

From: Ann and David Moyer [mailto:asmdsm@charter.net]
Sent: Friday, July 07, 2006 9:51 PM
To: Jacki Mitchell
Cc: David Moyer
Subject: Notes on Goerlitz visit

Notes: Visit of Delegation from the Evangelical Church of Berlin-Brandenburg, Schelische-Oberlausitz

Dates: June 7-21

Members of the Delegation: (Jacki: please list)

Host Planners: Rev. David Gaeth, Rev. Sara Morse, Rev. Ann Wahlers, Rev. Pat Tucker, Glenn Svetnika, Rev. Richard Feyen. **Staff:** Jacki Mitchell, Rev. David Moyer

Hosts: Moon Beach Camp, (names and locations of individuals as we have them available)

Program:

June 7: Arrival at O'Hare International Airport; picked up by David Gaeth and hosts from Greendale Community; evening in Milwaukee area

June 8: Greendale hosts group with tours in Milwaukee

June 9-11: Guests at the Wisconsin Conference Annual Meeting at Green Lake Conference Center. Introduced to the Conference. They make brief introduction and power point on the church of the region of Selesia

June 11: To Sheboygan area, hosted by Rev. Sara Morse and members of Bethel UCC

June 12-15: Sheboygan area. Visits to Lakeland College, Cedar Communities, Kohler Companies.

June 15: Jacki and Byron Mitchell and David Moyer pick up group at Ebenezer/Sheboygan and take them to Moon Beach Camp

June 15-19: Hosted at Moon Beach Camp. Activities include: Lac du Flambeau Reservation, Conserve School, MADD Camp at MBC, and churches in Land O'Lakes, Eagle River, and St. Germain

June 19: Transported to Madison by Ann Wahlers. Tour of Conference Center and discussion of possibilities for future of partnership. Met at Conference Center by hosts: Rev. David Michael, Nancy Potter, Rev. Bob Mutton, Rev. David Moyer.

June 20: Tour of Madison, including: State Capitol, State Street, UW Union, "The Crossing", Madison Christian Community/Community of Hope UCC, Middleton Community UCC (hosted by Bill and Rev. Gail O'Neal). Evening in host families.

June 21-23: Ann and David Moyer drive the group to Chicago where they stay at the International House at the University of Chicago and spend final two days touring the city on their own. Evening departure on Friday, June 23.

Notes from Meeting on June 19 at the Wisconsin Conference Center

Asked for Brief Reflections on Trip

- Very warm welcome. Amazed that so many people have German heritage and want to talk about it.
- Felt they got to see a good selection of the programs of the Conference in such a short time, including Cedar Communities, Lakeland College, Moon Beach Camp, Conference Center, and the Annual Meeting
- One question was whether they had really seen an "average" selection of churches and people. One member commented that they really hadn't seen "poor" people. A future trip might want to spend part of a day in Milwaukee, perhaps better able to do this when Grace UCC is chartered

- They experienced very lively congregations and very engaged members. This is quite different from their German experience
- They were very impressed with the Annual Meeting, both with the numbers but also the energy of the event and the way in which the vote on a controversial resolution went off with what to them was excellent discussion and careful speaking and process. They loved the worship and music and speakers. The honoring of the graduates of Lay Academy made a deep impression on them.
- **From later experiences, they were very interested in Middleton Community Church and its decision to relocate and build an entirely new building and the vision and courage it took to take that step.
- They appreciated the “Crossing” as an experiment in how to reach out to young people.
- They were amazed by the State Capitol and loved the walk down State Street, which was one of their first “European” experiences of small shops, an intimate street and a diversity of people walking around

Discussion of Possible Programs

- Greendale UCC is interested in a youth “mission” trip, with possible house-building/rehab in Poland with partner church there.
- Greendale is also very interested in a choir exchange
- Visit to Lakeland yielded very good possible contacts. Professor Martin Ulrich will be in Germany in July and will try to make a visit to Goerlitz. Possibilities of exchanges with Lakeland include the Hochschule in Goerlitz, Seminars for lay ministry, and the Johanneum in Hoyerswerde where the Rev. Menzels have served. There is interest in Professors Kuhn and Christensen possibly doing guest lectures.
- Cedar Communities: Mrs. Inna Noack has an interest in a kind of internship in physical therapy. There was also interest expressed on the part of Cedar Communities that a German-speaking person visiting from Goerlitz might do some visiting among German-speaking persons who live in the Cedar Communities. They believe that German pastors might come for “internships” in ministry with the elderly.
- With Cedar Communities and also with Aurora there is the possibility of exchanges with the Nursing School in Niessky where Mrs. Barbara Ernst once taught. (Mrs. Noack might also get connected here.)
- Sheboygan Churches would like to put together a group to visit, possibly hosted by the Noacks
- They are interested in the Lay Academy model and might like Rev. Gail O’Neal to come and speak to a group about how this is put together.
- They are very interested in the whole idea of “church development” and might like Rev. Joanne Thomson as a speaker on cultural change and its impact on the church.
- A Lay Academy “Reformation Tour” was talked about, with the group visiting the Luther sites and perhaps sites important to the UCC and then ending up in Goerlitz for a visit with partners there
- Moon Beach Camp: They would like to have other students like Jana Hanusch (who worked at MBC in 2005) to come and be at the camp for a summer. They would like to send a youth group to participate in a camp, especially the MADD Camp.
- Conserve School indicated that they have possibilities and potential scholarships for international students.
- Work Camps: They would like to come and connect with Back Bay Mission or join one of the WI Conference trips to Honduras. We could send a group to Goerlitz for a visit and then have them join a mission trip with the EKBO into Poland for some home building work.
- From the Eagle River/Land O’Lakes/St. Germain visit: They are very interested in Dr. Dale Bishop and Rev. Pat Tucker coming to lecture on mission. Rev. Richard Feyen is interested in putting together a trip. He also suggested a joint newsletter or an exchange of newsletters and pictures and history of churches. (This would work best on a congregation-to-congregation basis.) another suggestion was the exchange of addresses or email addresses for pen pals.

It is hoped that the Wisconsin Conference will have a delegation to Goerlitz region in 2007. We will need to carefully work on these partnership plans and spread them out or work on them being congregation-to-congregation or smaller scale and individual plans that are coordinated on each side.

Our conclusion was that this was a very good experience for both visitors and hosts and that we have many hopes for the future of this partnership.

Notes by: Rev. David Moyer