



Church and Peace

International Office

***Church and Peace* - the ecumenical peace church network
of communities, training centres, peace organisations
and peace service agencies in Europe**

German Mennonite appointed General Secretary for Church and Peace

Schoeffengrund/GERMANY, 30 March 2017 - The European ecumenical network Church and Peace has appointed Ms Lydia Funck to serve as its new General Secretary, beginning 1 April 2017.

A member of Bad Königshofen Mennonite Church, Ms Funck was awarded a Masters of Arts in Peace and Conflict Studies in March of this year from Philipps-Universität Marburg.

She has represented the Association of Mennonite Congregations in Germany (AMG) in the working group “The Gospel and Social Responsibility” of the Association of Protestant Free Churches in Germany (VEF) since November 2015 and has been a member of MEET (More Ecumenical Empowerment Together), an ecumenical network for young people in Germany since September 2012.

Ms Funck was a delegate for the AMG to the 10th Assembly of the World Council of Churches in Busan, South Korea in 2013.

Responding to her appointment, Ms Funck said, “I am excited about being able to join a network of people engaged in peace work rooted in a faith conviction, bringing together peace theology and practice, living out Jesus’ invitation to nonviolence and love of one’s enemy.

“I am looking forward to being challenged by diverse tasks and topics such as bringing together the members of the network or continuing the dialogue with the churches on nonviolence and the concept of ‘just peace’. Surely, I will have lots of opportunity to learn about initiatives of individuals, churches and organisations and to get to know their struggles and hopes.

“I want to feel the ecumenical energy that has inspired people from diverse backgrounds for decades to struggle for justice, peace and integrity of creation and make it accessible for a younger generation. It is high time that Christians across Europe become more visible and audible in their quest and engagement for peace. I am looking forward to becoming a guiding part in this task and meeting and working with inspiring individuals and groups with a vision for a future in peace and justice.”

Church and Peace chair, the Revd Antje Heider-Rottwilm welcomed the appointment, “Coming from a Mennonite background, and that means a tradition as a historic peace church, Lydia Funck took the chance to make important experiences in the ecumenical movement in Germany and worldwide. I am convinced that her personal as well as academic experiences will give the European network Church and Peace inspiration and strength - and mobilize the engagement and commitment of young people for an ecumenical, nonviolent face of the Church.”

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Photo of Lydia Funck available upon request to intlooffice@church-and-peace.org.