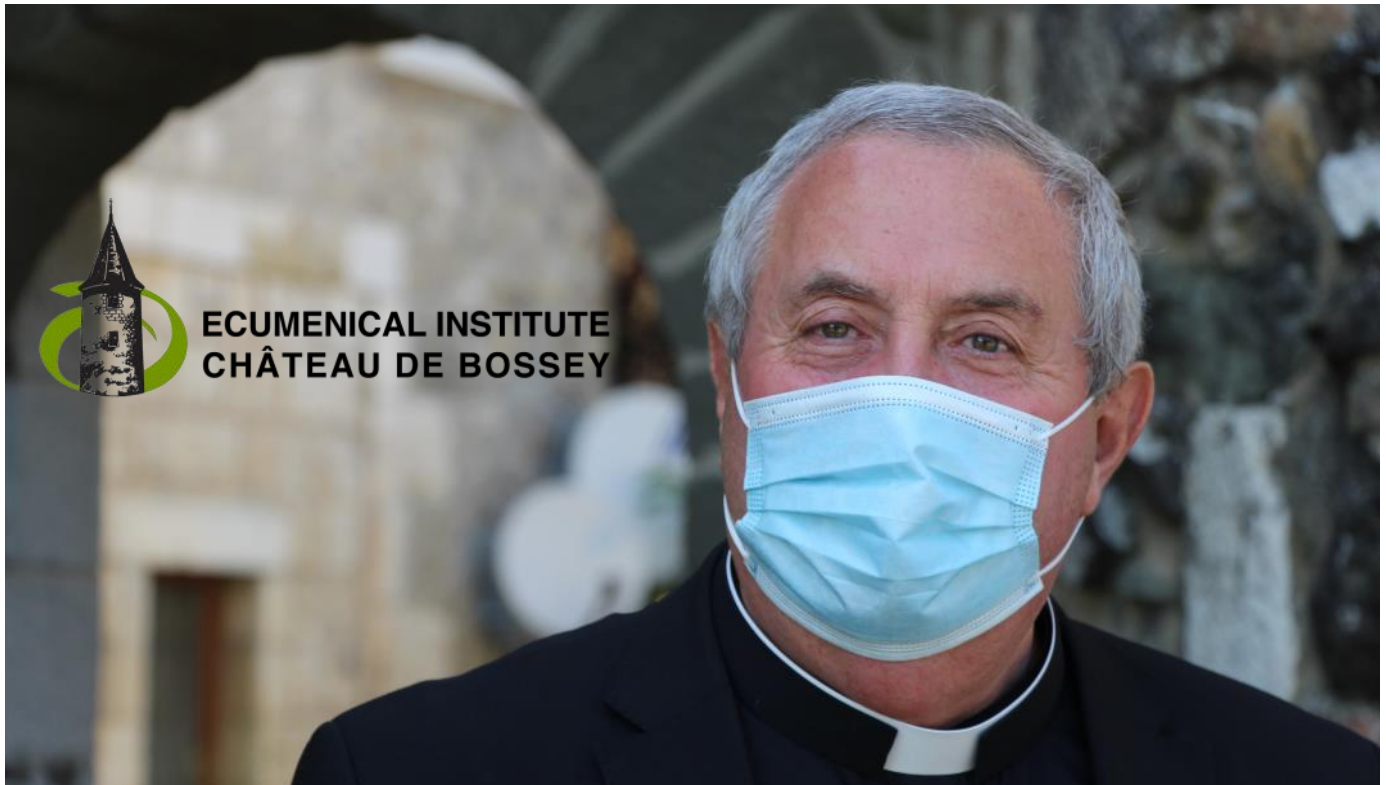
Bossey erinnert die Kirchen auf lebendige und beharrliche Weise an die Aufgabe, junge Menschen auszubilden und sie zu motivieren, sich an ihrem jeweiligen Ort oder in der ökumenischen Bewegung für die sichtbare Einheit der Kirche und eine gerechtere und friedlichere Welt einzusetzen. Ziel des Instituts ist es, einen Ort des ökumenischen Lernens und der ökumenischen Erfahrung anzubieten. Für die Kirchen weltweit bildet Bossey als Studien- und Begegnungsort einen wichtigen Bezugspunkt. Über die Verwendung der Gelder informiert der beiliegende Newsletter des Ökumenischen Instituts Bossey vom September 2021.

Die reformierten Kirchen der Schweiz sind mit Bossey seit Jahrzehnten verbunden. So bestehen vielfältige Beziehungen zwischen einzelnen Kirchen und Gemeinden mit Bossey. Seit Jahren finden jeweils in Schweizer Kirchgemeinden im Advent die Besuche der Studierenden Bosseys statt. Die Evangelisch-reformierte Kirche Schweiz EKS ist in der *Bossey Accompaniment Group* vertreten und engagiert sich darüber hinaus für die Belange von Bossey.

Weitere Handlungsmöglichkeiten unserer Kirchen zugunsten von Bossey sind:

- die finanzielle Unterstützung von Schweizer Theologiestudierenden durch Mitgliedkirchen
- die Förderung des Besuches der Kurse von Bossey im Rahmen der Aus- und Weiterbildung der Pfarrerinnen und Pfarrer
- Abhalten von Tagungen und Retraiten in Bossey
- eine Daueraufgabe ist das Werben um mehr Studierende aus der Schweiz in Bossey
- zusätzliche Kollekten zugunsten von Bossey. Im Jahr 2021 haben HEKS, Kantonalkirchen, Gemeinden und Privatpersonen direkt Spenden und Kollekten in Höhe von CHF 213 643.00 gemacht. Das Sammelergebnis 2021 der EKS betrug CHF 56 192.00. Die Spenden aus der Schweiz bilden 23 % der Einnahmen von Bossey, 37 % kommen aus Kirchen aus dem Ausland, 40 % werden durch den Betrieb von Bossey selbst erwirtschaftet.

Der Rat beantragt der Synode, für das Jahr 2023 in den Mitgliedkirchen eine Kollekte mit der Zielsumme von CHF 60 000 zu erheben und das Sammelergebnis hälftig auf das Ökumenische Institut und seinen Stipendienfonds aufzuteilen.



Greetings from the Bossey Ecumenical Institute. I continue to thank God for your faithful prayers and generous support. It is because of you and others that Bossey continues its mission of forming ecumenically trained leaders to engage in the transformation of the church.

Your generosity enabled our resiliency. Despite the uncertainty of 2020 and early 2021, we graduated 24 students with certificates in ecumenical studies from 19 countries, representing 19 churches. Another four master's students from four countries, representing four churches, graduated in June, 2021. Even COVID-19 could not stop the ecumenical formation of pastors and theologians from around the world!

With great excitement, we are expected to welcome nearly 40 students for the 2021-2022 academic year, representing 32 churches from China, Democratic Republic of Congo, Egypt, Germany, Greece, Honduras, Hungary, Indonesia, Madagascar, Mexico, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Republic of Congo, Romania, Russia, South Korea, Sweden, Thailand, United Kingdom, United States of America, Ukraine and Zimbabwe.

While some schools focus on distilling and passing on information, the mission and pedagogy of Bossey is fundamentally formational. Our graduates should understand, embrace and insist that the church isn't simply called to preach the gospel with words or to enact it with service; it is also called to embody the gospel in the character of its own fellowship. We engage students in constructive, if sometimes difficult, dialogues at Bossey out

of a conviction that they need one another in order to be the church more fully and to understand God more truly.

The majority of students receive a scholarship to study at Bossey. The cost of a 6-month certificate course is about CHF 12,850. The cost for the master's programme is about CHF 24,500.

In 2020, the Ecumenical Institute received CHF 570,000 in scholarship funds from friends, parishes, churches, and partners. Through your generosity, we awarded CHF 450,000 in scholarships.

Your contribution helps make it possible for Bossey to continue reaching more students every year, forming leaders, transforming lives and helping the church make its unity in Christ visible to the world. On behalf of the students and faculty, please accept our sincere appreciation for your continued support.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Prof. Dr Ioan Saucă

Acting General Secretary,
World Council of Churches
Director of the Ecumenical Institute Bossey

Bossey graduates set out to “be ambassadors of reconciliation and unity”

Bossey combines academic teaching and experiential learning, as the students live together, share everyday life, participate in prayer and go on study visits together. The curriculum connects theory and practice in order to enable formation that may lead to transformation.

As they return to their home countries, graduates fondly recall their formation and look forward to using it to transform their communities



Zhao Meiqing, from China, defined the 2020-21 graduating class as “the COVID generation,” citing a year full of uncertainties, constant changes and adaptations.

“Thanks to the tireless efforts of the faculty at Bossey, not only are we a group of no less diversity, we have also made the best of the time, living out ecumenism together! Bossey, as the ecumenical laboratory, is a place where chemistry happens through our encountering, sharing and learning together. Walls that separate us are broken down as we appreciate the diversity among us with understanding and patience.”

Graduation is not the destination of their journey together, Meiqing added. “As we head back to where we are from, we joyfully bring with us the burden of embodying the spirit of unity gifted to us and carrying the movement forward through the love of Christ, to be ambassadors of reconciliation and unity in our respective contexts!”

Rev. Evans Nyamadzawo, from Zimbabwe, described Bossey as “a full package of ecumenism” in all aspects. “Unity in diversity is expressed in all forms: in classes, prayer life, and daily life. It was amazing how we interacted in and outside the classes despite our differences in race, regions, countries, languages, and churches.”

Nyamadzawo’s vision is to be an ambassador of ecumenism in Zimbabwe and beyond. “I would like to promote ecumenism in all circles I am part of.”



“Living with and experiencing people with different ideas and cultures was most rewarding for me at Bossey,” said **Rev. Sang Hoon Han**, a missionary from Burundi. “I realized that there were people with different perspectives beyond my imagination, and I wish to become a more humble and inclusive person.”

Han is heading home to teach Burundi churches and Christians about the ecumenical movement and spirit.

“Moreover, I want to help them to be more tolerant and inclusive of their conversations with people of other faiths.”

2020 exchange of Bossey students with Swiss Protestant parishes

Due to Covid-19 restrictions, study visits to Swiss Protestant parishes were not allowed in 2020. Instead, an online exchange with representatives of the Reformed Church Bern-Jura-Solothurn took place with Rev. Susanne Schneeberger, Rev. Heinz Bichsel and Ms Lisa Krebs, all belonging to the organizing partner OeME Secretariat of cantons Bern-Jura-Solothurn of the Reformed Protestant Church in Switzerland.

The meeting was well-organized in three sessions: 1) Overall religious landscape in Switzerland and especially the Reformed Church; 2) Local thematic work on interreligious dialogue; and, 3) Local thematic work on “blue community” and other ecological concerns.

Students participated in all sessions and gave the meeting very positive responses, noting how the sessions informed their understandings and modelled how to critically and constructively reflect on the challenges and opportunities in a particular context while engaging across contexts with urgent global challenges.



Kirsty Borthwick, from the UK, reflected on the exchange:

“Since I am engaged in parish placements at home in the UK as part of my ordination training, I was excited about the prospect of spending a weekend with a Swiss Parish.

Whilst disappointed that the in-person visit had to be cancelled, I am very grateful for the ingenuity and flexibility of our hosts in putting together an online programme in its place.

It was excellent to learn about the Swiss Reformed tradition and in particular about specific projects the Swiss Reformed Church is engaged in.

It was good to relate what we have learned about water justice and interreligious work in the programmes of the WCC to what is happening in similar projects in the Swiss local context.

I was grateful that our hosts were so open to conversation and questions.”



Bossey faculty and students in December 2020

Enclosures

Academic year 2020-2021 – Resident students by academic programme

Narrative and Financial Reports

Should you require detailed narrative and financial reports for 2020 please contact Laura Sandoval Merritt at LSM@wcc-coe.org

Contributions

Please consider making a contribution for the 2021-2022 academic year.

Please specify if your contribution is for the “Ecumenical Institute” or “Bossey Scholarships”.

Beneficiary

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