

## **PROK partnership – Looking to the Future**

**Reflecting with members of the Toronto delegation and together with the pilgrims from Seoul Presbytery it is clear that this time of exchange and relationship building was productive, but it is only in the beginning stages. Seoul Presbytery has asked for a written commitment to continue this relationship forward, and we agree that this is important to our church and our commitment to live in full communion with PROK, and also important to the ministry, spiritual growth and education of participants.**

*Jeon Dawit voiced his concern that we will just talk and not do anything. He asked, “Can’t we just continue to learn from and help one another?” Here are our suggestions for the next 10 years with the next exchange to Seoul happening October 2018:*

**Twinning congregations:** This would involve prayers, sharing of stories and perhaps visits from clergy/lay people, voices of support and sharing of concerns and struggle

**Exchange visits: (next in Oct 2018)** Seoul has a history of exchanges with Japan. We propose the same commitment with exchanges every two years with a commitment for 10 years. Ideally the exchanges would include some of the members from the first trip, in order to build on going relationship, with spots opened for others (with emphasis on youth). The groups may not be as big as the first delegation, and perhaps instead of full funding there could be a commitment to fund 50-80% with the delegates covering the rest, both to relieve the financial burden on Conference and create a deeper sense of investment with participants.

For the next exchange we envision fewer sightseeing trips and more opportunities for town hall discussion (two or three around specific topics – ie. women, LGBT, youth, immigration, declining membership).

Outreach – we also hope to have opportunity to participate in outreach activities, hands on (ie. serving meals to marginalized communities, listening and sharing stories, worship together)

**Support for LGBT communities** – sharing of stories through next exchange visit, continuing to write letters of support, asking how we can help

**Go Project and Church Camps:** inviting youth from Seoul to participate in this

**Pulpit visits:** Perhaps rather than a long, full pulpit exchange we could welcome clergy for a month or a few weeks to enter life of the congregation with settled clergy present, perhaps between twinned congregations.

**Planning for the next exchange trip and inviting congregations interested in twinning could begin immediately.**

**What we need:**

In order to move forward on this we need a commitment from Conference Executive to continue, a time frame, and a budget.

We believe it takes three or more visits to create lasting relationship, therefore, following the model used by Seoul and Japan we ask you consider a 10 year commitment.

**Political climate**

The current political tensions between North Korea and the United States cannot be ignored in this planning. **We believe that making a commitment and planning to visit is one way of standing in solidarity with our faith family and friends in the PROK.**

Respectfully submitted by  
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