

Camphill Movement and Camphill Community

The Karl König Institute works together with various people and groups of people who have taken inner responsibility for the original impulses and aims that brought about the Camphill Movement. These people connect to each other internationally as members of the “*Camphill Community*”.

Early in the development of Camphill Karl König began to differentiate between the *Camphill Movement* as the work spreading from Scotland was soon to become known, and the group of people carrying the inner aspects of this outer expansion. On the one hand, the *Movement* was an outer expression of the intentions and aspirations of the pioneer group around Karl König; on the other hand the circle around that pioneer group also grew, in commitment to the task of inner practice related to furthering the inner aspects themselves – an *initiative group*. This group was formally established by Karl König in 1942.

Apart from the outer institutions (communities) of the *Camphill Movement*, Karl König spoke of the actual community striving as “*Camphill Community*”. In 1948 for instance he wrote the following: *The Community must maintain a wakeful eye for the institutions it brings about and it must serve those people who wish to live in its atmosphere. The Community must have the possibility of deciding on and of founding institutions, but at the same time remaining separate from them. Through this the Community would become a community of initiative but not a community of possessions.*

Today it is an important task to gain further insight into the inner substance and aims that Karl König intended for the Camphill Community; to explore the relevance of this work in its contemporary context and develop it further. In this way to research enhance the inner aims of Camphill has been identified as belonging to the tasks of the Karl König Institute, therefore leading to cooperation with the work of the Camphill Community.

Since more than 80 years there have been varying social structures to coordinate this work within the *Camphill Movement*. In recent years there has been a widening of the community impulse as it was founded by Karl König, but also the will to put his ideals and insights into practice in many areas of social work has reached a new level of diversity – as indeed König himself had hoped. Therefore, however, as he had foreseen, the impulse of the *Camphill Community* can no longer be simply and completely congruent with the institutions of the *Camphill Movement*. Since 1999 a series of international gatherings has begun to take up the questions raised by today’s situation on many levels, the last being held in Lautenbach and Hermannsberg in Germany, 2018.

At present a group assigned with coordinating regional work and the international process, has been delegated from Camphill world wide. These “Preparers” are tasked with awareness and communication within this process. Tilman Aichele, who is a member of the Institute but also of the Preparers group, has been mandated to facilitate contact between the group and the Institute. His address: tilman.aichele@web.de

As with all projects of the Karl König Institute, also this work depends on support and donations. Your contribution can be appropriated specifically to this cause if you make it payable to the Karl König Institute and specify that it is for “Camphill Community.” Our donations page is here: <https://www.karlkoeniginstitute.org/en/donations.asp>

To learn more about the spiritual background and inner aims of Camphill, and how these ideals have engendered and enriched the various developmental stages of the Camphill Movement up to present times, please turn to our publications – particularly “[The Spirit of Camphill](#)”, and also the volume giving a broader view of Karl König’s aspirations for spiritually appropriate modern community building: “[Becoming Human – A Social Task](#)”.