



# We Are Church International

International Movement We Are Church (IMWAC)  
www.we-are-church.org

- 1995** **Church Referendum** 'We are Church' started in Austria, Germany, and Southern Tyrol. 2.5 million signatures for a renewal of the Roman-Catholic Church according to the intention of the Second Vatican Council
- **The creation of a Church of brothers and sisters**
  - **Full participation of women in all aspects of Church life**
  - **Removal of the obligation of clerical celibacy**
  - **A positive attitude towards sexuality and recognition of the primacy of an informed moral conscience**
  - **A message of joy and not threat or discrimination.**
- 1996 **International Movement We are Church (IMWAC)** founded in Rome
- 1997 Participation at the **Ecumenical Meeting in Graz/Austria** (despite the intervention of Cardinal Ratzinger)
- 1997 **Incontro Internazionale Del Popolo Di Dio** to present signatures to the Pope at the 35th anniversary of the opening of Vatican II
- 1998 **'Pope for the Time to Come: Bishop of Rome and Universal Pastor'**  
More than 145 major groups around the world endorsed the document.
- 1999 **Forum of European Christians** shadowing the Bishops' Synod for Europe in Rome
- 2001 **Synod of the People of God** – with participants from around the world shadowing the **Xth Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops** in Rome
- 2002 **We are Church-YOUTH at Challenge the Church** parallel to the 'WorldYouthDay' in Toronto/Canada
- 2003 **IMWAC-Council** in Barcelona/Spain
- 2004 **IMWAC-Council** in Brussels/Belgium
- 2005 **Conclave-Project "Visions of a New Church"** in Rome, April 14-16
- 2005 **'We are Church – worldwide'** 10th anniversary of the Church referendum in Innsbruck/Austria
- 2005 **We are Church-YOUTH** initiates 'WorldYouthDay4all' at Catholic WorldYouthDay Aug. 2005 in Cologne /Germany
- 2006 **IMWAC-Council** in Freising/Germany, June 16-18
- 2006 **Third letter to Pope Benedict** asking for dialogue on the **10th anniversary of the International Movement We are Church** (founded in Rome, Nov. 25, 1996)
- 2007 **Informal IMWAC-Council** at the 10th anniversary of N6s Somos Igreja in Lisboa/Portugal
- 2008 **IMWAC** participated in the **Call for Women's Ordination** during Bishop's Synod in Rome, organized by WOW.
- 2009 **IMWAC-Council** in Freising/Germany, October 16-18
- 2010 **Informal IMWAC-Council** in Mennerode /The Netherlands, May 7  
**IMWAC** participated in the **Call for Women's Ordination** at the end of the 'Year for Priests' in Rome
- 2011 **Memorandum "Church 2011: The need for a new beginning"**, Romero-Appeal, Solidarity with Bishop Morris  
**informal IMWAC-Council** in Barcelona/Spain, April 28
- 2012 **Press conference „Witnesses of a renewed Church for the times to come“** in Rome, October 9  
**IMWAC-Council** in Lisbon/Portugal, October 26-28
- 2013 **Conclave-Project "Collegiality, Justice and Pastoral Wisdom"** in Rome, March 4-14  
**Letter to Pope Francis and to the Cardinals about Reform of the Roman Curia**, September 20  
**IMWAC-Council & Council-50-Working Group** in Dublin/Ireland, November 1-4
- 2014 **Synod-Project** in Rome, October 4-18
- 2015 **IMWAC-Council & Council-50-Working Group** in Vienna/Austria, March 13-15  
**Family Synod-Project, Pact of the Catacombs & Council-50** in Rome, October/November
- 2018 **Joint conference: WAC-I-Council, European Network, Global Council Network** in Rome/Italy, March 15-19  
**Monitoring the Synod of Bishops "Young People, the Faith and Vocational Discernment"** in Rome, Oct
- 2019 Monitoring of **Amazonia Synod**
- 2020 Monitoring of **German Synodal Path**
- 2021 **Celebration & Council meeting in Rome "25 years of WAC-I"**, Monitoring the worldwide "Synodal Process"

**The We Are Church movement has a presence in or is co-operating with similar groups in** Algeria, Austria, Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Catalonia, Chile, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Finland, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Liechtenstein, Kenya, Malta, Mexico, New Zealand, The Netherlands, Norway, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Russia, Scotland, South Tyrol, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, Tanzania, United Kingdom, USA, Venezuela

**We Are Church cooperates with other reform movements around the world** e.g. European Network Church on the Move (EN), Women's Ordination Worldwide (WOW), North Atlantic Federation for a Renewed Catholic Priesthood, Catholic Church Reform International, Global Council Network, International Catholic Reform Network (ICRN).

**Chair:** Colm Holmes, *We are Church Ireland*, Tel. +353-86606 3636, E-Mail: colmholmes2020@gmail.com  
**Vice chair:** Dr. Martha Heizer, Plattform *Wir sind Kirche*, Austria, Tel.: +43 650 4168500, E-Mail: martha.heizer@inode.at  
**Media Contact:** Colm Holmes, *We are Church Ireland*, Tel. +353-86606 3636, E-Mail: media@we-are-church.org  
**Webmaster:** Valerie Stroud, We are Church UK; Great Britain, Tel.: +44-1634-715278, E-Mail: valeriejstroud@gmail.com  
**International Contact:** Jean Pierre Schmitz, France & Mauro Castagnaro, Italy  
**Finance:** Finbarr Quigley, Ireland