



Online Conference on: **Religious Communities and organisations reflect on the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic on their congregations**

Austria, October 2, 2020

By *Elisabeth Cook*

This conference was organised as the result of a meeting in August 2020 with Austrian religious leaders who participated in the founding Conference of the World Clergy Leadership Conference (WCLC) in New York in December 2019.

The moderator of the online conference was Bogdan Pammer, Vice President of the Austrian Family Federation for World Peace.

Among the speakers were six representatives of churches and religious communities and two

politicians whose focus is on advocating family values in politics.

The politicians drew our attention to the fact that companies and economics in general need to find better ways to create family-friendly circumstances, and that the political parties should speak out more for the importance of the family in creating a healthy society.

The representatives of churches and religious communities all agreed that the Covid-19 restrictions have been a big challenge for their communities. A protestant pastor, as well as the representative of the Celestial Church of Christ, mentioned that "How can you be a community if you can't meet and if you can't sing together?"

However, there were examples of positive developments as well, which were emphasised by the spokeswoman of the Church of Christ of Latter Days Saints and the representative of the Family Federation for World Peace, such as online Sunday Services and conferences which enabled more members and guests to attend, and also that members became more familiar with using the internet for spreading God's spirit, truth and love.

The positive response after the conference encouraged us to organise another online meeting in November 2020 under the theme "The eternal world", seen by different religions.