

HOPING TOGETHER

The ECCB and PCUSA Partnership Conference Atlanta, April 1-5, 2019

October 1, 2018

Dear Friends,

We invite you to the ECCB and PCUSA Partnership Conference organized by the Czech Mission Network in the United States and the American Working group of the ECCB in Prague. This conference follows the conferences held in Prague in 2008, Annapolis in 2012, and Prague again in 2016.

The goals of this conference are to foster:

- the existing partnerships between Czech and US congregations;
- the mission of the churches carried out by Diakonie and other outreach projects;
- theological exchange in the common quest for appropriate forms of our witness; and
- seeking new ways of doing things together and starting new partnerships.

There will be reflection and appreciation of the past 28 years of the various forms of the partnership as well as sharing recent experiences. There will be theological reflection of both the partnership and the present situation of our churches. There will be opportunities to share our concerns and dreams with our overseas partners. There will also be opportunities to worship together, to enjoy the diversity of Atlanta and its culture, as well as to visit congregations involved in partnerships in the United States.

Atlanta is a vibrant city with a complex recent history. It was both a racially segregated city and “the city too busy to hate” during the Civil Rights movement of the 1950’s and 1960’s. It is in a state (Georgia) that voted for President Trump and that also contains the most racial-ethnically diverse city in the United States. It has many churches with active memberships of over 5,000 people and many citizens who refuse to attend church. It has hosted the Olympics and is the birthplace of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. This April, as we meet in Atlanta, we will explore the city but, more importantly, we will explore the shape and value of Christian hope for a complex world.

The conference will take place at the Harrington Center at Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, Georgia. It will begin on Monday afternoon, April 1st, and conclude on Friday morning, April 5th when attendees depart to spend the weekend with their partner churches. If you can come early, please join us for worship on March 31st at Covenant Presbyterian Church in Athens. The cost for the conference is either \$425.00 (double room) or \$625.00 (single room) and includes housing, meals, local ground transportation, and program materials.

We look forward to seeing you at the conference.

Sincerely,

The Preparation Team on the US Side

Mark Douglas	Columbia Theological Seminary, Decatur, GA	douglasm@ctsnet.edu
Mark Harper	Covenant Presbyterian Church, Athens, GA	mharper@covpresathens.org
Kimberly Levert	Columbia Theological Seminary, Decatur, GA	levertk@ctsnet.edu
Betty McGinnis	First Presbyterian Church, Annapolis, MD	cobe@comcast.net
Sue Rathbun	Covenant Presbyterian Church, Athens, GA	irish_2242@yahoo.com
Linda Rogers	Covenant Presbyterian Church, Athens, GA	lrogers@uga.edu

REGISTRATION FORM

HOPING TOGETHER

The ECCB and PCUSA Partnership Conference

Atlanta, April 1 – 5, 2019



*Columbia Theological Seminary
701 South Columbia Drive
Decatur, Georgia 30030 USA
Harrington Center*



The conference price has two parts. First, there is a registration fee of \$75.00. Second, the cost for housing, meals, local ground transportation, and program materials is dependent on the size of the room selected – a double room is \$350.00 and a single room is \$550.00. Thus, the total conference price is \$425.00 for a double room and \$625.00 for a single room.

The registration deadline is March 1, 2019. Please fill out this registration form and send it and your check, made payable to First Presbyterian Church of Annapolis, to the address below.

Covenant Presbyterian Church, Attn: Linda Rogers
1065 Gaines School Road, Athens, GA 30605 USA
e-mail: lrogers@uga.edu

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Mailing Address (continued): _____

Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Church Name and Location: _____

Accommodations (circle one): Single Room Double Room

If requesting a double room, specify name of preferred roommate: _____

Amount Enclosed: _____

Arrival Date in Atlanta: _____ Flight Number: _____ Arrival Time: _____

Departure Date from Atlanta: _____ Flight Number: _____ Departure Time: _____

Are you planning to spend time in Athens on March 30/31? (Yes/No) _____

List any special needs and/or requests: _____

Tentative Schedule
HOPING TOGETHER

THE ECCB AND PCUSA PARTNERSHIP CONFERENCE

Columbia Theological Seminary

Harrington Center (HC)

Decatur, Georgia

April 1-5, 2019

March 30/31: Pre-Conference Activities

Arrival in Atlanta
Travel to Athens, Georgia
Worship at Covenant Presbyterian Church/Explore Athens

April 1: Welcome to Columbia Theological Seminary

1-5 PM	Registration check in, campus tours	(HC Parlor Boardroom)
5:45 PM	Evening meal/greetings from dignitaries	(Ellis Room/Richard Center)
7:00 PM	Opening worship (focused on the story of Jesus' transfiguration)	(HC Chapel)
8:00 PM	Reception at home of Mark and Lindsay Douglas	

April 2: The Adventures of Uncertainties

7:30-8:30 AM	Breakfast	(HC Parlor Boardroom)
8:45 AM	Segment One: Introductions and Overview	(HC 222)
	Segment Two: Biblical and Theological Understandings of Hope	(HC 222)
10:30 AM	Break	(HC Parlor Boardroom)
10:45 AM	Segment Three: Why Hope Now? What Trends are Shaping the 21 st Century Church and its Sense of Uncertainty?	(HC 222)
12:30 PM	Lunch	(HC Parlor Boardroom)
1:45 PM	Segment Four: Where are our Struggles and Uncertainties? And how can we hold each other up? (a session for hearing reports from the ECCB and the PCUSA that concludes in a service of prayer)	(HC 222)
6:00 PM	Dinner	

April 3: A Theology of Hope for the 21st Century

7:30-8:30 AM	Breakfast	(HC Parlor Boardroom)
8:45 AM	Segment One: Hoping from the Seminary	(HC 222)
	Segment Two: Hoping from the Church	(HC 222)
10:30 AM	Break	(HC Parlor Boardroom)
10:45 AM	Segment Three: Hope and Ecumenism in Global Context	(HC 222)
12:00 PM	Lunch	(HC Parlor Boardroom)
1:15 PM	Segment Four: The Hopeful Church: <u>Travel to Clarkston</u> to encounter the most diverse square mile in the U.S. and meet the leaders of some of the new worshipping communities there	
6:00 PM	Dinner and Worship: Decatur Presbyterian Church	

April 4: Hope, Reconciliation, and Justice

7:30-8:30 AM Breakfast (HC Chapel)
8:45 AM Pre-segment One: Morning Prayer (HC Chapel)
Segment One: Race, Reconciliation, and the Dream of Justice in the American South (HC 222)
11:00 AM Segment Two: Lunch at Mary Macs
Visit King Center and Center for Civil and Human Rights
Segment Three: Resilience and Hope: Practices for sustaining hope (Location TBD)
6:00 PM Dinner (HC Boardroom Parlor)
A night on the town (of some sort)

April 5: Closing Reflections

7:30-8:30 AM Breakfast (HC Parlor Boardroom)
9:00 AM Segment One: Reflections on Hope after a week together (HC 222)
Segment Two: Closing Worship (HC Chapel)
11:00 AM Conference ends
Departure for weekend with partner churches