

Pennsylvania Southeast Conference Partnership Report: 2014- 2015

Our joy and cause for celebrating is that we were able to welcome the Rev. William (Bill) Worley as our new Conference Minister. He is enthusiastic about our ecumenical ties and especially our German partnership – and he speaks German, plus Spanish.

Highlights to report are:

1. Partnerships:

Presently the only active partnerships are: St. James, Havertown; Trinity, Holland; and Trinity, Collegeville. Three additional ones: Huff's Church, Good Shepherd, Tuckerton, Reading, and St. John's, Orwigsburg (which was not formalized) need to determine the present situations and, if inactive, inquire about future possibilities.

2. Potential to expand partnership especially with schools in the Conference area, were raised:

It was decided to inquire about School Districts:

- a) present ones in PSEC area
- b) Interest in being in partnership. German government has a plan and funds available for schools – teachers and students, to be involved in exchange visits and programs.
- c) what schools (students) might be interested in joining our churches/Conference when visiting our Anhalt partner churches
- d) inform schools that students can use the visit for credits in such studies as: political science, ecology, environmental science, diplomatic relations, and more.

3. Shared Ministry, Union (Lutheran and United Church of Christ) and Federated (the two merged into one congregation) which involves both the PSEC and the Penn Northeast Conference and Pennsylvania Northeastern Lutheran Synod.

It is our turn to host a team of pastors from the Anhalt District Church, in response to their hosting the first team we sent in 2013.

4. Conversations with Penn Northeast Conference:

Consider having both conferences work together in the Anhalt Partnership, with the PSEC relationship being the channel through both might work together. Conversations are underway between the Conference ministers and representatives from both Conferences.

5. Upcoming visit from Dr. Christ of Theilemann, of the Berlin Mission and several pastors and spouses, Aug. 14 – 17, arriving in New York and spending the weekend with us before going on to Eden Seminary.

6. Invitation to participate in the World Reformation Exhibit, 20 May to 10 September, 2017 in Lutherstadt, Wittenberg and solicit involvement beyond Conference – other Conferences, national church, seminaries, ecumenical agencies.

7. Local 500th Anniversary event: Reported by Rev. Dr. Russell Mitman)

On Oct. 29, 2017 2 PM, there will be a special service at Eakins Oval Fountain, Philadelphia.. Roman Catholic, Orthodox, Protestant – all participating. It will be Baptismal Remembrance at the pool. The city of Philadelphia is involved.

Submitted on behalf of the Ecumenical Relations Mission Team by,
Martha B. Kriebel, Chair