



## **Pop-Up Monastery 2015**

### ***A project of the Young Women's Group of the EFECW***

#### Our Vision

Our vision is to enable European women from all generations to build a community through the concept of a 'pop-up monastery'. We want to encourage women to jump out of their usual routines into a new daily rhythm, inspired by traditional and modern monastic life, for the amount of time they wish –whether for a few days or several weeks.

We envisage an ecumenical spirituality inspired by the rich traditions of our individual denominations, uniting us through the generations. We imagine this being located in a place of beauty, where we can build a balance between experiencing peace and tranquillity, and action for and in community. We see work and worship being as one, and that each woman will have a role related to her talents and skills. There will also be the possibility to try new challenges, and to become empowered through learning and sharing from each other.

#### Profile of the House

One of the first steps in our planning is to find a suitable house or location, which will then impact upon the development of our vision for the summer house. We are looking for a house surrounded by nature, forests, and water, with the possibility for pilgrimage and outdoor spiritual experiences. We also require one room to be used as a chapel or meeting place for all of those attending the summer house, along with 2 or 3 additional rooms for activities. We imagine 25–40 participants, but the house will define the number of women who can attend, as well as catering and room configuration. We imagine a simple place, which is available for our sole use for a set period of time. In particular we imagine a place which is sympathetic to our aims and values, and where we can partner with the local community. The process of preparing and eating food together is important to us, but we are open to finding out different possibilities in relation to catered or self-catering options. Locally sourced, organic and ethically-based produce is our priority.

#### Role of the Housekeepers

By this we mean those individuals who can provide a continuous presence – this role is crucial to the success of this project. It is more than the role of host – it

should include people who have skills and experience to enable them to organise the daily life of the summer house, but also the spiritual life. The ability to build and encourage community to grow and develop is essential. Part of the project may be to train women to enable them to fulfil this role.

### Funding

The Pop-Up Monastery is part of the Young Women's Strategy of the EFECW, which was agreed in Loccum to engage more young women in the work of the forum and to foster dialogue between the generations. In Budapest 2012, the CC decided to support this project and the Jackie Stuyt fund very kindly offered to support the first stages of planning, which includes 2-3 meetings of the Steering Committee in 2012/2013. Part of the first planning period will be to create a budget for the whole project, including ideas for fundraising. Funding options so far include the Council of Europe and other EU funding, funding from churches and organisations on a national level, and international charities or organisations which are sympathetic to our aims.

### Steering Committee

All women from the Young Women's Group were invited to be part of the Steering Committee. There was a very positive response to the project, and the first meeting was composed of:

Terhi Korhonen, Austria/Finland;

Maryana Varabyova, Belarus;

Julia Lersch, Germany;

Carla Maurer, Switzerland/England;

Fiona Buchanan, Scotland

Young women from the forum are welcome to become involved at any point in either the Steering Committee or the project. We also welcome the input from all forum women at the Steering Committee meetings if we are meeting in your country. We also hope to include other women in the project, through for example, a competition to design a logo, create a website, or an internship to work on the organisational side of the project.

### Next meeting

Beginning of 2013 – February 1<sup>st</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> or 7<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>, Stadtkloster Segen in Berlin.

We hope to have our meetings in a monastic environment, in order to gather experience of living in and participating in this type of community.