News from the Mission in Karlovac (Croatia)

On Sunday, 19 January, Rev. Deacon Almir Pehlić served his first liturgy in his hometown of Karlovac. This is the first reformation liturgy in Karlovac since the 17th century. Prayers were offered for the entire Anglican Church, and especially for our dear brothers and sisters from Holy Cross Anglican Church (Texas). Thank you very much for your prayers and brotherly support. We will keep praying for the REC and ACNA!

See more:
https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.269777023178767.1073741838.121465764676561&type=1

Then on Sunday, 16 February, the Mission in Karlovac celebrated our first Eucharist! Rev. Jasmin Koso was celebrant and Rev. Deacon Almir Pehlić assisted him. We hope that this is the first of many Eucharistic Liturgies in Karlovac! Blessings from Croatia!

See more:
https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.280232138799922.1073741839.121465764676561&type=1

Confirmation in Zagreb

On Ascension Day our parish in Zagreb received a new member. Brother Manuel was a vital member of our congregation for a couple of years before he decided to take the confirmation class. He was confirmed by Bishop Jasmin Milić, assisted by presbyter Jasmin Koso and deacon Almir Pehlić (pictured at right). His brothers and sisters in Christ were very happy to receive brother Manuel as a new member of Christ the Redeemer church in Zagreb.
Presentation of the *History of the Reformation in Croatia*

On Sunday, 09 March, in Tordinci, Croatia, there was a presentation of the latest book by The Rt. Rev. Dr. Jasmin Milić. The book is entitled *History of the Reformation in Croatia with Emphasis on the Tordinci Parish from 1862 to 1952*. The book was presented by MSc. Juliana Tešija, a lecturer at the Evangelical Theological Seminary in Osijek in front of the Tordinci municipal building, with Mayor Zeljko Matanović addressing the gathering. On this same occasion, a longtime senior warden of the church and treasurer of the municipality, Dragan Ištoković, received letters of thanks for his dedicated work. Dragan Ištoković and his wife Milica dedicated themselves to sacrificially serve the Tordinci Reformed parish for many years.

See more: https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.288962934593509.1073741840.121465764676561&type=1

The Very Rev. Dr. Jonathan Riches’ Visit to Croatia

The Very Rev. Dr. Jonathan Riches, Dean of Reformed Episcopal Seminary, and his family visited Croatia from April 12 through 18. Dr. Riches preached in the Reformed Episcopal Churches in Osijek and in Tordinci, as well as at the student worship chapel service at the Evangelical Theological Seminary in Osijek. At the Evangelical Theological Seminary, Dr. Riches lectured on the 39 Articles of Faith. The lectures were attended by priests of the Reformed Episcopal Church of Croatia. Dr. Riches’ visit and lectures were an opportunity to discuss the development of a relationship between our churches in Croatia and the Reformed Episcopal Seminary in America.

See more: https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.301308780025591.1073741842.121465764676561&type=1
News from Belgrade (Serbia)

Our little mission continues to preach the Gospel in accordance with our capabilities. Every Tuesday we have a Bible study that is open to the public. So far, we have 5 people who regularly attend but who are not members of our church. We also have Sunday worship every week—once a month at the Caritas chapel and the remaining weeks in the home of members.

Missions Team from Holy Cross Anglican Church, Alpine, TX

A short-term missions team from Holy Cross Anglican Church (REC) of Alpine, TX, visited Croatia from 12 April 23 to 8 May, 2014. The team was led by their pastor, the Rev. Damien Grout.

During their stay, the team held English lessons most evenings in the Church of the Good Shepherd in Osijek. The evening events were well attended. A total of 18 people came for the first time into our church. Through academic lessons in English as well as through friendly relationships with team members, the participants were introduced to the Gospel.

On Sunday, 28 April, Rev. Grout preached in Tordinci. After the worship service, the team visited the Roman Catholic parish priest in Tordinci. On Sunday, 4 May, Rev. Grout preached at the Church of the Good Shepherd in Osijek. Later, the same day, the team traveled to Karlovac, where Rev. Grout preached in the evening worship service of our mission church there, which only a few months ago started its services and other activities (see page 1).

The team also had the opportunity on Saturday, 3 May, to participate in a wedding in Tordinci. The team was a blessing to our church in Croatia. We encourage others to come to Croatia for a visit and to help us in proclaiming the Good News, either as teams or as individuals.

See more: https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.310646715758464.1073741843.121465764676561&type=1
Flooding in Serbia, Bosnia, and Croatia

The worst flooding in 120 years hit Serbia, Bosnia & Herzegovina and Croatia in May, triggered by heavy rains during a 7-day period. Tens of thousands of people were forced to flee their homes due to rising waters. Thousands more were stranded, many of them trapped in upper floors of buildings without drinking water, meals, medical help, and electrical power. At least fifty people died in this catastrophe, and even after two months, some are still missing.

See more:
https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.311859942303808.1073741844.121465764676561&type=1

Bishop Milić’s Visit to US

In June, Bishop Jasmin Milić visited the United States for a two-week speaking tour, organized by the REC Board of Foreign Missions. He preached and/or spoke at St Stephen's (Eldersburg MD), St Mark's (Rydal PA), and Grace (Collingdale PA) Churches, Reformed Episcopal Seminary, Trinity School for Ministry, a Mission Luncheon organized by the Society of Anglican Missionaries and Senders (SAMS-Ambridge PA), and at the REC triennial General Council. He also visited the National Cathedral (Washington DC), Dr Zdravko Plantak (a former professor), retired REC Bishop Dan Cox and his wife Pat, the headquarters building and staff of the Anglican Church in North America (ACNA), and historic Christ Church in Philadelphia, where the rector Timothy Stafford invited Bishop Milić to sit in the Cathedral chair of Bishop William White, America’s first Anglican Bishop, in a roped-off area, not normally open to visitors.

A special meeting was held during the General Council with Presiding Bishop-elect Royal Grote, the Free Church of England and bishops John Fenwick and Paul Hunt, Bishops Gerhard Meyer (Germany) and Milić (Croatia & Serbia) with the leadership of the SAMS mission group to coordinate ministries in the re-evangelization of Europe. (A SAMS missionary couple in southwest Germany has now come under the Episcopal oversight of Bishop Meyer as part of this project.)

Bishop Milić also participated in an ecumenical meeting of REC and FCE bishops with visiting bishops from other communions, attended the annual banquet of the Friends of RE Seminary and a special Evensong with guest choristers from St Timothy's Classical School (Dallas TX) and St Andrew's Academy (Lake Almanor CA), and met retiring Archbishop Robert Duncan as well as REC missionary Matt Colvin, Mission Board members, and other bishops, clergy and lay leaders. This visit enabled a greater sharing of the REC vision in Croatia, Serbia and Central Europe and the positive development of personal and parish partnerships between our Churches. Thank you to all who made this visit possible.

For more information, visit us on the web:
www.facebook.com/ReformedEpiscopalChurchInCroatia
www.recbfm.org/