

Book Reviews

Christoph Klein, *Kirche mit anderen. Bemühung um die Ökumene in Rumänien, (Kirche – Konfession – Religion Band 63), V&R Unipress, Göttingen, 2014, 227 p.*

Ciprian Iulian Toroczkai*

Christoph Klein (b. 1937) was Bishop of the Evangelical Church A.C. of Romania from 1990 to 2010 and is currently Associate Professor Emeritus of Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu.

Dedicated by the author to “women and men who strove for ecumenism in Romania”, this book is the result of a life in the service of ecumenical dialogue. It is an experience which, the author confesses, began when he was a student at the Institute of Protestant Theology in Cluj (Romania) where Hungarian, Reformed, Unitarian and Lutheran people (p. 13) were studying. Over time, this experience enriched his life: Christoph Klein became a pastor, professor of theology and then Lutheran bishop in Sibiu. He simultaneously participated in the “Faith and Order” and “Mission and Evangelization” committees, and, from 1998 to 2006, he was a member of the Central Committee of the World Council of Churches. To that can be added his participation in the bilateral dialogue between the LWF (Lutheran World Federation) and the Orthodox Churches.

If Dietrich Bonhoeffer spoke of a “Church for others” (“Kirche für andere”), Christoph Klein speaks of a “church with others” (“Kirche mit anderen”). In fact, this phrase is very appropriate, given the socio-historical context in which the author lived. The introductory chapter (p. 19-31), which is dedicated to the religious situation in Romania states that many other religions coexist here alongside the dominant Orthodox denomination: Greek Catholics (Uniates), Roman Catholics, Protestants, Unitarians, Baptists, Lutherans (Hungarian and German) etc.

Structurally, the book consists of three main sections: the first one dedicated to ecumenical theology (p. 31-122); the second to a “lived ecumenism” (p. 123-184); and the final one to some of the leading figures of ecumenism (p. 185-220).

* Ciprian Iulian Toroczkai, PhD Assistant Professor at the Andrei Şaguna Faculty of Orthodox Theology, Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu, Romania; e-mail: torocipri@gmail.com.