



Annual Report 2009
of the Reformed Church in Hungary



CONTENTS

OPENING ADDRESS OF THE SYNOD PRESIDIUM	[1]
"With heart and mind!"	[1]
God's co-workers	[3]
Preamble of the Synod's Working Plan (2009-2014)	[5]
WORK OF THE SYNOD IN 2009	[6]
MAJOR EVENTS IN 2009	[8]
"With heart and mind" – In Memoriam John Calvin 2009-2014	[8]
Constitutional Synod – 22 May	[13]
THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE STATE AND CHURCH	[22]
PARTNERSHIPS INSIDE AND OUTSIDE THE CARPATHIAN BASIN	[23]
Sister Church relationships	[27]
THE HUNGARIAN REFORMED CHURCH IN SOCIETY MISSION	[31]
Diaconia	[36]
Health Care Service	[39]
The Church of Young People	[40]
Education	[42]
STATISTICAL SNAPSHOT OF THE REFORMED CHURCH IN HUNGARY	[45]





OPENING ADDRESS OF THE SYNOD PRESIDIUM

GUSZTÁV BÖLCSKEI'S OPENING ADDRESS

“With heart and mind”

Dr. Gusztáv Bölcskei, bishop of the Transtibiscan Reformed Church District, was re-elected for the third time on 25 February 2009 as the presiding bishop of the Synod of the Reformed Church in Hungary

Every six years, the RCH undergoes a change in leadership. This gives the church an opportunity to recognize and assure that a given community sees the gifts and talents of leadership and church government among its members and enables the expression of this recognition. In a new Synod term, the work of the new session must, among other things, be to review and embrace the past, its legacy, with all of its advantages and shortcomings.

We must always try to evaluate our current situation, taking into account the events of the past, and we must ask ourselves in which direction we are able and wish to continue. This can only be done if - despite our preoccupation with our daily events, worries and stresses - we remind ourselves of the essence of the church, that is, our need to cling to Christ and remain rooted in His Word. Finding a balance between these things can only be done in line with Calvin's leading motto: “with heart and mind.” The unified use of the two; heart and mind in the mother church share the questions between the two in a way that is mutual and constitutes common thought.

The commemoration of the 500th anniversary of John Calvin's birth was a significant event for most of us in 2009. According to the decision of the Synod, we honour the anniversary of John Calvin's birth and death within the framework of “In Memoriam John Calvin 2009-2014.” We wish not only to commemorate this significant jubilee, but also to show and re-explore the purpose and legacy of the Calvinist Reformation. Our aim in these years is to strengthen the Reformed identity and show those basic virtues that define our community.



One of the events paramount for Hungarian Reformed Christians and the most significant for us as a Calvin Year event was the Unifying Constitutional Synod of the Hungarian Reformed Church (HRC). Following the referendum on 5 December 2004, we decided that despite the shameful results of that day, at least the HRC must show its unity. In 2005 we declared that those who confess to be members of the HRC – regardless of where they live throughout the world and regardless of their mother tongue – are members of our community. Furthermore, we asked ourselves what if we had a joint constitution that would be integrated into the legal framework of the individual churches, in a way similar to the way EU member states apply the

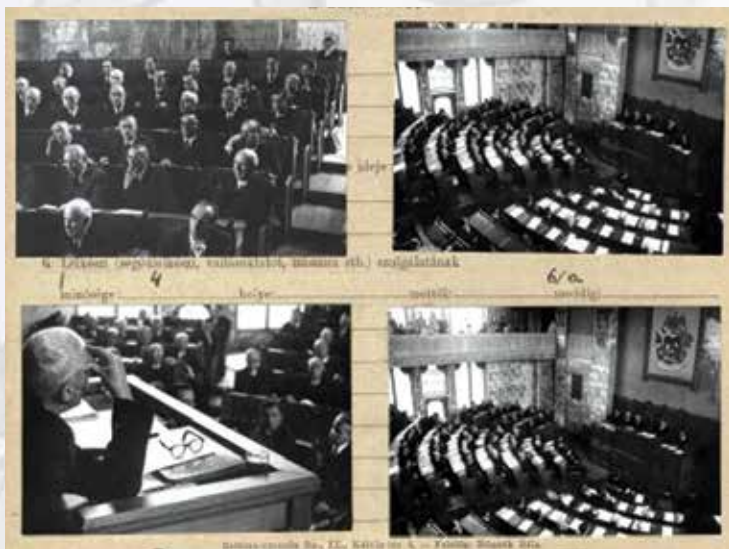


common laws of the European Union. The responsibility, blessings and commitment of 22 May 2009 will obviously bring new tasks for us. For Hungarian Reformed Christians the Constitutional Synod held on this day was also a time of thanksgiving. It was like a family reunion since we have always wished to leave the decades of separation behind us and see ourselves as a family.

In 2009, "Csillagpont" (Starpoint – Reformed Youth Festival) was organised in Fadd-Dombori (Tolna County) surrounded by the magnificent natural surroundings of one of the Danube's tributaries. This event is different from the typical summer youth festivals: proving that one can have a great time without drugs and alcohol. "Csillagpont" is an event where parents can send their children without having to worry about their well-being. Four hundred people volunteered to provide entertainment for everyone. The participants left the 4-day festival with pleasant experiences and memories. This was the fourth "Csillagpont" festival organized by the RCH, and it was a successful event. The programs combined spiritual group activities with an overall festival feeling. It is a distinct joy for us to see that the "Csillagpont" Festival is becoming an event within the Carpathian Basin and a joint cause of Hungarian Reformed Christians. If we are separated, we are not small, but incomplete. Therefore, we should have the courage to be together.



The only way we can be faithful to our calling is if, as a repentant community assured of its salvation, we view this world taking into account those realities which are often frightening and also taking into account the most important reality: God's liberating power and love, considering our own weakness, our own fallibility, and because we know that there is no other way, no other means than to look to God. In this new Synod term it is our wish that our church communities embark upon a common path both in their hearts and in their spirits. May God bless the path that lies ahead of us!



The Synod Hall in 1909



The Synod building had a 100-year anniversary in 2009

HUSZÁR PÁL'S GREETINGS

God's co-workers

Huszár Pál was elected as the Lay President of the Synod of the RCH on 25 February 2009.

“But those who hope in the Lord
will renew their strength.
They will soar on wings like eagles;
they will run and not grow weary,
they will walk and not be faint.”
Isaiah 40:31

At the commencement of the current Synod term, it is right to identify the tasks that we joyfully set out before us, which we aim to fulfill for God's glory and for the benefit of the Reformed Church in the six years ahead of us. Only by fulfilling those tasks that are clearly defined, realistic and composed in mode that is inspired by the Holy Scriptures can we be faithful servants of the Kingdom of God.

Our Reformed Church is founded on the Synod-Presbytery model, which includes the important principle of parity. I believe, that according to this principle we non-pastors as well, can purposefully assist and complement the work of our pastors and be useful servants to our Church and to the cause of God's Kingdom. Because we are not ministers, in many areas and in varying degrees, we have broader opportunities, and in certain social circles we even have greater credibility.

It is in this spirit that I would like to validate the influence of non-ministers on the leadership of our Church. I have been encouraged to do so prior to my election. I have also been encouraged to use my experience with inter-denominational relations, which I gained while serving for eight years as the Church affairs advisor to the president of the Veszprém County Assembly, and as curator of our district. As the General Curator of the Transdanubian Reformed Church District and as non-ministerial president of the Synod, I would like to express the main idea of my program with the following phrase: faithful service.

I regard both of my Church leadership functions as honourable duties and guard positions assigned by our Almighty God. With gratitude to God and with Christian humility, I would like to serve His kingdom effectively as a faithful steward. I strive to be His “obedient instrument of peace,” just as it was stated in the well-known prayer of one of the renowned forerunners of the Reformation.



2/3

In 2009 and the years that follow, we commemorate the 500th anniversary of the birth of the great Genevan reformer, John Calvin. As for the preparations for the celebration series, the Synod of our Reformed Church established the Calvin Memorial Committee two years ago, of which I have been delegated as the representative of our Church District. I was asked by the Committee to write a book about Calvin's life, his theological, reformer and church organisational activities. The book was published recently by Kálvin Kiadó, the official publishing company of the church. I try in this work to highlight the way the Genevan reformer was received in Hungary, his effect on the Hungarian church and society, and the roots of his uniquely distinguished appreciation in the Carpathian Basin. With this book, I would like to contribute to the strengthening of the identity of our Reformed brothers and sisters. Furthermore, I would like to clarify those often not well-grounded rumours connected to Calvin's name, and to discredit the false images of him that have emerged throughout the centuries. In relation to the Calvin-years, I would like to state that we do not want to present John Calvin as a “saint,” in the Roman Catholic sense of the word, but we would like to also struggle against those who try to demonize the great Genevan reformer for some reason. We hold Calvin in



respect and praise his spiritual and intellectual legacy. He used his talents, generously given to him by God, for the sake of our growth. His legacy is both present in our Reformed Christian convictions and in the Hungarian national identity.

In my view the only possible way out from the deep moral crisis of our nation is by turning to God and seeking His refuge. Just as we have seen through the historical turning points in the history of our nation during the 16th-17th century, the Hungarian nation had to face questions of survival. It was in God that the nation found its refuge and path to survival from the Ottoman peril and German conquest and in its heroic struggle for national survival and freedom of religion.

It is with faith, that I confess that in the current tasks at hand, God counts on every one of us, ministers and lay alike. He expects us, each in our own positions according to our own opportunities, to stand alongside our ministers and try to use our talents and abilities to increase the effectiveness of their faith building work. May we try to credibly speak to our fellow citizens, who cannot be reached from the pulpit, because they do not attend church. We should try to reach them in other forums.

I believe and profess, that our nation requires an internal renewal in this present state. Only this spiritual renewal and the way back to God can lead us out of this moral crisis. I firmly believe, that our God assigns many tasks to the church in this process of renewal. I clearly see that the realisation of this renewal is not only the responsibility of our ministers. They can justifiably call for the cooperation of non-ministerial leaders or other church members. I profess that all of us have to take part in this. In addition, we should be faithful watchmen for our Church wherever God has placed us.

The Lord of our Church, Jesus Christ who was crucified because of us, for us and instead of us, promised the following: "For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them" (Matthew 18:20). I wish to see the near and distant future of our Church in light of this promise. I believe with faith that our Heavenly Father who has been taking care of His Church will continue to care in the future. On the other hand, we who are His present followers have the honour to faithfully serve the cause of His kingdom. I believe that He determined our outlook through the decision of our presbytery and national Synod. The way he distinguished us with taking us as His associates to realise His plan of salvation, He expects us to be humble, faithful and committed. It is my persuasion that we have

to open up to the whole of society. The intense breach caused by the dictatorship has to be filled up. The separation between our churches and the rest of the society makes us Christians to think that we are not part of the society or of the Hungarian nation. With the assistance of God, I will seek the opportunities to offset the forces of society that have been following an old pattern and which try to restrain church activities within its walls. The cause behind this is that they are frightened; moreover, they are irritated by the presence of churches in the society. The faithful followers and beneficiaries of globalisation, who try to bring down all human values, regard Christians, or even people with Hungarian national identity as a pain in the neck. The reason behind this is that these people cannot be so easily manipulated. They are not the submissive slaves of the all-powerful markets of money and profit.

At the same time, I am convinced that if we get to know the burdens and serious problems of our nation we will realise that we Christians are completely concerned for them. This time, without straining after the demand of completeness let it be enough to address hopelessness, delinquent youth due to family instability, demographic problems, unborn children, unaided elders and the deepening moral decay. In these hard times, we wish to turn to other Christian brethren in other denominations with Christ's love and sincere cooperation, but without hopeless struggle. We are doing this in the awareness and firm belief that despite the formal differences we all wish to serve the only God of the Holy Trinity. As long as we are close to Him, we become close to each other too. The love we feel for Him connects us. We all believe and profess with faith that our Lord, the one true and perpetual God of the Holy Trinity was on our side in the hardest times. He is on our side now and He is going to be with us in the future.

Of course, this does not mean that we can stand on the sideline when our Church's fate is at stake, saying that the Lord will hold our ground instead of us. The Lord expects and requires constructive contribution to His Church. I could use the word 'useful' commonly and 'saving' in the religious sense if we manage to address our fellow countrymen who at the last census declared that in some way they belong to our Church. We would also like to address those who are not members of any denomination and urge them to seek God. Jesus Christ's sending words calls to and applies to every one of us today: "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations." We would like to fulfil the tasks that He has given to us by unbrokenly trusting our Heavenly Master's assistance.



Rev. Kálmán Csery preached at the opening session of the 13th Synod cycle

Preamble of the Synod's Working Plan (2009-2014)

The 500th anniversary of Calvin's birth provides an excellent opportunity to recall the particularly Reformed thoughts of our church life and theology, the heritage and values which unfortunately have often faded in our everyday lives, but without which true and authentic witness is not possible even today. This heritage endows us with the responsibility of continued renewal, and loyalty to God's Word in our current situation. In this way we can take strength from the basic principles of the Calvinist Reformation, of which two are crucial in our Church's current position.

The Church's wealth is its life in its congregations, and the community of those congregations "right down to the level of the Synod" makes for a living Church. "The congregation is wholly church, but it is not the whole church."

The other central Calvinist thought regards taking authentic social responsibility, the effort made for the benefit of the general public as an integral part of the Church's mission: "Where God is honoured, humanity is practised"

The General Synod's key responsibility is to bring these thoughts to life by means of responsible decisions, and to do its utmost to strengthen the congregations, deepen our community and foster our social service.

The RCH needs to serve people in an environment of a decreasing population and fewer church members. Following the initial enthusiasm, disappointment has grown tangibly

throughout society in the 20 years that have passed since the political changes in Hungary. We also have to admit that our Church currently fails to convey the everlasting message of joy to people and does not fully exploit its opportunities to shape public life. Many of us share the desire to continuously renew our Church. We would like a Church that is clearly aware of its limits, is consolidated in its mission and witness and is able to specify and execute its tasks, one which appreciates its service providers and witnesses God's love through its spiritual life and manifestations.

Our communities that live from the reviving power of the Holy Spirit as well as our committed Church members and institutions carrying out their tasks to a high standard provide the background even today, which is both an opportunity and a task to make efforts to attain the goals that we have set jointly and responsibly. It is this very richness that obliges us to determine the path, to the best of our knowledge, discretion and with our gratitude to God, on which we intend to walk in years to come.

In Calvin's year we ought to bear in mind that our resource and primary task is to spread the word of God. "God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe." (1 Cor. 1:21). The renewal of our preaching is an essential precondition for us to recognise the tasks awaiting us and gain strength from "faith working through love" to implement them.



WORK OF THE SYNOD IN 2009



Church Elections

The opening of the 13th term of the Synod commenced in February with a service of communion where the Rev. Kálmán Cseri preached quoting Jehoshaphat from the Old Testament: "For we have no power to face this vast army that is attacking us." He drew parallels with today's world where pure faith in God is challenged.

The new Synod of the RCH elected Bishop Gusztáv Bölcskei as presiding bishop of the Synod for another 6-year period. The bishop of the Synod received 66 out of 99 votes. Huszár Pál, General Curator of the Transdanubian Reformed Church District was elected lay president of the Synod. József Csomós Bishop of the Cistibiscan Reformed Church District was elected ministerial vice-president of the Synod. Tibor Ábrám was elected lay vice-president of the Synod.



Counting the votes at the opening session of the 13th Synod cycle



On the second meeting of the Synod held on March 11, Zoltán Tarr was elected general secretary, Márta Kocsis as legal adviser and Erzsébet Horváth as president of the National Reformed Collecting Council. On 22 May 2009, representative members of the Constitutional Synod of the Hungarian Reformed Church were elected in Debrecen.

Unanimous decision on exposing the past and the question of church informants

At the third session of the Synod meeting, the Synod unanimously approved exploration of the church's past and clarification of church informant issues. The Synod's Academic and Theological Committee's proposal led the main legislative body of the Church to approve on the examination of the Church's past between 1945 and 1990. The aim of the process is to become acquainted with the oppressing mechanisms of the communist system; to disclose historical truths; and to examine the relationship between pastors, church office holders and state intelligence bodies. The regulation of the Synod would allow through "repentance, forgiveness and reconciliation" for the Church's moral renewal. Furthermore, it would also allow the church to work with authenticity in the future. The Church owes "those members who faithfully served or had to suffer demoralizing humiliations" placation in revealing the truth. Moreover, the church "wants to assist future generations to rightfully see history and the church" and to solve conflicts that "stem from the unjust nature of the era."

The RCH established the Roma Mission Council in its fourth session in November. The aim of the Council is to examine the Roma situation and develop a concept of Roma ministry. The Synod at the session in Balatonszárszó made a decision on establishing a Hymnal Editing Committee. The Committee in cooperation with the General Convent (the consultative body of Hungarian-speaking Reformed churches in the Carpathian Basin) will fulfil the editing tasks of the new hymnals.



"This sacrament is the medicine for the poor patients" – The Synod meeting on 20 November closed with worship and communion

József Steinbach, bishop of the Transdanubian Reformed Church District led worship and preached at the conclusion of the Synod's fourth meeting. The Bishop comforted the congregation saying, "Jesus Christ said yes to us," thus expressing His confidence, and so "with this testimony in our hearts, we can also say yes to Him and to others. If our trust stems from our faith in Christ, it will endure even when we get disappointed."



MAJOR EVENTS IN 2009



With Heart and Mind – In Memoriam John Calvin 2009–2014

The RCH celebrated the 500th anniversary of John Calvin's (1509–1564) birth in 2009. According to the Synod's decision, we commemorated the anniversary of John Calvin's birth and death within the framework of "In Memoriam John Calvin 2009-2014." We wish not only to commemorate this significant jubilee, but also to show and re-explore the purpose and legacy of the Calvinist Reformation. Our aim in these years is to strengthen the Reformed identity and show those basic virtues that are characteristic to our community.

The Calvin Committee that was established in 2006 is responsible for the coordination and management of the events in the Calvin-years.

Major National Events of the Calvin-years in 2009

18 MARCH 2009, DEBRECEN

"John Calvin 500" – exhibition
and the opening of the Calvin-years

22 MAY 2009, DEBRECEN

Constitutional Synod of the Hungarian
Reformed Church

31 MAY 2009, PENTECOST SUNDAY

Celebratory worship in Geneva broadcasted

21-25 JULY 2009, FADD-DOMBORI

"Csillagpont" – National Reformed
Youth Gathering

24-25 AUGUST 2009, BUDAPEST

Celebratory annual general meeting of the
Collegium Doctorum with the participation
of national and international lecturers

29 OCTOBER 2009, DEBRECEN

Issuing the Calvin commemorative coin
by the Central Bank of Hungary

9 NOVEMBER 2009, BUDAPEST

Celebratory concert in the Palace of Arts
featuring works written for the 500th
anniversary of John Calvin's birth

The "John Calvin 500" exhibition in Debrecen



On 18 March 2009, we celebrated the opening of the exhibition and marked the commencement of the Calvin-years. On this occasion, a collection of essays entitled Calvin's Relevance was released by Kálvin Publishers.

As the curator of the exhibition, Máté Millisits, art historian, found it important to develop the showcase idea so the preserved mementos could be available to many people. Open exhibition cases with replica coins and touch-typing helped visually impaired people get closer to Calvin's intellectual legacy. From March until its closing in October, almost 8,000 people attended the exhi-



Visitors of the Calvin exhibition in Debrecen gained insight into the life-time achievement of Calvin

bition.. On the basis of the guest book entries, it became apparent that we could diversely represent the effect of Calvin's life work on the Hungarian and European culture to different age groups. The youth were able to participate in museum pedagogy workshops, where they could playfully become acquainted with Calvin's legacy. The opening ceremony of "In Memoriam John Calvin 2009-2014" was held in the Oratorio of the Reformed College of Debrecen.

Festive Worship in Geneva Broadcasted by the Hungarian Television

The celebratory Pentecost worship at the Saint-Pierre Cathedral on 31 May in Geneva was broadcasted by Eurovision. With high respect for the 500th anniversary of Calvin's birth, many renowned people were welcomed in Geneva and in Calvin's church. The church service was attended by Minister Setri Nyomi, general secretary of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches and by Minister Thomas Wipf, president of the Alliance Council of the Swiss Protestant Churches. The official "anthem" of the Calvin anniversary, composed by the young American writer and composer Greg Scheer, was performed by the vocal ensemble from Lausanne, one of the prestigious choirs in Europe. The choir was conducted by Michel Coboz. The officiating minister was Philippe Reymond, president of the "Association of Ministers and Deacons" founded by John Calvin. At this festive occasion Liz Vibali Vaudi, a theologian from Congo, held her church service. The communion agenda and preparation speech were held by Minister Marcel Manoël, president of the Council of the French National

Reformed Churches. He briefly summarized Calvin's impact on the French people and his ties to France. Besides the Swiss, French, German and Italian channels, national TV associations of the five continents also broadcast the event.

Celebratory General Meeting of the Collegium Doctorum

Renowned national and foreign researchers gave lectures on Calvin at the academic conference on 24 and 25 August in Budapest. The organisation of the International Calvin Conference in Budapest started in the autumn of 2008 by Mihály Márkus, emeritus bishop and president of the Calvin Committee of the RCH. The Conference took place in conjunction with the panel sessions of the Collegium Doctorum in the ceremonial hall of the Ráday College, Budapest.

Twelve lectures were held in three sessions over two days. On one hand, the researchers summarised Calvin's biography and his age. On the other hand, they explored the effect of his theology at home and in Europe. Professor Tony Lane from Great Britain examined the connections between Calvin and Catholic theology. Subsequently, Professor Alasdair Heron from the University of Erlangen-Nürnberg summarised Calvin's letters. At the beginning of the annotations to the New Testament books that were published between 1547 and 1555, Calvin recommended his works to the renowned German, English, Danish and Polish people by writing them longer letters. Professor Sándor Fazekas, editor of the study volume Calvin's Relevance, summarised Calvin's social ethics at the opening of the Cal-



Ceremonial meeting
of the Collegium Doctorem in Budapest

vin Jubilee Years. Many people among the participants noticed that within the national and international research, the Calvin letters are very much emphasized. This fact was supported by two other lectures. Professor Dezső Buzogány from Kolozsvár (Cluj-Napoca) examined the relationship of Calvin and Melanchthon through their correspondence. Erzsébet Horváth, church historian, has been exploring a field that was excluded from research up until now. With the help of Calvin's correspondence, she managed to explore his relation to the Czech people.

Many topics were discussed on the second day of the conference as well. Frank van der Pol from the Netherlands introduced Calvin and the Low Countries in his lecture. We heard about Calvin's relations with the Dutch and about the struggles and tensions that followed after his death. The general secretary of Evangelische Partnerhilfe, Hermann Schaefer summarised the history of the research on Calvin. Although Germany is characterised by Lutheranism, theologians in little Reformed minorities conveyed and preserved the Calvinist legacy. Among these theologians was Karl Barth and his followers: Otto Weber, Walter Kreck, Jürgen Moltmann, Hans-Joachim Kraus and many others.

Another area within the research that was studied narrowly is the relationship between Calvin and Judaism. Marius Ravenswaay (Germany) elaborated on this relationship in his lecture. Erik de Boer from the Netherlands, who recently visited Hungary and Barna Nagy former professor at Sárospatak, published Calvin's sermons on Ezekiel, examining Calvin's teachings on predestination with the use of Latin texts. Professor Richárd Hörcsik from Debrecen lectured on Calvin's influence in the 16th century in Hungary. He

examined the migration data and proved through the subject topics of book lists during that time, that Calvin's work and ideas were strongly present at the beginning of the 16th century in our country. Károly Fekete, vice-president of the Collegium Doctorem, lectured on Calvin's practical theological achievements. The closing lecture of the academic program was delivered by Judit P. Vásárhelyi, academic assistant principal of the Széchényi National Library. She lectured on the first Hungarian translation of the Institutes and with the help of the volume's front page she pointed out the significance of the translator Albert Szenci Molnár.

A full-text version of the lectures is published in Hungarian in the Church's quarterly, "Confessio 2009" (Fall).

Issuing the Calvin medallion by the Central Bank of Hungary

The Central Bank of Hungary issued a commemorative coin in October for the 500th anniversary of John Calvin's birth. The face value of the medallion is 5,000 HUF. On the obverse is the face value written on the bottom and the country of issue on the top. In the centre is the monogram of Christ as it appears on the front of the pulpit in the Reformed College of Debrecen. The year of issue is inscribed to the right. On the reverse is a portrait of John Calvin, fashioned from a painting by Hans Holbein, with the inscription "Soli Deo Gloria" above and his name and the years of his life below. The Euro-star logo, indicating that the coin was issued as part of the Europa Coin Programme, and the signature mark of the coins designer, Márta Csikai, are featured on either side of the portrait. There are 12,000 mintages of the commemorative coin.



Sold Out Concert on the 500th Anniversary of Calvin's Birth

"Hungary has a wonderful future" – said the secretary general of the World Alliance of the Reformed Churches. The Rev. Setri Nyomi arrived to Budapest with the greetings of 73 million Reformed people around the globe. The festive concert closed the official programs of the Calvin Year 2009 at the Palace of Arts on 9 November. Referring to the celebration in Debrecen on 22 May, the general secretary stated: that the Calvin Year in Hungary was celebrated by establishing a joint constitution among Reformed Hungarians. This act would have been honoured by Calvin himself. Gusztáv Bölcskei, presiding bishop of the Synod of the RCH, expressed the following to the audience: "Many people claim this legacy as their own, and now, Hungarians along with the world's Calvinists focus on this."



Ceremonial concert in memory of John Calvin at the Palace of Arts

On this festive occasion an elder of the Scottish congregation in Geneva gave a special gift to the four libraries of the Hungarian Reformed Seminaries. Felix Allender brought a copy of Calvin's Genevan liturgy to Hungary. The book was published in 1542 in Geneva, which he came across at the library of Stuttgart after a long research. Three contemporary Hungarian Reformed composers, László Draskóczy, Zsolt Gárdonyi and János Vajda presented their choirs at the Palace of Arts.

Calvin Memorial Plaques in Public Places

According to the Calvin Committee's proposal in 2009, local congregations placed memorial plaques in public places that bear the name of Calvin. The RCH made the memorial plaques available to all congregations in the Carpathian Basin.

Calvin Memorial Plaques

The Hungarian Institute for Culture and Art found László Szlávicz Jr.'s plaque design the best among the other designs submitted in the memorial plaque competition.



Translation of the Institutes of Calvin

With the consent of the Presidium of the Synod, the Calvin Committee agreed on a new translation of the Institutes. The Committee entrusted Professor Dezső Buzogány from Cluj-Napoca with the translation. He is assisted by theological and linguistic proof-readers. Based on the plans, the translation is going to be available in 2014, for the 450th anniversary of Calvin's death.

Calvin Commentaries

The Calvin Years provide the opportunity for updating Calvin's commentaries that are already available in Hungarian and for the preparation of commentaries that have not yet been translated. Together with Kálvin Publishing House of the Reformed Church in Hungary, the Committee plan to publish the following annotations:

- Gospel Harmony in 3 volumes
- Acts I-II.
- Romans
- Hebrews

Calvin's Garden

During "Csillagpont", the Reformed Youth Festival, András Bölcsföldi and his team of students from Budapest, honouring the Calvin Jubilee, presented an interactive exhibition, called: Calvin's Garden.





New Beginnings in the Danubian Church District – large-scale exhibitions in the castle



Our Reformed cultural heritage in the Buda Castle

Danubian Calvinism bears the history of new beginnings. After the Turkish occupation and the Counter-Reformation, Protestantism almost ceased to exist in Pest, but today Calvinists in the largest numbers live here. The art exhibition represents the traditions of the Calvinists in the last five centuries – said bishop István Bogárdi Szabó after the opening of the exhibition titled “Calvin’s tradition – Danubian Reformed cultural heritage” on 30 October in the Budapest History Museum. The exhibition lasted until 15 February 2010 and represented not only the “standard” treasures that are exhibited in church exhibitions but everyday objects too. The topic of the exhibition was the counterpart of the exhibition in Debrecen, but with a more narrow scope that focused on the Danubian territory of the Church, which under the Turkish dominion developed differently than the other church districts. This was summarised by Zsigmond Ritoók in the preface of the catalogue to the exhibition.

The idea of the exhibition came from László Kósa an elder and professor at the Eötvös Lóránd University. Péter Farbaky, one of the five curators, talked about the collective work that was behind this large-scale art exhibition. The exhibition became a reality with the help of the Danubian Reformed Church District, the Budapest History Museum and the Hungarofest Non-profit Ltd

Opening of Calvin Research Institute in Pápa

The Calvin Research Institute opened at the Pápa Reformed Theological Academy. Dr. Mihály Márkus, theological professor and former bishop of the Transdanubian Reformed Church District, introduced the background of the establishment of the institute and those plans that will help to institutionalise the research on Calvin’s work. At the special opening, Bishop József Steinbach asked God’s blessings on the new institution.

Hungarian Reformed Success at the World Alliance of the Reformed Churches’ Lombard Award Competition

The title of the competition “What would Calvin say? Responsible management during the environmental and financial crisis”, which was invited by the World Alliance of the Reformed Church had this theme for the Lombard Award in 2009. Applicants were looking for Calvin’s ideas that could be useful for environmental issues, financial outsourcing and responsible economic management. The essays’ argument had to demonstrate biblical, theological and spiritual relations. Hungarian Dávid Balázs together with Jean Paul Agidi from Ghana placed second at the competition. The first-year Ph.D. student from Debrecen Reformed Theological University wrote about the actuality of the Genevan reformer’s ideas in the economic and global crisis of our times.

Calvin Commemorative Stamp

The Hungarian Post Office issued a commemorative stamp for the 500th anniversary of John Calvin’s birthday on 22 May in Debrecen. At the end of the Constitutional Synod’s meeting László Szivi, Managing Director of The Hungarian Post Office, welcomed the programs of the Calvin Year. Afterwards, he handed over the first copies of the stamp to the bishops and general curators of the Reformed church districts from the Carpathian Basin. The commemorative stamp, designed by György Oláh, was issued in 350,000 copies. The decorated envelope contains John Calvin’s portrait, while the stamp has the In Memoriam Calvin logo.



Constitutional Synod – 22 May

Christ is the future, we follow Him together!

Historical Overview

Hungarian Calvinists experienced organisational fragmentation through several historical periods. Reformation spread across the country that was split up in three parts after the Battle of Mohacs with the Ottoman Empire. Therefore, the Church did not have a standardised constitution for a long time. This was established later in 1881 when they held a constitutional synod in Debrecen. The strengthening process established by the unified Hungarian Reformed Church came to a halt several times. One of the grievous interruptions was the modification of borders inflicted by the Trianon Peace Treaty; this act divided our church as well. Despite the physical separation, Hungarian reformed communities have always preserved their unity of faith and theology. When the Trianon Peace Treaty was concluded, bells tolled as a symbol of protest. Eighty-nine years later, on 22 May 2009 at 4 p.m. all the bells of the Reformed churches in the Carpathian Basin tolled symbolizing the following: We Hungarian Calvinists belong together again!

Preparations

Almost 8,000 people indicated in advance that they wished to participate at the thanksgiving day for Hungarian Calvinists in Debrecen on 22 May. Preparations in Transcarpathia were very ardent: more than 1,000 Hungarians waited in long queues at the government offices so they could receive a visa in order to cross the Hungarian-Ukrainian border. Participants travelled to the Calvinist Rome at their own expense, to confess their faith and celebrate unity together.

Worship and Decoration on Ascension Day – On the Eve of 22 May



Wreaths were laid on the statues of reformers at the University of Debrecen on 21 May



Celebratory crowd gathered in front of the Reformed Great Church in Debrecen

The celebration of the reunified Hungarian Reformed Church began with worship on Ascension Day (21 May). The bishop of the Cistibiscan Reformed Church District held the church service in the University Chapel. One of the main ideas of his sermon was that we have to cross to the other side - God's kingdom, and we can get there together. Those who step on this road have to be aware of the temptations that might come.

The Celebration

The preparation of the Hungarian Reformed Church's constitution was a long process. One hundred ten delegates and almost 15,000 participants (thousands from outside the borders of Hungary) arrived in Debrecen for the thanksgiving day. Without abstention and non-content, the constitution of the Hungarian Reformed Church



was approved in the Great Church of Debrecen shortly after 11 a.m. The Synod's members drew up a message that was announced in front of the Great Church at 4 p.m. At that hour, the bells of all the Reformed churches in the Carpathian Basin started to toll, thus proclaiming to the world, "what once was separated by history, now unites in the hearts."

»

Message of the Constituting Synod

We give thanks to God that on this day, 22 May 2009, at 11:00 a.m., the Hungarian Reformed Churches of Hungary, Transcarpathia (Ukraine), Vojvodina (Serbia), Transylvania (Romania) and Partium (Romania) have signed a Constitution as one Hungarian Reformed Church. Twenty years of serious effort have brought us to this momentous step with which we now give new expression to the centuries-old Hungarian Reformed community. Reformed Hungarians have maintained spiritual and intellectual unity from the century of the Reformation itself. Historical and political struggles have not been able to diminish our solidarity, just as our sense of community remained intact after the Treaty of Trianon and after the proposal to grant citizenship to Hungarians living beyond the borders of present day Hungary was rejected in referendum on 5 December 2004. Our fellowship is reflected also in the fact, that we are celebrating today with all those as well who already expressed their will to join, or were not able to fulfil their wish until now.

Today with this common constitution, we express and solidify our unity. According to our Constitution:

- Any Christian who claims to be a member of the Hungarian Reformed Church shall be considered a member, wherever that person lives, and regardless of whether or not the person's first language is Hungarian.
- Our Church is a synodal community of partial/branch churches, shaping legislation and issuing statements in all those questions in which it is authorised to do so by the highest governing bodies of the partial/branch churches.
- The Constitution of our Church allows for and regulates the joining of Hungarian Reformed Churches from areas beyond the Carpathian Basin.
- In the forming of their internal organisational structures, the partial/branch churches are separate and independent. Exceptions to this principle include those questions belonging to the common constitution and common regulations.

»

Jesus Christ says, 'I am the way, the truth, and the life.' (John 14,6) We believe and profess that the truth of Jesus Christ liberates us from all injustice and oppression. We also believe, that His power to heal creates our unity in Him. We believe that if we follow Him then we can be instruments of reconciliation in all circumstances. We believe that the joining together of the Hungarian Reformed Community serves the unity and credible testimony of the universal Church of Jesus Christ, of which all of us are members.

CHRIST IS THE FUTURE, WE FOLLOW HIM TOGETHER!

Historical Event in Debrecen

The city of Debrecen witnessed a historically important day" – said Lajos Kósa, mayor of the city. The unity of the reformed people "goes far beyond in its significance that which was experienced in the history of modern ages of Debrecen."



Istvan Tonk, the deceased Chairman of the Constitutional Synod

»

The Constitution

THE EFFECT OF THE JOINT CONSTITUTION

2. § By adopting the joint constitution, the Hungarian reformed churches in the Carpathian Basin express their unity. The Constitution regulates all those issues that are common and unilateral in the life of the branch churches, which were developing separately due to the inevitable historical events in the last decades. Thus, the joint constitution deals with the church, the ministerial services and joint order of worship.

»

THE CONSTITUTIONAL SYNOD

The Constitutional Synod has ceremoniously accepted the Constitution. Subsequently, the legal harmonisation began, through which branch churches will develop their internal legal system in the spirit of growing closer to each other.

Number of members in the Joint Synod: 120
 Reformed Church in Hungary: 60 members
 Reformed Church in Romania: 32 members
 Reformed Christian Church in Slovakia: 10 members

Transcarpathian Reformed Church: 8 members

Reformed Christian Church in Serbia: 6 members

Reformed Church in Croatia: 2 members

Reformed Christian Church in Slovenia: 2 members

No New Church Has Been Born



Gusztáv Bölcskei's remark about the historical event was that no new church has been born, and "the old one is good for us." With the conclusion of the Constitution, we have arrived at the next milestone of the process. There were those who could instantly join and those who could not fulfill the legal form, but still, they expressed their commitment to the community by coming to Debrecen.

"What happened now is similar to a cut out painting that we try to place back to its frame. The frame is not an optional ornament but it holds the painting. Hungarian Calvinists created a frame on 22 May." – the bishop emphasised.

The constitution was signed by the representatives of the national Reformed church districts and by the delegates of the Reformed branch churches from Transylvania, Királyhágómellék, Délvidék and Transcarpathia. The Reformed

Church in Slovakia did not join the new organisation, but its delegates were present and expressed their intention for cooperation. According to this decision, they declared unity with the constitutional rights of the Hungarian reformed branch/partial churches in the Carpathian Basin. The American Hungarian Reformed Church was the tenth in the line, which joined the Hungarian Reformed Church on the Constitutional Synod's meeting.

»

Greetings of László Sólyom, President of the Republic

DEAR LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I believe in the approach which says that a nation's roots are in the past and present. On one hand, a nation is the joint possession of the rich legacy of its memories. And on the other hand, it is a present agreement for coexistence. Furthermore, it is an intention to develop a common legacy for the future. A nation that was regarded in this way never depended on state borders. As long as this double rooted community is maintained and preserved, the Hungarian nation will continue to live.

Communities within the nation are linked to it by this double connection. The awareness of the common past and the urge for continuity characterize the Hungarian Reformed congregations. These characteristics apply to their Reformed creeds and to their Hungarian nationality. This is also independent from country borders. Hungary was split into three parts during the spread of the Reformation, and since then, the nation's fragmentation periods in history were much longer than that of the state's unity.

In spite of these distressing historical events, the Hungarian nation endured, and will endure as much as the Hungarian Calvinists' faith, worship, schools and church management remained united. They read the same Bible; sing the same psalms with which they contributed to the whole nation. The unique Protestant culture and behaviour are found and recognised in all places where Hungarian people live. The decades of Communism agonised and put the churches to a test. After the realignment of the borders in the 20th century, churches across the border had to face a huge burden and responsibility. The churches remained the only place where Hungarian people could practise their mother tongue. Hungarians, but mainly Reformed Hungarians were always separated from the majority. Today, the Constitutional Synod of



» the Hungarian Reformed Church establishes the organisational unity of the Reformed churches in the Carpathian Basin. The state and the churches work separated from each other in the Republic of Hungary. However, separation does not oppose cooperation in those areas where the state and the church have common purposes if the state maintains its impartiality. The representation, fulfilment, raising of awareness and preservation of the unity of the Hungarian nation is such a common purpose. This is also an obligation of the Republic of Hungary, since the Constitution holds the state responsible for Hungarians' fate beyond the borders. However, the meaning of this obligation lies not in the one-sided relation between the mother country and the national regions across the borders, but it lies in the actions and way of thinking that focus on the whole nation.

The Hungarian Reformed Church's unifying act of today is a powerful symbolic and realistic step. It is an act that serves the nation's cohesion and which will come with significant results. The unity is just as important and desirable to the reformed people within the borders, as it is to those branch churches that are in other countries. I applaud the Constitutional Synod's decision on the establishment of the organisational unity that is integrated in the constitution of the Hungarian Reformed Church. I hope that the law will be accepted by the joint Synod of the Hungarian Reformed Church and it will be ratified by the branch churches. Such a positive step has not happened since the issuing of the Hungarian certificates. This step is not only about Hungarians living in one particular country, but it concerns every part of the Hungarian nation in the Carpathian Basin.

I share the Hungarian Calvinists' joy, on this day of unity and thanksgiving. I share the viewpoint of the members of the Constitutional Synod. According to them, unity is not an end in itself, but an opportunity for a more effective service and representation of interests. The unity, which the Hungarian Calvinists are grateful for today, also strengthens the unity of the Hungarian nation. Therefore, this concerns every one of us, all the Hungarian people and serves for our strengthening.

Therefore, please accept my respect and gratitude.

László Sólyom
President of the Republic of Hungary



International Welcome

International church organisations, such as the World Council of Churches (WCC), the Conference of European Churches (CEC), and the World Alliance of Reformed Churches (WARC), welcomed the reuniting efforts of the Hungarian Reformed Churches. Kirill I, Patriarch of Moscow and all Russia, sent a letter of greetings for the unity of Hungarian Reformed communities.



»

The message of Kirill,
PATRIARCH OF MOSCOW AND RUSSIA

*Right Reverend dr. president-bishop
Gusztáv Bölcskei,
Dear organisers and participants
of the General Synod,*

I sincerely welcome the representatives of the Reformed Churches of the Carpathian Basin on the General Synod's meeting in Debrecen. The common goal of the participants of the General Synod should be to adopt a constitutional act, which helps mutual relations of Christian churches. My honest hopes are that your united forces give new impulses to the discussion among Christian churches, especially nowadays, when in our modern world traditional values of The Gospel of Christ should take an essential importance.

The relations amongst the Russian Orthodox Church, the Churches of the Carpathian Basin and Reformed Churches from the Danubian territory have a rich history. In the 1970s and 80s our Church participated on the Orthodox-Calvinist discussion, which started in Hungary, becoming famous as the "dialogues of Debrecen", the name of the town where your esteemed Synod holds its meeting. In that time, we, the Orthodox and the Reformed churches in spite of the theological and national differences, were able to understand each other's ideology facing relevant tasks.

»

The questions of the modern world set for the European Christians are very important. It is the question of our continent's, the place of continuous propaganda of radical secularisation, religious, and ethical relativism, spiritual surviving. In such circumstances those who would like to treasure the principles of European civilisation's true Christianity and traditions must have even more persuasive words. I wish the unity of thought and action in your collaborative work, as it is said in the Holy Gospel: "And may the God of the endurance, and of the exhortation, give to you to have the same mind toward one another, according to Christ Jesus; that with one accord -- with one mouth -- ye may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ". (Romans 15: 5-6)

With Love in Christ,
Kirill, patriarch of Moscow and Russia



The signed constitution of
the Hungarian Reformed Church





More than fifteen thousand people celebrated the Reformed unity in Debrecen

» **Thoughts from participants celebrating in Debrecen**

"We were separated; let us be united again, as we were in the past."

"Our nation could wake up after the referendum, when our spirits were almost destroyed, but we could stand up!"

"This meeting touched my soul, being here is one of God's gifts."

"The true union of the churches from the Carpathian Basin is an important alliance. Hungarian Calvinism should be taken into consideration and the power of the union should be recognised, and maybe one day they will achieve to allow preaching in Hungarian in all the churches."

"The reason why I brought a piece from the land of Szeged is to share our homes, to have a common motherland with those from the countryside and townspeople, with everybody. Poor Hungary is devastated, it has fallen into the hands of bandits."

» *"It means everything to be here, because this meeting is the remedy for the disgraceful referendum. The liberal conditions ruling Hungary today are catastrophic."*

"This situation is unbelievable, words are not enough to express my thoughts."

"I came from Pécs, to unite Hungarians, to become a whole, and not scattered in the world."

"I am here for the following generation, for the future of my children."

"This is the right place for Hungarian, Reformed Christian people today! It is Hungarian compensation for Trianon. I cannot imagine missing this occasion."

"We do not want the country of others; we would like to live happily in ours. Maybe, the next generation will be allowed to speak in their mother tongue!"

"It is a very good feeling that we belong together and our mother country embraces us."



Survey on the Reception of “The Year of the Bible 2008”

“The Year of the Bible 2008” programme series was better known in Hungary than in Germany five years ago. According to the survey of the TÁRKI Ltd., 44 percent of the Hungarian population heard about “The Year of the Bible” programme, which means more than 3.5 million people. The surveying illustrated that women and people with higher education were informed in a higher rate about “The Year of the Bible 2008”. Seventeen percent of the respondents participated in the programme related to the Bible. The survey also showed us that 2 percent of the adult population in Hungary, which means about 16,000 people, regularly read the Bible. The Holy Scripture is read mostly by women. Sixty percent of the households have the Bible. The Biblia Sacra Hungarica exhibition was open through November 2008 – 29 March 2009 at the Széchényi National Library. The exhibition demonstrated a fragment of the 42-line Gutenberg Bible, the well-known Vizsoly Bible, Endre Ady’s torn Bible and its cover with his handwriting and many of the holy books by the great personalities in Hungarian history.

In Cooperation the Reformed and Jewish Universities



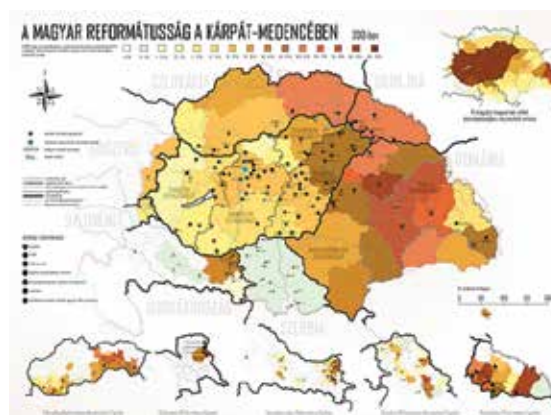
Alfréd Schőner, Chief Rabbi, András Varga, the appointed rector of KGU and András Szabó, dean of the KGU Faculty of Humanities

On 13 March in Budapest, a cooperation agreement was signed between the Károli Gáspár University of the RCH and the Jewish Theological Seminary – University of Jewish Studies. On this occasion of the ceremonial signatures, András Vargha, acting rector of the Károli Gáspár University, said the following: “Together with our Jewish friends and brethren, we profess that God is one. We have the same Hungarian mother tongue and homeland; and we regard Hunga-

ry as our mother country. Together we recognise that the Holocaust was an unforgettable and inexcusable sin in course of which we surrendered to the alien impacts and let 600,000 Jewish Hungarians to die”. Chief Rabbi Alfréd Schőner, president of the Jewish Theological Seminary – University of Jewish Studies, talked on the common values that are important both to Christians and Jews. These are the humbleness toward God, appreciation of other people and the denial of marginalisation. The Chief Rabbi emphasised that “we can have a future, if we raise the Reformed and Jewish youths with the hope that the following generations will be unfamiliar with the prejudices that were part of our fathers’ lives and in which we Hungarian Jewish people take part. The Chief Rabbi expressed his hope for a peaceful future. The cooperation agreement between the two universities was signed by András Vargha and Alfréd Schőner.

Map showing locations of the Reformed Hungarians living within the Carpathian Basin

On behalf of the Reformed College Scientific Collection of Sárospatak and in cooperation with the Hungarian Academy of Sciences’ Ethnographic Research Institute, the framework of the “Calvinist identity after the Millennium” research the map called “Hungarian Calvinism in the Carpathian Basin in 2009” was finished in collaboration with Zsolt Károly Nagy (scientific researcher of Hungarian Academy of Sciences Plant Protection Institute - scientific associate Reformed Theological Academy of Sárospatak). The map shows the Hungarian Reformed congregations, regional places of The Hungarian Reformed Church’s Educational Institutions and the statistics after the census in 2000 of those who consider themselves Reformed Hungarian in relation to the Hungarian population.





The 6th Reformed Music Festival

The Reformed Hymns concert and the Reformed Music Festival have the same purpose: to preserve and show our Calvinist musical treasure, our culture, to the latest generations and for posterity.

Our guests have interesting experiences from literature, music, art, etching works of art and from visiting the Bible Museum. Not only traditional psalms, songs, chorus, and instrumental works were presented but we took the opportunity to show our popular music and contemporary musical compositions. Among the school and congregational choirs, the most famous bands were invited such as: Musica Historica, the Misztrál band, the Vujicsis band, Irén Lovász, Csaba Vedres and the Kairosz Quartette, András Berecz, István Pál "Szalonna", the Invocatio Musicalis and Ferenc Kiss and friends. They performed the Hungarian Kancionálé written for the Calvin's Year. The Reformed Music Festival considers it an important mission to present The Hungarian Reformed Church's indispensable social, medical, literary, educational, artistic, and diaconal work.

The spectacular candlelight march on 5 June in Ráday Street in Budapest, and the Street and night musical worship in the Reformed Church of Calvin square were both interesting programs.



Irén Lovász and her band at the Reformed Music Festival

8th Concert of the Reformed Hymns



Full house for the eighth Reformed Songs concert at the Palace of Arts

On 3 July, the Reformed Hymns Concert was organised for the eighth time at the Bartók Béla National Concert Hall of the Palace of Arts. The choir consisted of more than 15 choirs comprised of 300 members total. László Varga organist from Miskolc and the Cantores Ecclesiae brass ensemble accompanied the choir, lead by János Arany, Boglárka Berkesi, Zsófia Cseri and Péter Hoppál conductors.

Several psalms and hymns were performed from the Reformed Hymn Book, including the international Hymn of the Calvin Jubilee Year: God's people listen to me, was heard for the first time in Hungarian translation.

The 30-year-old Albert Schweitzer Elderly Home

After a long process of interdenominational cooperation and in the framework of the unity of an encouraging individual movement in the summer of 1979 with the support of the Synod of the RCH an elderly home was opened. The home helps more than 1,000 needy people also providing them membership in a congregation.



Gusztáv Bölcskei preached at the ceremony

The institution has been functioning for 30 years richly blessed by God, with faithful and generous staff and with congregations supporting them in spiritual and material ways. For this occasion a grand ceremony and thanksgiving worship service was held on 12 September. "The institution, with 136 beds, is not simply an official Elderly Home, but also a congregation where siblings live together in Christ and not just the needy and nurses."- said Károly Czibere, director of the Diaconical Office of the RCH, in his welcoming address. Ulrich Strotmann, the leader from Germany of the Philadelphia Deaconess Institution took part at this occasion.

» **Seven television episodes about Hungarians living in the USA**

A new TV series was made with the support of the Transtibiscan Church District to commemorate those pastors and members of the congregations, who faithfully served God as Reformed Hungarians in their distant new home.



The actors of the 7-episode documentary are Hungarians who emigrated to the U.S.A. over the past 120 years.

At the end of the 19th century thousands of Hungarians set sail for the New World in the hope of a brighter future. From the north-east counties almost entire villages emigrated to America. The communities preserved their reformed traditions overseas. They founded congregations, built churches, some of which are still attended to this day. However, the truth is that they are fewer because the emigration wave ended in the 1950's.

The German congregation of Hold Street in Budapest is 150 years old

The history of the Church reflects the events of the 20th century: for almost 60 years it was a foreign possession, while it functioned as a warehouse, later as a dressmaker's shop, and finally a

destroyed building which survived in name. There was a period when only one person lived in the house, but it was the temporary accommodation of the famous Austrian brewer Antal Dreher, the native Swiss Abraham Ganz, foundry master, and the Genevan confectioner Emil Gerbeaud. The German Reformed Congregation of Budapest celebrated the symbol of hosting newcomers and wanderers



on the 150th anniversary on 17 October 2009. Pastor Zoltán Balog stated the following: "Not the country's policy and its good diplomatic relations keep a country alive, but the people's faith, love, service of each other and their work for God's grace. Partners came from Western Europe 150 years ago, and their sincere love was not a play, but they recognised that their economic success should be devoted to favour the public good."

The Kántus Choir of Debrecen is 270 years old

Kántus, the famous Choir of the Reformed College of Debrecen, celebrated its 270 years existence on 29 November. After the worship, the exhibition on the history of the Kántus was opened in the Great Library's exhibition hall, and then a wreath was laid at the relief of György Maróthi. The ceremonial concert was conducted by Liszt prize awarded conductor Sándor Berkesi and other conductors who were former members of the choir. Gábor András Virágh played on the organ.

The choir Kántus was founded in 1739 by György Maróthi, the genius of mathematics, professor of the Reformed College of Debrecen, who was able to transform the whole school during the short six years of his activity. Sándor Berkesi, the leader of the Kántus, told that the mixed choir consisting of 70 pupils and students from high schools and universities is the oldest functioning youth choir. From the very beginning thousands of young people were members of the choir.



THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE STATE AND CHURCH



»

The churches share in restrictions concerning the society

(JOINT DECLARATION OF THE REFORMED AND LUTHERAN CHURCHES)

On 29 September the leaders of the so called Hungarian historical churches held a discussion with Prime Minister, Gordon Bajnai, and consequently the process for consultation between church and government became clearer and the person responsible for the coordinating future discussions was designated. In the future, Péter Kiss minister without portfolio responsible for social relations would coordinate those issues that are related to various portfolios and concern matters relating to the relationship between the state and church. The PM was committed to continue those discussions, which were focused on the restructuring of the church financing system that was initiated in 2008. The aim of these discussions was to end the church's financial dependence on the state, and until this is achieved, the state should grant the transparent and predictable financing for the churches so they can strengthen their own provisions.

The churches accept with regret the proposed reduction of the state supplement for the people's offering of the 1 percent of their income tax, on the condition that the previous system of 1+1% in the year 2008 would be re-established in 2011. By accepting the almost 15 percent reduction in their incomes, churches share in the cutbacks suffered by the whole of society. An agreement was reached that issues related to the financial closing of 2008 have to be resolved by discussions. The prime minister and the churches conferred on the Language Law of Slovakia and assured each other that they will do anything in their power to cease the disadvantageous consequences of this law.

Presidium of the Reformed and Lutheran Churches in Hungary

Prime Minister Gordon Bajnai met the bishops of the historical churches in the Parliament. The Hungarian Prime Minister consulted with the bishops of the historical churches for the first time in five years. The meeting of 8 July gave the opportunity to talk about the economic crisis and the church's possible cooperation with the state founded Crisis Grant. The RCH was represented by Gusztáv Bölcskei and József Csomós. Gusztáv Bölcskei stated that the way the government handled the affairs of the people and churches discouraged the whole society. He believes that The PM had concrete answers, according to Bishop Bölcskei, however, when it comes to their realization, it will become apparent how serious they were.



PARTNERSHIPS INSIDE AND OUTSIDE THE CARPATHIAN BASIN

Inauguration of László Fazekas



Bishop László Fazekas was officially inaugurated at a ceremony on 14 February in the Slovakian Reformed Christian Church in Révkomárom.

The Hungarian-Slovakian ceremony was opened by Géza Erdélyi, emeritus bishop, head of the church for 12 years. Then bishop László Fazekas, and general curator Vince Fekete took the oath of loyalty. The new bishop emphasised in his speech that God's kingdom means more than just words, it is power. We need strength in our church, if our aim is development in the following six years.

General Curator, Vince Fekete talked about the basic conditions for faithful ministry, the authentic servant.

István Csúry was elected bishop of the Királyhágómellék Reformed Church District in Transylvania, Romania

The former acting bishop István Csúry was elected as bishop of the Királyhágómellék Reformed Church District for the last year of the term on November 20, due to the election of Bishop László Tőkés to the Member of the European Parliament. With general elections in October 2010, a new bishop will be elected for a six-year mandate.

Bishop István Csúry said: „Let the next year be the time for gathering of the masses. Everyone should find his or her place in this community. This is not to be understood in a commonplace means, but in the sense that everybody according their gifts of grace should have the courage to ask for their a place in the team. Those thoughts are important which support, encourage and strengthen. Let us desire to be complemented by others and thus be complete and may we be able to complement and complete others.



It is worthwhile being close to Reformed Christians, because there we will find ourselves among those who can encourage one another, grow as brothers and sisters and find balance.”



Prayer Day in the Carpathian Basin for the Reformed in Croatia



We have been organising a prayer day on the first Sunday in December each year since 2006, on which we pray for a certain part of the country and a church district. Each congregation and small community have the chance to organise their prayer day by using the information material designed for this occasion.

The 10-year-old "prayer programme" gives the opportunity for new parts of the country and church districts to present themselves and which call for thanksgiving and prayer. The prayer day of 2009 was held on 6 December, which was organised for the Reformed in Croatia.

The work of the General Council



The Presidium of the General Council met four times in 2009.

»

Try all the possibilities to repel the Language law of Slovakia - common proclamation of the historical churches.

Leaders of The Hungarian Catholic Bishops Conference, the RCH, the Lutheran Church of Hungary, and the Association of Jewish communities of Hungary expressed their worries about the language law of Slovakia, which makes the use of the Hungarian language punishable by law.

The state language law violates several basic rights of the minorities who are live in Slovakia, and it serves to worsen the daily relations between Slovaks and ethnic Hungarians.

We support the Government of Hungary and the Parliamentary Parties in condemning the language law. At the same time we ask them to do all within their power, with the help of European bodies to ask Slovakia to repeal legislation which is incompatible with the thousand year old Judeo-Christian values.

The issue of the language law is no longer Slovakia's internal affair, but an issue of European magnitude. Our church representatives appeal to other international organisations to take action against the legislation.

8 July 2009, Budapest

HUNGARIAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS' CONFERENCE
HUNGARIAN REFORMED CHURCH
LUTHERAN CHURCH OF HUNGARY
ASSOCIATION OF JEWISH COMMUNITIES
OF HUNGARY

The letter of the Reformed Church to László Sólyom, President of Hungary,

The RCH declared the incident on 21 August, when László Sólyom was not allowed to cross the border into Slovakia, an outrage. This unacceptable and unprecedented step stirs up feelings of dissatisfaction and unrest among people. The presiding bishop of the Synod of the RCH, Gusztáv Bölcskei, assured László Sólyom of his support in a letter. He wrote the following: The Presidium of the Synod of the RCH decided to take firm action, in cooperation with international church organisations, in order to prevent violating European norms and to prevent the disruption of national communities.

Meeting of Bishops in Slovakia in support of Hungarians

On 25 August Gusztáv Bölcskei, presiding bishop of the Synod of the RCH discussed further common steps for Hungarians with Bishop László Fazekas and general curator, Vince Fekete. The church leaders talked about the antagonistic actions of the Slovakian government against the Hungarians, including their effects on Hungarian people.



László Fazekas, bishop, Vince Fekete, lay president and Gusztáv Bölcskei, the presiding bishop of the General Synod in Slovakia

»

Declaration of the Presidium of the General Council on the Slovak-Hungarian relationship

We observe with concern the discrimination against Hungarians living in Slovakia, and the deteriorating relationship between Hungary and Slovakia. The General Council of the Hungarian Reformed Church condemns the language law passed in September, which violates rights of minorities, restricts the use of their native language, and limits the full right to life of non-Slovak speaking citizens living in Slovakia. These kinds of laws totally oppose European norms and policies. We declare an outrage and condemn the action of the Slovak government especially the incident when the President of the Hungarian Republic was not allowed to cross the Slovak border on 21 August and the European Commission's failure to concern itself with the case declaring it an interior affair between the two countries. We distressfully note that the leaders of member states from the European Union leave us alone, our Hungarian nation, while we face injustice. This way they turn away from the concept of the community of European nations as well.

»

We express our solidarity with the Hungarians in Slovakia, and we will do our best to strengthen Reformed communities. We support them even in uncertainty and help them when facing fear. Hungarian Reformed people have been living in peace and love for hundreds of years with Slovak and other nationalities. We know that man-made conflicts lead to destruction. In contrast we preach about peace standing beside truth. We hereby call the attention of all our fellow countrymen not to give in to incitement and to reject all kind of irresponsible actions with dignity, actions such as the ones taken to curb the rights of minorities living in Slovakia.

28 August, 2009. Budapest

Bishop, DR. ISTVÁN SZABÓ and LÁSZLÓ TÓKÉCZI,
general curator
Danubian Reformed Church District

Bishop, JÓZSEF STEINBACH and Pál Huszár,
general curator
Transdanubian Reformed Church District

Bishop, DR. GÉZA PAP and ISTVÁN TONK, general curator
The Reformed Church District of Transylvania

Bishop, FÁBIÁN SÁNDOR ZÁN and BÉLA NAGY,
general curator
Transcarpathian Reformed Church

Bishop, ISTVÁN CSÚRY and ZOLTÁN KOVÁCS,
general curator
Királyhágómellék Reformed Church District

Bishop, ISTVÁN CSETE SZEMESI and IMRE HALLGATÓ, general curator
Serbian Reformed Christian Church

Bishop, LÁSZLÓ FAZEKAS and VINCE FEKETE,
general curator
Slovakian Reformed Christian Church

Bishop, JÓZSEF CSOMÓS and TIBOR ÁBRÁM,
general curator
Cistibiscan Reformed Church District

Bishop, DR. GUSZTÁV BÖLCSKEI and DR. SÁNDOR IMRE, general curator
Transtibiscan Reformed Church District



Ecumenical Meeting in the Carpathian Basin

Native and cross-border church leaders uniformly protested against the language law passed in Slovakia on 1 September. The meeting took place in the Dome of Szeged on 30 August. The title given to the conference was „Pünkösdváró Európa” (Europe awaiting Pentecost) organised within the Ecumenical Conference in the Carpathian Basin.

“To use the mother tongue is a basic right of the people” - said Balázs Bábel, archbishop of Kalocsa-Kecskemét Church District.

László Fazekas, bishop of the Slovak Reformed Christian Church told the congregation that: „when we declare our opinion, we are fighting against those, who would do everything in the interest of their careers, against those who do not know the meaning of precious, against those who hurt and stir up fear and unrest.”

István Bogárdi Szabó, bishop of the Danubian Church District of the RCH asked all the believers to pray for our siblings living in the Highland and for the repeal of the language law.

Péter Gáncs, bishop of the South Lutheran Church District pointed out that in the multicultural and multilingual Carpathian Basin it should be a natural phenomenon that people speak different languages, and that everyone be able to worship in their native language.

Churches turn to the European Parliament

For the Reformed and Lutheran Churches it is perplexing that the European Union considers the Slovak-Hungarian disagreement an interior affair between the two countries. The church declares the law to be one of the biggest atrocities against Hungarians. In August the two churches sent a letter to the Hungarian MPs of the European Parliament asking for their intervention, and offering the churches assistance in settling of this matter.

Church leaders met OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities

Church leaders turned to the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe's (OSCE) High Commissioner on National Minorities, Knut Vollebaeck in the matter of the Slovak language law. In their letter, leaders of the Roman Catholic, Reformed and Lutheran Churches expressed their concern about the law and raised the question of how it could be possible to adopt laws within the European Union, which totally oppose fundamental European values and ignore a thousand year Judeo-Christian value-system.

Meeting of the Church Institutions of Higher Education from the Carpathian Basin

A round-table discussion took place in September about the protection of the Hungarian language within the Church Institutions of Higher Education within the Carpathian Basin.

The participants drafted a joint statement: calling on Slovak intellectuals to be warned about the moral decline developing throughout the region, and how after the collapse of communism certain forces have been trying to undermine the humanistic approach to national identity and arouse ethnic tension with different manoeuvres. The institutions of higher education using the power of knowledge would like to explore the deliberate misinterpretation of political manoeuvres. In their declaration they stated that they protest against the language law, not against the Slovak nation but against the current policy managers.



At the Synod held on 20 November, the RCH and the Protestant Church of the Rhineland signed an agreement of cooperation. In the picture: Nicolaus Schneider, president of the Protestant Church of the Rhine, Barbara Rudolph Church Counsel, and Gusztáv Bölcskei presiding bishop of the Synod of the RCH.

The Synod of the Rhineland

The Protestant Church of the Rhineland is the second largest provincial church in Germany. The yearly synod meetings were organised from 11-16 January.

The Protestant church has 2.9 million members. Two hundred twenty-six Synod members from 40 dioceses and 773 congregations celebrated the 60th anniversary of the church.

Our partner church, which holds its Calvinist identity important, included on its agenda issues related to its significant structural renewal: child poverty, which affects an increasing number of people in Germany, theological principles of Muslim-Christian dialogue and coexistence, and lastly strengthening of its police counselling service. To open the International Calvin Years, the Reformierter Bund (Reformed Alliance in Germany), which consists of German Reformed congregations and churches, introduced their publication that presented the Genevan reformer's thoughts and efforts in a clear, relevant form.

During the Synod the representatives of partner churches also met with Nikolaus Schneider, the praeses of the Protestant Church of the Rhineland, to discuss the Reformed characteristics on a European level. Along with French, Waldensian and Belgian representatives, our church delegation took an active part in the discussion and joint efforts mainly because the World Alliance of Reformed Churches (WARC), whose current European president Gusztáv Bölcskei, presiding bishop of our church, is a distinguished partner for the church in Rhineland.

Sister Church relationships

The 7th Western-European Hungarian Elders' Conference

The Alliance of the Western-European Hungarian Protestant Congregations organised the seventh meeting called Western-European Hungarian Elders' Conference from 3-5 April 2009 in Burbach-Holzhausen, Germany.

The member congregations of the Alliance were invited with their pastors, chief elders, elders, leaders and fellow workers. On 4 April all the participants celebrated the 50th Youth Conference together. A delegation, including students from the Reformed Theological University of Debrecen represented our church at the European Hungarian Evangelical Youth Conference. The topic of this year was: worship patterns, the elements of the Christian liturgy and their application.

Lutheran bishop János Itzész and Reformed theology professor Károly Fekete, lectured on the liturgy of the Diaspora congregations.

What does the Church mean in the 21st century? Historical-ecumenical conference in Berekfürdő

The World Council of Churches (WCC) Commission on World Mission and Evangelism and Faith and Order created a working group.

Between 3-8 March, the group dealt with the concept of the church and its mission. The participants explored what the role of the church is in the 21st century.

Dr. Mary Elizabeth Tanner, Anglican President of the World Council of Churches, member of the WCC Faith and Order Commission serving as its moderator and Constantin Vasilios Cypriot Orthodox Metropolitan took part at the conference. The participants visited Debrecen on 4 March, where they met with Reformed church leaders.



Regional European Protestant Consultation Forum

The Community of Protestant Churches in Europe (CPCE), the so-called Leuenberg Church fellowship (Leuenberg Agreement) met on 11-14 May in Gallneukirchen, Austria. The main points of the meetings were renewing the forms of worship, developing new patterns of liturgy, and discussing current, social questions.

Our church was represented by Sándor Fazekas, rector of The Theological University of Debrecen, and Balázs Ódor, ecumenical officer.

CPCE established in 1973 with the signing of the Leuenberg Concordance, it declares total fellowship in the Eucharist, through preaching the Word and in practice. For this reason, it formed a CPCE working group to discuss key questions of the Christian confessions and protestant theology. In this working group, common answers are sought for matters such as the relationship between Scripture and the confessions, the meaning of church office, ethical problems and social issues.

In the interest of better cooperation and deepening church fellowship, regional groups were established. Our church is one of 28 members of the Southeastern European regional groups, which has a membership from the Protestant communities within the Carpathian Basin as well as German, Austrian, Swiss and Italian churches.

The unique issues of this regional fellowship included renewal of the worship service and cooperatively addressing totalitarian system of the recent past.

Visit of Rev. Dr. Kobus Gerber, General Secretary of the Dutch Reformed Church in South Africa

Between 2-5 June 2009, Dr. Kobus Gerber, the General Secretary of the Dutch Reformed Church in South Africa visited Hungary.

The aim of the visit was to establish a framework for cooperation between the two churches in the future. Common topics and areas of cooperation were identified, where the two churches could enrich each other with their experience. Both churches saw processing the historical past, addressing the damage caused by dictatorial regimes and the role of the church in societal reconciliation as key issues. They also discussed exchanging experiences in theological training and academic work. A coordinated stance in international forums and future missionary activities in Africa were also discussed. In relation to the latter, the general secretary consulted with the representatives of the Cistibiscan Reformed Church District, which has a partner church in Malawi.

The World Communion of Reformed Churches to be established next year



In May, executive committees of The World Alliance of Reformed Churches (WARC) and the Reformed Ecumenical Council (REC) met in Geneva.

The most important topic of the meeting was the upcoming unifying Assembly of the two organisations in Grand Rapids, Michigan, U.S.A.

The new body would be called the World Communion of Reformed Churches. The representatives of the two organisations agreed upon the new body's constitution, financial questions, missional and organisational structures.

In this community of 110 countries and 220 member churches, approximately 80 million Christians, the Hungarian Reformed community takes an important role, being one of the largest member churches.

With the establishment of the synodal community of the Hungarian Reformed Church, the responsibilities and opportunities of the Hungarian Reformed Churches can increase in a new organisation with strengthening missionary work and at the same time weakening financial possibilities.

To underline the role of the Hungarian Reformed Churches, the president of WARC sent a message on the occasion of the union of Hungarian Reformed churches: We are grateful for the important role which the Hungarian Reformed Church has played in the World Alliance in the past years. We trust that this contribution will grow in its new structure and we hope that the World Alliance will be the World Communion of Reformed Churches.



Visiting the Westphalia Provincial Church

A Hungarian Reformed and Lutheran delegation visited the German provincial church of Westphalia in April. The first presentation demonstrated the actual challenges of the German church. The delegations became familiar with the process of internal reform. Members of the RCH delegation were: Gusztáv Bölcskei, presiding bishop of the Synod, Pál Huszár, lay president of the Synod, and Balázs Ódor, ecumenical officer.

The participants of the meeting discussed the responsibility of the Church in mission, the challenge of understanding what a united Europe means for the church and the role of Protestants in the Union. Between 15-19 June, our church representatives continued to discuss the future of a three-way partnership and our common roles in Europe.

Meeting of Christians and Jews in Berlin

“It is the time again for commitment” – was the theme of the conference in July held in Berlin for the representatives of 29 countries and 140 participants.

In the meeting, the theses of Berlin were approved and signed by Bertalan Tamás, general secretary of the Hungarian Christian-Jewish Council and pastor in the RCH. The document contains 12 points and was written for Christians and Jewish people all over the world. The content of the document concerns fighting against religious and racial discrimination. It also calls upon Jews to recognize efforts made in the last half of the 20th century to improve relations with the Jewish people.

Celebrating the 50th anniversary of CEC



Delegates from Protestant and Orthodox churches gathered in Lyon from the 15-21 July at the 13th General Assembly of the Conference of European Churches (CEC). Our church took part with a delegation of five people;

six more delegates came from the Reformed Churches in the Carpathian Basin. Celebrating the 50th anniversary of its existence, participants from member churches were thankful for the past and prayed for the work of the assembly looking forward to the future of the ecumenical movement in the next six years. One of the aims of the Hungarian Reformed delegation was to discuss the language law of Slovakia. Dr. Előd Hódossy-Takács, member of the Hungarian delegation, presented to the Assembly the law, which violates the rights of minorities. Before the Assembly began, the Hungarian Reformed Church asked CEC in an official letter to present among their Public Issues statement the dis-

criminatory Slovak language law and asked to inform European institutions about the legislation and its effects in an effort to convince the bodies of the Republic of Slovakia to modify the act. Krisztina Rajos, a lawyer and delegate of the RCH, was elected as a member of the Central Committee of the CEC.



Krisztina Rajos,
the new member of the
CEC Central Committee

The Year of Migration was opened in Budapest

The meeting organised by the Churches' Commission for Migrants in Europe (CCME) was attended by Torsten Moritz, project secretary of CCME, Doris Peschke, general secretary of CCME, Balázs Ódor Ecumenical Officer, Enikő Ferenczy fellow worker of the RCH's Refugee Ministry, and delegates from member churches and organisations of CCME.

The Year of Migration was opened by CEC and CCME in Budapest on 26 November in the Assembly Hall of the Synod of the RCH.

2010, The Year of Migration, was ceremoniously opened by CEC general secretary, Collin Williams, CCME director, Doris Peschke and RCH general secretary, Zoltán Tarr.

New pastor in the service of the Swiss-Hungarian congregations

New pastor, Csaba Kókai, was inaugurated in the Hungarian Federation of Swiss Protestant Congregations in December. The sacramental occasion took place in the gothic style chapel of the so-called Zwingli House, where Hungarians from Zürich regularly hold their worship. The new pastor became the spiritual leader for Hungarian congregations in six towns. The union of the Cantonal Churches of Zürich, the Hungarian Reformed Church and the Hungarian Federation of Swiss Protestant Congregations ensures the new pastor's service.





The Steering Committee of the European Area Council of WARC held meeting in Amsterdam

Leaders from the European Region of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches met on 11-12 December in Amsterdam. They discussed issues related to the upcoming general assembly next year, which will be organized in the United States, and how to support the Eastern-European small, minority Reformed churches, for example in Ukraine and Belarus.

They also dealt with the support of international initiatives for peace among the nations living in the Carpathian Basin. Bishop and president of WARC Europe, Gusztáv Bölcskei, was present at the two-day consultation in Amsterdam.



THE HUNGARIAN REFORMED CHURCH IN SOCIETY Mission

International Mission of the Church



Missionary couple that served in India

From the beginning of September 2009, Dr. Júlia Németh and her husband Tamás Palúr started to work at the Indian Broadwell Christian Hospital in Fatehpur. As well as providing general medical care their other important tasks included the reorganization of logistics in the institution, maintenance, modernization, coordination, team-building and strengthening team spirit among fellow workers and volunteers. After 6 months in Fatehpur, their work and development efforts led to an extension of their services abroad for an additional three months. Hopefully this time will be enough for stabilising the changes they initiated.

Prison Chaplaincy

Eleven pastors minister within the walls of prisons in Hungary. Their main duties are to provide Christian teaching and address the issue of dignity in the spirit of ecumenism. This ministry presented its work at official church gatherings such as the Constituting Synod in Debrecen and the Starpoint Youth Festival. At the Bridge of Love, national volunteers days, inmates restored a Jewish cemetery and collected trash near public cemeteries. The ministry also took part in family relationship building camps as well as trainings and seminars in Berekfurdo, Hungary, Austria and for IPCA in Germany.



On 26 April, the Hungarian prison chaplaincy took part in the International Prison Chaplaincy Prayer Week, alongside 120 countries around the world



ROMA MINISTRY

Objectives of the Roma ministry



We study together

The aim of the ministry is that the church should not forget about Roma people, they should be involved in the life of the church body as members of congregations. The ministry considers biblical and confessional education to be important. Its firm intentions are to break down prejudices and take responsibility for Roma people living in Hungary, obeying the command of Jesus Christ. Our mission is for more pastors and congregations to become involved in an active ministry among Roma for God's glory. Summer camps, and Bible classes are important for the children and youth because through them it is possible to reach parents as well. Our further intentions are to help with: life management, healthcare and crime prevention. According to the abilities of the Church, we organise medical screenings, training, summer-camps and teach Roma children in our church schools supporting them through the help of foundations.

The Synod has established the Reformed Roma Mission Council to provide the ministry with a coordinating body.

Roma life management in Jánd

Jánd, in Szabolcs-Bereg Church Presbytery, with the cooperation of the other nine congregations, started a life management program for disadvantaged and multiple disadvantaged Roma and non-Roma youth, financed by individual donations from members of the congregations. Besides teaching Bible stories and the Gospel, children learn how to integrate into the community learning basic behavioural norms.

Home for children in Dencsháza

In 2009 the Reformed Mission Centre organised a program in Dencsháza that helps children catch up with school. The program was partially financed by the Vodafone Hungary Foundation project. Applying for a grant from the European Refugee Fund is the plan for the next year.

On 1 September, with the help of a grant from the European Social Fund a program called "Safe Start" could be realized. From this support the Manse was refurbished to serve the children. The institution is used by 30-35 children and their parents. Our six employees support them with spiritual and mental care, and they help children with a remedial school program. The result of the joint effort of the church, the Presbytery and municipality with grant money for 2 years provides a great opportunity for children and their parents.



Homeless Ministry

The mission of the Clean Source Homeless Foundation in Pestszentlőrinc (Budapest, Hungary) consists of residential shelters, night shelters and street-care services. On Üllői Street, there is a house used as a night shelter in the summer for 25 people and in winter for 42 people. At the same place there is a day shelter used by 120-180 homeless who visit this house day-by-day to bathe, to wash clothes, to eat, drink tea or just to talk with the others.

We also have two street-services in the 18th District of Budapest where social workers are on duty. We regularly give tea and distribute raincoats, blankets and warm clothes for the night. In our community our experience is that these homeless people are believers, God's people. Significant events included the Healing Conferences organised in Verőce conference site, with 142 participants.



Homeless people share in fellowship and worship

According to the yearly statistics, we served 1,400 homeless in the last year. There are more and more needy people, but our resources are limited. State cutbacks affected our service too. We plan to strengthen our fund-raising efforts and to organise occasions to inform the community in Budapest and the surrounding area about our work.

Ministry to the Deaf and Hearing Impaired

In disability advocacy we developed new methods for religious education. Using visual aids and sign language we teach songs in our four institutions. We regularly organise summer camps for youth, and varied programs with playful tasks that help strengthen the community. We organised drawing competitions, asking the applicants to draw their summer experience.

Throughout the year we work with children with multiple disabilities in playhouses mainly in Budapest and Debrecen. The aims of these programs are education through joyful games, quizzes for all ages and also teaching the children how to spend their spare time usefully.

We put an emphasis on cross-border relations: in the Romanian School for the Hearing Impaired in Cluj-Napoca, we held two workshops for the students.

At the beginning of the year our sports program started with the support of Vodafone Hungary Foundation, which supports therapeutic sport programs for children with multiple disabilities. There are medical gymnastics, bicycle and swimming lessons in four schools. The various projects we organise:

“Giving is better” is our motto. When we organise donations, we collect clothes, shoes, food and books for the disadvantaged. We distribute aid especially for children who are under the care of the state.

“Learn!” - we have organised special encounters at the Constitutional Synod for students.

“Please”- meeting youth at Starpoint

The aims of the meetings were to become familiar with the world of those who live with disabilities, to accept them and to help them.

We are organising lessons in sign language interpretation for students of theology. Disabilities affect whole society and that is why it is important for the future nation of pastors to understand and help these people.

Marriage Counselling and Family care Ministry

Psychologists, pastors, public health nurses and religious educators form the team who help families, in pairs or individually, with counselling. Last year statistics show that more than 1,585 people needed our help, and there were more than 1,685 who attended discussions. From the 1,585, 415 were pregnant women who asked advice in their pregnancy crisis. After the discussion 10 women decided to keep their babies.





Hospital Ministry



This ministry of the church works in 51 hospitals in Budapest. Last year we started regularly visiting two new hospitals. We provided help at the beginning of the mission in Beregovo (Ukraine), we organised volunteer groups for medical care professionals and many students were involved in this ministry. We organised meetings for pastors, who are work in the hospital ministry in the capitol.

In different towns (Debrecen, Kaposvár, Kalocsa) all over the country, we started trainings for volunteer groups who visit the sick.

At the moment there are four hospital chaplain trainings in the country. We pay attention to the support of healthcare workers. We organised trips to Gyula with fellow-workers who were attending Bible classes. To better support the relationships among healthcare workers we organised a Conference in Miskolc. This was a good opportunity to establish the Conference of Christian Healthcare Workers in Miskolc. The Conference at Gályatető is regarded as a step toward introducing our work to theological institutions. We invited 1-1 students from the reformed theologies and we had the opportunity to share our ministry.



Trip to Eger for students in the integration programme of the RCH's Refugee Ministry

Our service for refugees „Children are more receptive” – In the framework of the Nanny Program, refugee women receive degrees.

Those who took part in the training of the Reformed Mission Centre are searching for jobs as a preschool teachers helper. Female refugees, who fled their countries for religious or political reasons, could obtain their Child Care helper Certificate in July. The program was financed by the European Social Fund. The training stands on three main pillars: Language and professional training, cultural/social integration with the help of mentors and raising employers' awareness in recruitment. Fifteen female refugees learned the Hungarian language and obtained a Child Care helper Certificate. Professional practice was assured by Reformed, municipal and private kindergartens. These people obtained knowledge about techniques for job searching and about citizenship. They built relationships and worked hard. They are full of hope and desire for a better life. Maybe after this training course easier weeks are waiting for them. Many of the graduated women received job offers during their practical job placement.

School Integration Program

The integration program began four years ago with eight young people, and in the year 2009 there were 24 children and young adult refugees supported by the program. It is significant that starting this year we employ a full time social worker.

Many of our students are unaccompanied minors living alone in Hungary. In addition to their integration in the Hungarian school system, they need to become familiar with everyday life. Within the program, in four institutions there are: 7 Somali, 7 Afghan, 6 Iraqi, 1 Uzbek, 1 Nigerian, 1 Guinean, and 1 Sri Lankan youth. For the second year we cooperate with employees from the Office of Immigration Station of Bicske and staff of Inter-Church Aid who operate the Home for Unaccompanied Minors.

Housing program

There are 30 refugees involved in the housing program, 13 adults and 17 children.

In our service there are seven homes available, two of them are in the possession of the church. Participants of the program are: Iraqi, Russian, Somali, Togolese, and Pakistani families.

Christmas Concert in the Refugee Camp in Debrecen



On 19 December there was a Christmas concert by the Reformed College Choir in the refugee camp in Debrecen, where more than 600 people are seeking asylum.

People living in the camp are from Asia, Africa, and Kosovo. People seek asylum from the Immigration and Naturalisation Office, but the only way to get it is if they can prove that they have been persecuted according to the terms of the Geneva Convention.

Ministry to the Alcohol Addicts

Our service is to motivate, heal and provide help to those that turn to us. People find us personally, or call our service. In 2009 many people found us. We stay in contact with around 3,500 people and there were others who asked for information and were interested in our work. We organised two conferences, one in Balatonfüred and another in Kecskemét. The family care mission held a presentation for volunteers, who take care of young people.

Our prison outreach began in Tiszalök. We held Bible studies every month and with the help of our recovered friends we showed that fighting addiction is possible.

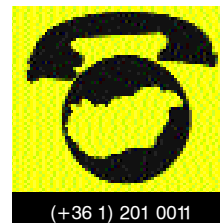


Common Bluecross Bible study held in Szolnok and Kecskemét

Support groups are held in Salgótarján and Baja, where we meet our recovered friends and anyone else who is interested. We presented our work to students of the Medical College and at the Elders` Conference. We participated in church organisations (Protestant Forum, University of Miskolc, Theological Seminary of Budapest, Balatonfenyves, Starpoint, Constitutional Synod, and Europe Radio). This year we contacted the Transylvanian Ministry to Alcoholics and Bonus Pastor Foundation. Associates and people who have recovered from addiction participated at the meeting in Marosvásárhely, and they were participants in Dömsöd as well. The purpose was to share experiences and think together. Through these, an idea came to mind to publish a handbook about the healing conferences and to advertise the program called "One congregation – one member for the rescue of alcoholics."

The Reformed Telephone Helpline functions through the Internet

The telephone helpline service started 25 years ago. By moving to the Internet we are available for those who had problems with paying their phone bill. Web cameras are not used on virtual phone calls, so spiritual care will remain



anonymous. The net-phone will ensure better conditions for volunteers in their service, because they will work from home. Fifteen fellow workers do their services from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. Recently we have fewer pastors and more lay people, like teachers, retired doctors, psychologists and social workers among our volunteers. The Reformed phone helpline mission was in contact with more than 15,000 people in 2009.



Diaconia

The church's diaconia is built on the diaconal work of the congregations. We could provide support for many needy friends, in spite of the fact, that the context of our service is getting more and more difficult and is expected to worsen. On the one hand there are more and more people choosing to come to our institutions for help, to find a shelter. Many people lose their jobs because of the world economic crisis and they have existential problems. On the other hand, the state cannot or does not want to support them and reduces funds in the social welfare system.

A lot of congregations tried to find external resources for development in the summer. They started a basic service helping elderly people in their homes. The last year shows, however, that in spite of the unpleasant changes in financial support and the related regulations, the reformed institutions take seriously their service and still look for opportunities to develop, extend and strengthen our diaconical activity.

Other significant progress is that many congregations opened day-care for families. There are many congregations who managed to win European Union project funding.

In 2009 our foster parents' service started, through which we support and take care of 100 children. The service ensures a three-member family for children: not just the foster parents but our church's congregation is also involved, takes care and prays for them.

In the year 2009, a new model for the Diaconical Office has started in Baja. Our church is responsible for the entire system of social welfare in the town to prove that services under its leadership are efficient, successful, flexible, seeking renewal and sensitive towards the problems of others. We know that we could do more than the standard welfare service, organising atypical services by mobilising community resources.

In the same year the Diaconical Adult Training Institution started its work to help diaconical workers. The trainings are focused on the diaconal profession and social professional development training.

Today the reformed institutional diaconal branch of our ministry takes care of 6500 people in need with the help of 3000 employees. Diaconia is a large field of the Church in society.

Our own independent aid-organisation is called the Hungarian Reformed Church Aid. Our rescue team helps when storms damage buildings and uproot trees. The chopped wood is offered for poor widows and elderly people.

The care of the disadvantaged children through the Nyilas Misi Program is our other responsibility. We help children in their education. The most beautiful occasion is the Bridge of Love in October, where 4200 volunteers do something useful for the community, and the environment.

Our diaconia is always in need of volunteers. The Diaconical Year Program Office looks for young people who are willing to give one year to serve abroad at a diaconical institution. In 2009, almost 100 young people took part in the program. .

International Hospice Conference



The First National Hospice Conference was held in Berekfürdő between 19-20 October by the Károli Gáspár Reformed University, Gyökössi Endre Institution for Pastoral Care and Supervising and by the Diaconical Office of the RCH.

One hundred participants came from church and state homes for elderly people as well as from day and homeless care. Following a prayer by bishop Gusztáv Bölcskei, the two directors, Károly Czibere and János Tóth, welcomed the participants. The conference continued with German and Hungarian lecturers and workshops. In addition to practical advice, the members discussed theoretical questions about death, and its depth, the acceptance of death and the importance of our help. Our duty is to talk about these issues, to organise events where questions of faith should be discussed and members should talk about death as well.

In Hungary 164 hospital beds in 6 nursing and elderly homes, 51 beds, 31 hospice nursing groups and 2 day sanatoriums receive hospice services. That is the reason why home nursing service is important. Hospice-palliative care is increasing in our country.

The Bridge of Love



Move, help, love!

“Go, help, love!” activities of volunteers all over the country on 3 October within the framework of a programme called “The Bridge of Love” of the Hungarian Reformed Church Aid. The aim of the program is to make our environment and the lives of other people

better. The bridge signifies the bridge between generations, between those who provide help and the needy, between the world and society, between God and humankind.

More than 3,000 volunteers took part: restored parks, collected garbage, cleaned cemeteries, distributed food, cut trees, painted fences, read the Bible, baked scones. The full-day event was opened in the yard of the Bethesda Reformed Children’s Hospital on 3 October.

Reformed people provide help through common alliance for a war-torn country



Szilárd Sajtos, military chaplain and the coworkers of the Hungarian Reformed Church Aid

In Kosovo, where families cannot get fuel and warm clothes, humanitarian aid was distributed by the Hungarian Reformed Church Aid and the Ministry of Defence–Protestant Chaplain Service. This was the first time when Kosovo received humanitarian supplies from the Republic of Hungary.

Food Aid to the needy in Afghanistan

More than 4 tons of food supplies were distributed in Afghanistan by the Hungarian Reformed Church Aid. The Middle Eastern country received non-perishable food, and clothes from Debrecen.



Advent Help for those who have suffered damage from hail



Through the Advent Aid Program of the Hungarian Reformed Church Aid, 650 families received non-perishable food in Nyírbogdány, Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg County. The hailstorm there damaged houses and destroyed fields in the community. The Aid organisation distributed 8 tons of food in the yard of the Zion Reformed Elderly Home. Our supply group helped to restore the property damage after the hailstorm and advertised the need to collect supplies for the needy in the area. More than 10 million HUF were given to the congregations of the Transibiscan Reformed Church Districts. From the remaining amount, the Aid organisation bought non-perishable food. Families and individuals in need, suggested by the local congregations, received the greatest assistance.



Nyilas Misi Program



The Nyilas Misi Christmas Project of the Hungarian Reformed Church Aid was organised for the fourth time. The gifts were collected in the Protestant Great Church of Debrecen and were distributed to more than 300 children and 100 families for Christmas, thus making their celebration more beautiful. The aid was given to those children in care of the Reformed Foster Parents Network and Regional Child Protection Service - especially to children from Debrecen, Nyíregyháza, Mátészalka, Hajdúszoboszló and Gégény. The program was supported by the players of the DVSC Football Club. The "Loki" football players together with Transtibiscan bishop Gusztáv Bölcskei distributed the presents. Last year more than 5,000 parcels were collected, and this year the staff received donations at 25 depots countrywide.

Health Care Service

Moments from the life of the Bethesda Children's Hospital

Bethesda Children's Hospital is one of the country's two operating children's hospitals that provides care. It attends to 8,000 in-patients and 120,000 ambulant patients with its countrywide, partly capitol and regional control.

New ultrasonic device in Bethesda



Dedication of a new medical device in the Bethesda Children's Hospital

The Children's Cancer Foundation donated a high-end ultrasonic device to Bethesda Children's Hospital.

On 26 August 2009, president of the Children's Cancer Foundation, István Balogh handed over the device to the director of the Hospital, Dr. György Velkey. With this diagnostic system, the Children's hospital can improve the diagnosis of tumour cases.

3,000 sets of bed linen were donated by the Teutonic Order of Knights for the Bethesda Children's Hospital

Three thousand bed linens from a 5-star hotel was donated by the Ordo Militaris Teutoncius for Bethesda Children's Hospital. The donation was delivered by the Hungarian Saint Leslie Order and Companionship. The value of the donation was 45,000 EUR (12 million HUF). "What counts is not the material value, but the desire to help. The high officer of the German Ordo Militaris Teutoncius, Klaus Boss stated, "We deliver anywhere there is a need." This is the twentieth supply from the German order of knights to Hungary, but they also have donated to Lithuania, Ukraine, Romania, Moldova and Brazil.





The Church of Young People

Our society has been rapidly changing in recent years and these changes can be experienced in people's relation to the church. According to sociological surveys, fewer people are connected to the church as an institution. We experience in youth ministry, however, that our church has young people who are strongly committed to the church.



“Csillagpont” - Starpoint Reformed Youth Festival 2009

“Where do you get your courage from?”

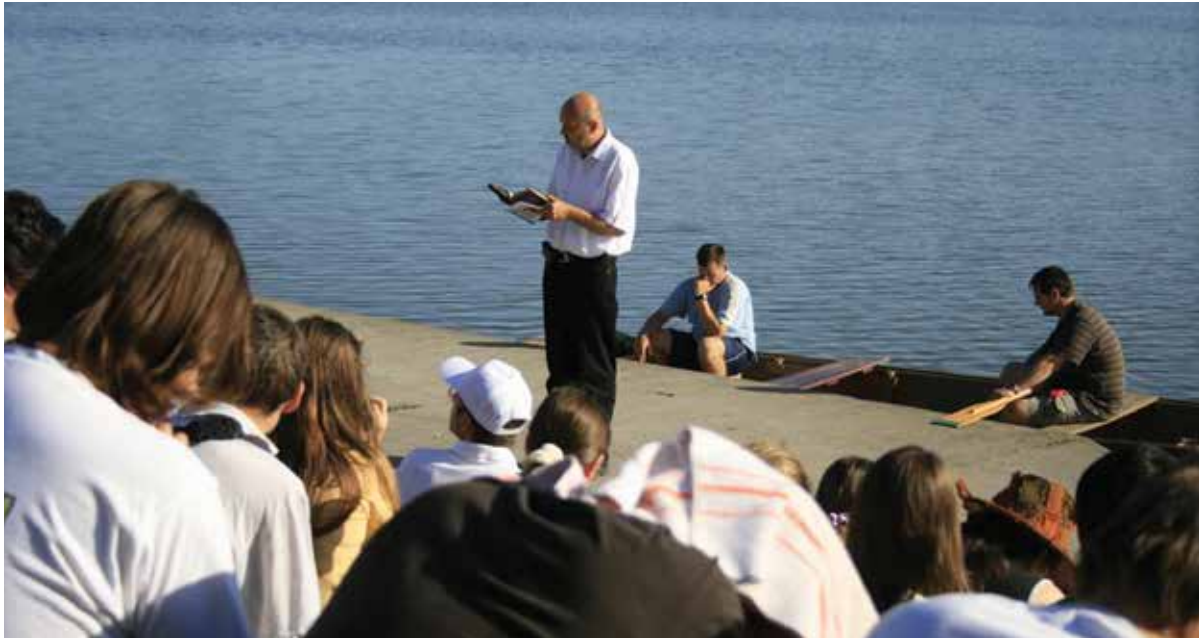
Starpoint Reformed Youth Festival is the official youth festival of the RCH that is organised once every two years. The fourth gathering was held in Fadd-Dombori from 21-25 July 2009 with an increase in the number of volunteers, organisation and participants. While at the first, Bodajk meeting in 2003 there were 1,500 participants, in 2009 there were 3,000. Besides the fact that this conference is of high quality, it also provides high standard cultural and entertainment opportunities. Today it has grown also to be a youth education program.

Volunteers learn how to work in teams and communities, help each other and take responsibility.

We examined at Starpoint where courage stems from and tried to provide answers as to why it is good to be a Calvinist young person.

Dr. Tamás Kodácsy, chaplain of Károli Gáspár Reformed University, tried to find an answer to what the sources of courage are for Christians. With the assistance of trained group leaders small group discussions were held on the keynote address.





Bishop József Steinbach holds worships by the river bank

Programmes that are not exclusively concerned with Reformed themes (e.g. environment protection, lectures on family and relationships, forums on youth career selection, performance of an Israeli dance group) emphasise the social responsibility of communities, and the openness of these social groups. In addition to the various programmes, concerts are thought-provoking lectures and presentations and what is rare among festivals, Starpoint invites participants to engage in one on one discussion, friendly introduction and prayer.

It is essential to incorporate Reformed communities from the neighbouring countries of Hungary in the development of the program. The mobile exhibition titled "May 22" was also set up at the Starpoint festival. It represented the national day of unity at several locations in the country and also moments from the life of the Hungarian Reformed communities in the Carpathian Basin.

Beside Hungarians from outside of Hungary, we had visitors from other countries in Europe like Great Britain, Lithuania, Czech Republic, as well as Canada, the United States and Taiwan. The experiences gained at previous Starpoint meetings organised in Sárospatak, Debrecen and Bodajk also contributed to the year-long preparation for Starpoint 2009 with the assistance of 400 volunteers.





Education

In the field of education in Hungary, the negative tendencies continued in 2009. In recent periods 1,300 schools were closed, more than 25,000 educators and 14,000 fellow workers were discharged. Due to the cutbacks in resources local governments of small settlements are unable to support the institutions that are considered an essential part of rural life. Promises like giving care to disadvantaged children, catching up and paying attention to gifted children all remained unrealised.

The Reformed educational institutions under these circumstances had to continue its value-preserving work in 2009, and in contrast to the national tendency, could actually expand. Nurseries in Heves, Szentendre and Pécs; primary schools in Biharkeresztes and Hajdúhadház; secondary and vocational schools in Karcag; art school in Halásztelek could begin their work.

Reformed education fulfilled 180 educational tasks in 119 institutions in the 2009/2010 school year. 36 nursery schools, 66 primary schools, 27 high schools, 5 vocational high schools, 3 trade schools, 12 art schools, 6 institutions for special education, 22 student hostels, 2 pedagogical services and 1 institution for pedagogical professional services fulfil public duties. The number of multifunctional institutions is 38. With regard to the 80 Reformed church legal entities out of which 69 are church communities, national coordination has an increased influence. This task was performed by the Educational Office of the Synod, by the Reformed Pedagogical Institution and by the Joint Reformed Pedagogical Service.

The decreasing number of boarding school education and elementary art education is the

result of the decline of the education policy and financial support. In the field of education, the Reformed institutions have taken significant steps toward preserving their values. The RCH preserved and developed its institutions in 2009 despite the national decline in financial and legal prerequisites of education. This could be realised through the effective use of material and internal resources. Moreover, the cooperation between the Reformed Educational Institutions in the Carpathian Basin has increased.

The Constitutional Synod on 22 May 2009 provided the opportunity for Hungarian schools to introduce themselves. This occasion let cross-border schools present their activities with valuable stage performances and with exhibitions. The participants of the secondary school conference expressed their opinion against the restriction of autonomy of church education. In 2009 there were several repeated attempts of this within the territory of the Carpathian Basin. Conditions of the final exams, which should provide the use of the mother tongue in major subjects at the final exam, were not met in Transcarpathia. The criteria of the curriculum and methodology are absent from the effective teaching of the Ukrainian language. Therefore, the requirements of the Ukrainian language final exam at an advanced level, which is required for further studies, are unrealistic. In Transylvania the disorganized real estate system and the centralized authorisation of institutions and classes are all obstacles to the development of the Hungarian church institutional system. The State Language Law of Slovakia passed in 2009 threatens the Hungarian communities and church schools. The unfavourable changes in the admission system of secondary schools in Hungary, the uncertain financing and constantly changing legislation obstructs the strengthening of the Reformed schools' identity and tradition.

This phenomenon shows that the principles of the European Union and of the European

2009 data registry of the Reformed education

	Early Development	Pre-school	Primary Education (Grades 1-8)	Secondary Education (secondary school (Classes: 9-12. Vocational school Claasses 9-10.)	Technical Training (technical theory)	Boarding School Education	Elementary Art Education	Developer Training (Special Education)	Total
15/09/2008	22	2.668	17.066	8.791	381	1.801	2.294	160	33.183
15/09/2009	23	3.012	17.854	8.848	480	1.649	2.135	176	34.177
Deviation (%)	4,5	12,9	4,6	6,5	26,0	-8,4	-6,9	10,0	3,0

Council do not apply entirely to our region. Furthermore, the rights to freedom stated in the countries' constitutions and laws are compromised. Primarily those rights are compromised that relate to freedom of conscience, freedom of religion, rights to education in a native language and freedom to choose a school.

According to the decision of the Synod, collection box donations on the last Sunday of October in 2009 are offered for the Reformed Talent Support Foundation. In 2009 the Reformed Talent Support Foundation organised the talent support camp of Reformed secondary schools, called the Talentum Camp for the fifteenth time for talented students. With the financial support of the Foundation, Reformed secondary schools from Hungary, from Transcarpathia and from one of the secondary schools in the Highlands, 62 students could participate in the camp between 13-18 July. The central theme of the camp was Calvin's effect on the life of the Hungarian Calvinists. The Reformed educational institutions held their 2009/10 school year opening ceremony on 29 August in Tata. On this occasion teachers were awarded for their outstanding activities, professional work and exemplary behaviour. The following teachers were honoured with the Sándor Makkai Award: Mrs. Barthos (Gödöllő), Mrs. A Horváth (Kecskemét) and Ms. Valéria Bohák (Érsekkéty). The Sándor Imre Prize was awarded to Mr. Attila Kálmán, director of the high school in Tata, at the Synod's meeting in Balatonszárszó on 19 November.

The Reformed higher education is represented by the four faculties (Faculty of Law, Faculty of Humanities, Faculty of Theology and Faculty of Teacher Training) of the Károli Gáspár University of the RCH, which is maintained by the Synod. In addition, three institutions with theological training programs (Debrecen Reformed Theological University, Pápa Reformed Theological Academy, Sárospatak Reformed Theological Academy) and the Kölcsey Ferenc Teachers Training College of the Reformed Church in Debrecen represent reformed higher education. Registered students in 2009 varied as follows:

Course Trainings	2008	2009
Full time training	4.324	3.965
Distance/part-time learning	1.270	1.435
Total:	5.594	5.400

Financing	2008	2009
State financed	3.333	3.105
Non-subsidised / self-paid	2.261	2.295
Total:	5.594	5.400

Books were donated to the new library of the university



The ambassador of Germany, Dorothee Janetzke-Wenzel with the support of Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft donated books to the Library of the German Department of Károli Gáspár University of the Reformed Church on 17 March.

The Bod Péter Library of the Faculty of Arts opened officially, where Dorothee Janetzke-Wenzel told about her family's Protestant bonds. She emphasised that scientific research cannot be influenced by actual political events. She expressed that informal meetings with students are of great significance. In her opinion, students can make inquiries about anything about Germany and even that which they did not dare to ask before. The ceremonial donation of books was a great opportunity to speak about cultural relationships between German and Hungarian Protestantism. This speech was held by Gusztáv Bölcskei presiding bishop of the Synod that supports the university. Another welcome speech was given by András Vargha acting rector, on the significance of Protestant book publishing.



Exhibition of drawings and essays submitted at the announcement of the Hungarian Reformed Church

The drawing and essay contest announcement for children and youth was announced by the Synod of the Hungarian Reformed Church and by the Reformed Pedagogical Institution. The motto of the announcement was "I have already found him in my heart" which served to be the remembrance of the 90th anniversary of Endre Ady's death. The other aim of the announcement was to adopt the Advent-Christmas theme because of the closeness of these to dates. Nine hundred sixty-eight works were submitted from 127 different schools in the Carpathian Basin. Seventy-one percent of the schools were state financed institutions. The opening of the exhibition was held on 2 December at the Baár-Madas High School and Primary School. Bishop Gusztáv Bölcskei welcomed the participants at this special occasion. "When I heard that the announcement received an unexpected echo not only in church, but also in schools of the town councils, I thought to myself that despite the warning signs, we do have hope, because these youth will shape our future" – said the bishop.





STATISTICAL SNAPSHOT OF THE REFORMED CHURCH IN HUNGARY

Information Material – 28 April 2010

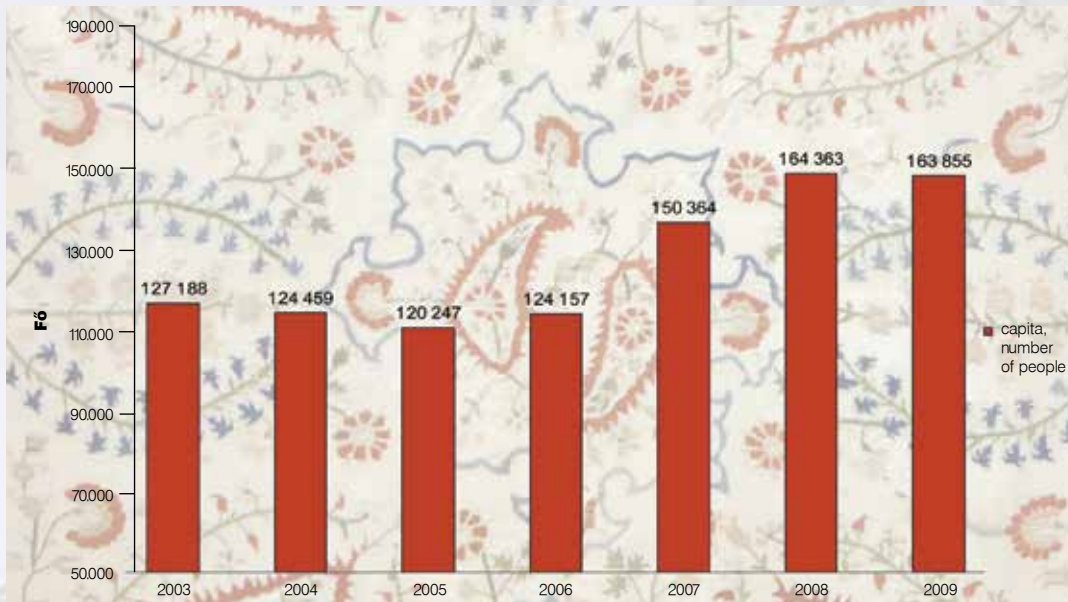
	Presbytery	Baptism			Confirmation			Wedding			Funeral		
		Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Pure	Mixed	Total	Man	Woman	Total
Danubian	Baranya	151	138	289	81	103	184	26	45	71	205	201	406
	Bács-Kiskunság	313	314	627	179	224	403	37	123	160	469	420	889
	Budapest-South	364	373	737	165	186	351	84	164	248	459	545	1004
	Budapest-North	412	363	775	186	186	372	52	151	203	470	604	1074
	South Pest	588	576	1164	356	375	731	91	164	255	681	652	1333
	North Pest	415	416	831	238	266	504	63	162	225	525	513	1038
	Tolna	98	96	194	35	64	99	14	34	48	136	140	276
	Vértesalja	176	193	369	117	121	238	30	53	83	245	232	477
	Total	2517	2469	4986	1357	1525	2882	397	896	1293	3190	3307	6497
Transdanubian	Mezőföld			251			159	21	49	70	218	180	398
	Órség	58	65	123	41	51	92	10	35	45	93	93	186
	Pápa	137	108	245	100	90	190	30	79	109	182	197	379
	Somogy	69	97	166	66	82	148	31	42	73	181	154	335
	Tata	187	223	410	103	131	234	28	79	107	261	296	557
	Veszprém			272			138	34	58	92	156	145	301
	Total			1467			961	154	342	496	1091	1065	2156
Cisistibiscan	Abaúj	148	141	289	128	127	255	27	42	69	265	239	504
	Borsod-Gömör	450	463	913	318	341	659	114	157	271	674	637	1311
	Egervölgy	68	72	140	73	70	143	22	25	47	146	129	275
	Zemplén	214	223	437	155	158	313	39	44	83	363	325	688
	Total			1779			1370			470			2778
Transstibiscan	Békés	209	217	426	134	145	279	34	27	61	484	497	981
	Bihar	133	147	280	77	100	177	19	5	24	250	246	496
	Csongrád	171	208	379	74	101	175	19	42	61	128	177	305
	Debrecen	559	583	1142	282	382	664	172	97	269	527	572	1099
	Hajdúvidék	402	433	835	215	257	472	86	33	119	481	501	982
	Nagykunság	247	306	553	122	197	319	27	14	41	352	394	746
	Nyírség	657	646	1303	410	440	850	114	161	275	735	672	1407
	Szabolcs-Bereg	294	291	585	331	393	724	103	59	162	428	419	847
	Szatmár	293	231	524	296	333	629	101	25	126	467	415	882
	Total	2965	2845	6027	1807	2203	4289	675	463	1138	3852	3893	7745
All together			14259			9502			3397			19176	

Labour Data of the RCH

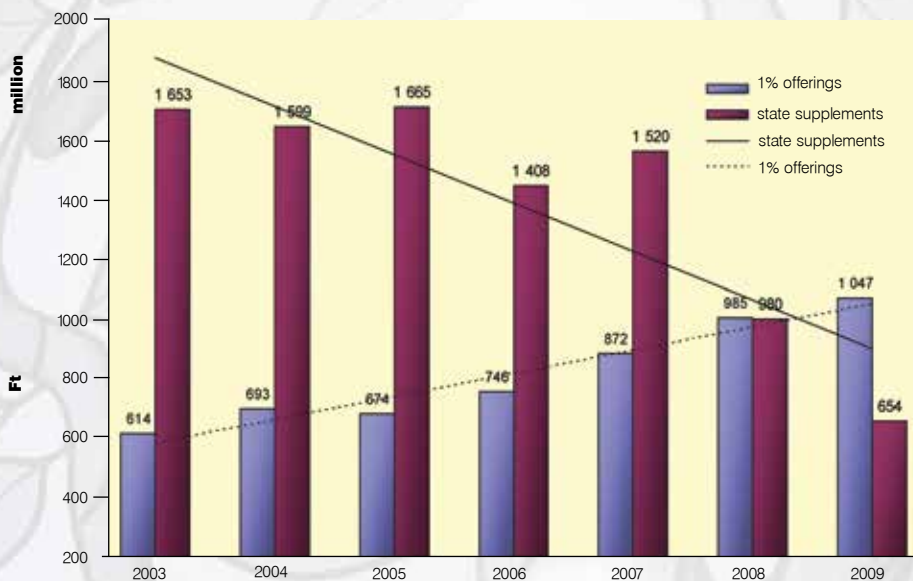
Denomination	Data
Full-time employees	
Number on 31 December 2009	7503
Employees with commissions	
Number of employees with commissions in December	856



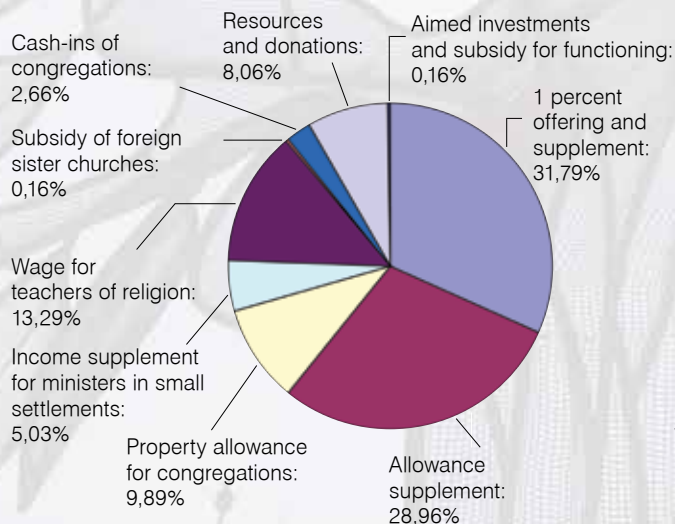
Number of people who offered 1 percent of their personal income taxes to the RCH



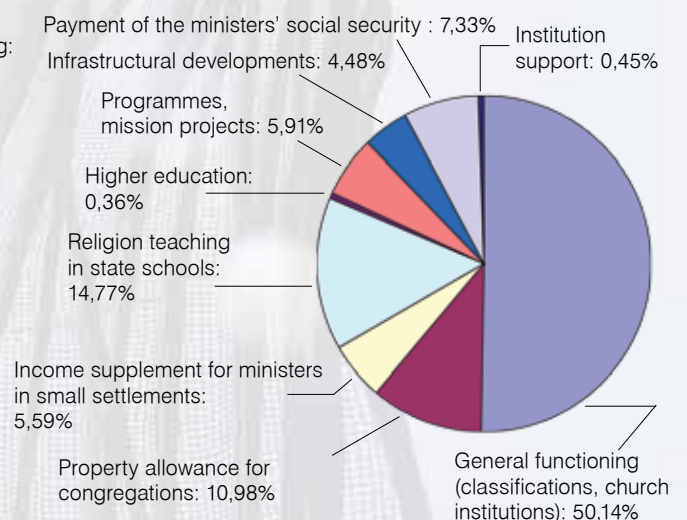
Rate of the 1 percent personal income tax and that of the state supplement between 2003-2009

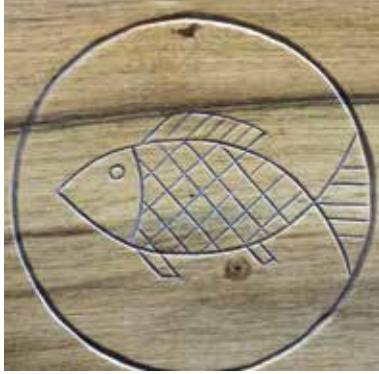


Main resources of the RCH in 2009 (for church activities – indicative data)



Expenditures of the RCH in 2009 (for church activities – indicative data)





TRANSDANUBIAN REFORMED CHURCH DISTRICT

H-8500 Pápa, Árok u. 6. Hungary
Phone: 00 36 89 512 400
E-mail: dtpuspoki@gmail.com

DANUBIAN REFORMED CHURCH DISTRICT

H-1092 Budapest, Ráday utca 28. Hungary
Phone: 00 36 1 218 0753, fax: 00 36 1 218 0903
E-mail: ph@raday28.hu
Website: www.raday28.hu

CISTIBISCAN REFORMED CHURCH DISTRICT

H-3525 Miskolc, Kossuth u. 17. Hungary
Phone: 00 36 46 563 563, fax: 00 36 46 508 884
E-mail: phivatal@puspokmc.axelero.net
Website: www.reformatus-tizsaninnen.hu
www.tirek.hu

TRANSTIBISCAN REFORMED CHURCH DISTRICT

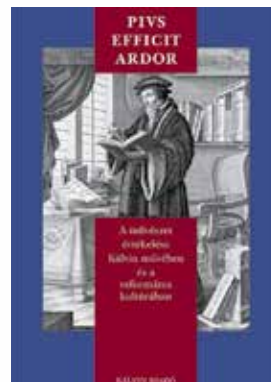
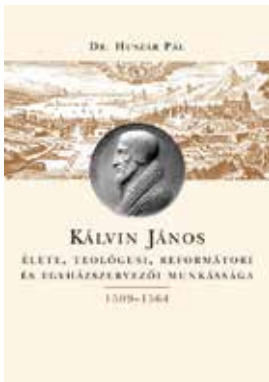
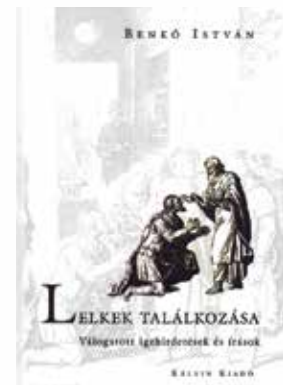
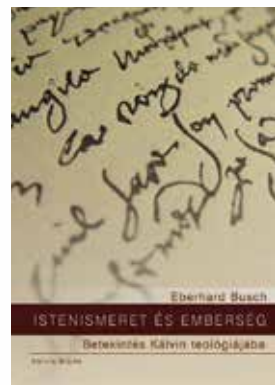
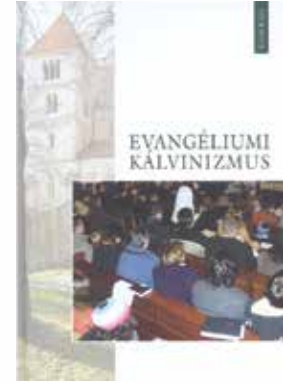
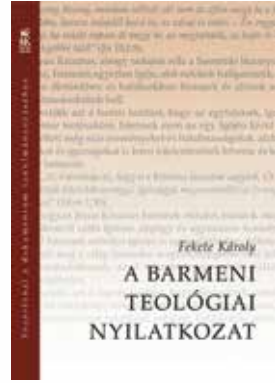
H-4026 Debrecen, Kálvin tér 17. Hungary
Postal address: 4001 Debrecen, Pf. 65 Hungary
Phone: 00 36 52 412 459; 00 36 52 414 744
Fax: 00 36 52 414 400
E-mail: hivatal@pushiv.drk.hu
Website: www.tizsantul.reformatus.hu

SYNOD OFFICE OF THE REFORMED CHURCH IN HUNGARY

H-1146 Budapest, Abonyi u. 21
Postal address: 1440 Budapest, 70. , Pf. 5
Phone: 00 36 1 460 0714
Fax: 00 36 1 460 0715



www.reformatus.hu



Collection of publications issued in 2009 by the Reformed Kálvin Publisher and the Hungarian Bible Association.