

Sharing Together Our Mission in a Secular Society

The PC USA and ECCB
Partnership Conference

organized by
the American Working group of the ECCB in Prague
and by the Czech Mission Network in the US

Prague, April 19-26, 2016

Dear friends,

we welcome You to the PC USA and ECCB Partnership conference, organized by the American Working group of the ECCB in Prague and by the Czech Mission Network in the US. This conference follows conferences in 2008 in Prague and the one in 2012 in Annapolis. 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 by other outreach projects
- the theological exchange in the common quest for appropriate forms of our witness
- seeking new ways of doing things together and starting new partnerships

There will be reflection and appreciation of the past 25 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 beauty of Prague and its culture, as well as to visit congregations outside Prague involved in partnerships.

Enjoy the conference!

SCHEDULE

Tuesday 19 April

- 15:30 registration
- 17:30 welcome address
(Gerhard Reininghaus, Betty McGinnis)
- 18:00 opening worship in Martin
(syn. senior Daniel Ženatý)
- 19:30 opening dinner

Wednesday 20 April

- 8:50 devotion (Petr Sláma)
- 9:00 Biblical reflection on partnership (Petr Sláma)
- 9:45 Witnessing the Gospel in a Secular society (Mark Douglas)
- 11:00 discussion
- 12:30 lunch
- 14:00 The dream I have for the ECCB and Protestants in
our society (Pavel Pokorný)
- 14:45 Scottish voice (Carol Finley)
- 16:00 Reformation tour
- 18:00 dinner
- 19:30 Its all Bohemian village to me
(Ivana Adámková, Ivana Marková)
- 20:30 „Forgotten light“ (movie)

Thursday 21 April

- 8:50 devotion
9:00 In the beginning there was...
(Betty McGinnis, Pavel Ruml, Jan Sláma)
- 10:45 What turned out well
(Rich Pinkerton, Wiera Jelinek, Ivana Marková,
Aleš Pomikálek, Hana Sívková)
- 13:00 lunch
- 14:00 Out of pocket or On a stewardship
(Mark Harper, Kateřina Srbová)
- 15:30 free time
- 17:30 dinner
- 19:00 Don Giovanni by W.A. Mozart
(the Estates' Theatre)

Friday 22 April

- 8:50 devotion (Petr Peňáz)
- 9:00 Typology of ECCB congregations
(Marek Horák)
- 10:00 Other partnerships: Faculty PFT / CTS, PTS *
Diacony
(Jan Roskovec, Kateřina Svobodová)
- 11:45 How I have encountered the ECCB
(Karen Moritz)
- 13:00 lunch
- 14:00 leaving for hosting congregations

Sunday 24 April

- 19:00 dinner
- 20:00 Czech Mission Network session

Monday 25 April

8:50	devotion
9:00	What we have learned (all)
11:00	How to make a partnership (all)
12:00	Concluding session (William Hatheway)
13:00	no organized lunch
14:00	Free afternoon
18:00	Worship with the Lord's supper (Karen Moritz)
19:30	dinner

TUESDAY 19 APRIL

- 15:30 registration
17:30 welcome address (Gerhard Reininghaus, Betty McGinnis)
18:00 opening worship in Martin (syn. senior Daniel Ženatý)
19:30 opening dinner

Notes:

WEDNESDAY 20 APRIL

- 8:50** devotion (Petr Sláma)
- 9:00** Biblical reflection on partnership
(Petr Sláma)
- 9:45** Witnessing the Gospel in a Secular society
(Mark Douglas)
- 11:00** discussion
- 12:30** lunch
- 14:00** The dream I have for the ECCB and Protestants
in our society (Pavel Pokorný)
- 14:45** Scottish voice (Carol Finley)
- 16:00** Reformation tour
- 18:00** dinner
- 19:30** Its all Bohemian village to me
(Ivana Adámková, Ivana Marková)
- 20:30** „Forgotten light“ (movie)

Biblical reflection on partnership (Petr Sláma)

Frozen chosen trying to warm up mutually or Why to foster partnership...

Meditation on Biblical tendency to pull people out from their habit(at)s to new encounters, enriched by a preliminary sevenfold characteristics of the ECCB, showing how badly we need one another to fulfill our mission in our societies.

Notes:

Witnessing the Gospel in a Secular society (Mark Douglas)

For several decades, Columbia Theological Seminary has brought students to central Europe, including Prague, as part of a yearly course entitled, "Explorations." This course is designed to help students gain a greater understanding of the global church while also advancing their capacities to do cultural analysis and work with others in learning-intensive contexts. Recognizing that the purposes of a particular course in a particular PC(USA)-related seminary are not universal, I nevertheless want to build on my experiences in teaching this course to explore the complexity and promise of creating systems in which small groups of persons might engage in new settings with a majority population whose languages, ecclesiologies, and cultures both overlap with and differ from their own.

Notes:

The dream I have for the ECCB and Protestants in our society (Pavel Pokorný)

Pavel in his speech The dream I have for the ECCB and Protestants in our society, would like to reflect upon spiritual, societal, and political context of our way to the future. He will also share the vision of the Synodal Council, the leading body of ECCB elected in 2015 for next 6 years. What is or will be our mission and what is the role of partnership in it?

Notes:

Scottish voice (Carol Finley)

One large piece of Carol Finlay work over the last 15 years has been the development of The Twinning Programme which has been successful at connecting people at local congregational level across the world. She hope to share some of this work with you.

Notes:

Its all Bohemian village to me (Ivana Adámková, Ivana Marková)

An Unorthodox Lesson of Czech. You may learn or hear about some basic phrases, important differences between Czech and English, rules and exceptions. Simple biblical citation will be used to teach you or demonstrate important biblical vocabulary and fundamentals of unusual and difficult Czech pronunciation.

Notes:

THURSDAY 21 APRIL

- 8:50** devotion
(Linda Smith and Georgene McKenzie)
- 9:00** In the beginning there was...
(Betty McGinnis, Pavel Ruml, Jan Sláma)
- 10:45** What turned out well
- 13:00** lunch
- 14:00** Out of pocket or On a stewardship
(Mark Harper, Kateřina Srbová)
- 15:30** free time
- 17:30** dinner
- 19:00** Don Giovanni by W.A. Mozart
(the Estates' Theatre)

In the beginning there was...
(Betty McGinnis, Pavel Ruml, Jan Sláma)

In the beginning, a new horizon in our vast world ...the possibility of knowing an unknown family in a strange land that most Westerners did not know. How? Waiting ? Preparing? Can our faith lead us to this reality? What can we learn from Christians who kept the faith over their history?

Over the horizon, we are surprised continuously by the joys of walking, sharing , serving, worshipping together with the family of God . More has transpired than one could imagine from the humble, simple, quiet beginnings: diakonia.. service and ministry together with rich exchanges, service, music., pastors; co-workers learning from and with one another; beautiful and strong ties of friendship, fellowship, and love binding hearts together; God uniting the human family. And over the horizon, the transforming journey continues as we share together today toward the fullness of God's love.

Notes:

What turned out well – our partnerships

Partnerships are an expression of the love of God, the unity of the Body of Christ and the hope of the transforming power of the Holy Spirit. A partnership across denominational, cultural and national lines provides a witness to the unity of the church of Jesus Christ and an expression of hope within a fractured world. Partners explore the wonderful diversity of the church, and assume a status of equality before God (thereby reject patriarchal and patronizing structures prevalent within the history of the church.)

Horní sbor CCE Vsetín – FPC in Cumberland, Maryland

Horní sbor CCE Vsetín consists of 1798 members (as of the end of 2010). The average number of people attending Sunday's service is 125. The sanctuary was built in 1827 and the education building was constructed in 1982. They are located in one of the most beautiful parts of the Town of Vsetín.

The congregation is very active in Christian education, there are group of kids, youth and adults who have their regular meeting over the Bible. Outside of the community there are activities with disabled children. Special attention receives „Fusion“ – a youth music group, and „Puppets“, a group focused on the Bible message to non-church children.

First Presbyterian Church in Cumberland is an established congregation; it has roots in the community that can be traced to 1802. There is a beautiful sanctuary, constructed in 1870, and a more modern education building built in the 1950's. It is located in a National Historic District.

The membership consists of well-educated people from a variety of backgrounds, including medical, legal and academic professionals, government employees, artists, musicians, computer experts, home schooling parents, and active retirees.

About half of our members are local natives. As of the end of 2010, there are 279 members. The church provide a lot of activities for public like administrative/funding support for “NAILS,” a local housing modernization program for low-income families; created “Special Ministries”, a program that aids local families and individuals experiencing short-term financial hardships (ongoing). First Presbyterian Church of Cumberland, MD has also been involved in the Cumberland community for many years and remains very active in many local organizations.

FS CCE Letohrad – FPC in Annapolis, Maryland

Letohrad congregation is open and active diaspora protestant community with 200 members in East Bohemia. About 40 people in the whole spectrum of the age from nearby area comes every Sunday for the service and during week for regular meetings: there are three kids group and one adult coming for a Bible study, seniors coming for their „Caffeteria“, people 30+ and 50+ having their monthly meeting over interesting topics and youth sticking together in every occasion. People also gather for Bible study at nearby villages where Letohrad minister come to lead the hour. In 2003 the congregation opened a new red-brick church which was built with a support of the whole ECCB and friends from abroad. Special thanks to our friends in FPC in Annapolis, this partnership is a very important part of the congregational life.

Founded in 1846, First Presbyterian Church of Annapolis, Maryland has a deep history of Reformed theology and advocacy for human rights in Maryland's capital city. Founding members were engaged in the abolitionist movement and in the late 19th Century the congregation sponsored the first public school for girls while maintaining close ties with the United States Naval Academy. To this day the church seeks to provide a public space for a witness to the justice and peace of Jesus Christ. It has been the host of Alcoholics Anonymous for over 50 years, founded a tutoring program for children in the public schools (STAIR), works with local programs for the homeless and has a history of sponsoring refugees from various places in the world, including a Muslim family from Bagdad who arrived in March of this year. In addition to the long term partnership with the Letohrad Parish of the Evangelical Church of Czech Brethren, the congregation is a Covenant Church with the Haiti Fund (supporting reforestation and sustainable agriculture in rural Haiti) and is an Earth Care Congregation within the PCUSA. The 700 member congregation enjoys an excellent musical ministry and values serious adult education as it pursues its vision “to do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with God.”

FS CCE Olomouc – Covenant in Athens, Georgia

Olomouc is a historical town situated about 200 km to the east of Prague. It is home to the second oldest University in the country, founded in 1574. The creation of a separate Evangelical congregation in Olomouc was agreed in 1906. Not being allowed to worship in the new German Evangelical church they had to build their own building, which was opened in 1920. It is located near the center of town. The congregation has a membership of 675. They come from all social groups. Besides Sunday services, various groups meet during the week: Sunday School children, Youth group, Club of Good News, Middle Generation “Getting together” (Sešlost), Club of senior members, Bible study group. Music is an integral part of the worship. We have 4 alternating organ players, a trombone group, a band (keyboard, guitars, cello, violins and singers).

One of Athens’ youngest Presbyterian Churches, Covenant was officially established in May 1966, with 33 members. Since the early days of organization, the membership has grown to over 300 confirmed members. The program of the church includes many aspects of worship, study, outreach, and fellowship. A new outreach program that was started this past year in collaboration with 4 other churches is called FEAST - a mobile food pantry. Covenant also shares the facility with many groups and organizations in the Athens community, such as Alcoholics Anonymous, Athens Mother Center, Project Safe, and residential community associations. Covenant supports ministry to students through the Presbyterian Student Center at the University of Georgia. Covenant Church is a member of the Northeast Georgia Presbytery, Synod of the South Atlantic, and the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA). The congregation reflects the rich diversity of the Athens community and all members are given an opportunity to share their gifts in Christian ministry. On May 1, 2016 we at Covenant Presbyterian Church will celebrate our 50th Anniversary as a church family!

FS Ratiboř – Southminster Pittsburg, Pennsylvania

Ratiboř/Kateřinice is located in Moravia close to Vsetin. The protestant tradition reaches here to hussite era. Till the end of the 18th century, when there were either lutheran or reform churches allowed, the people of Ratiboř took secret protestant sermons in houses. In 1781 nearly whole village declared their membership of a new protestant church. First they met at the wooden church, later they have built a new red brick one designed by famous Wien architect Franz Foster. Last year the building was completely renewed.

The congregation has a lot of meetings apart the Sunday service – Bible study for both adults and kids, meetings of mother with little kids and the famous bell musician group „Good News Bells“. The congregation is quite open and propose to public concerts or exhibitions. The congregation has about 800 members.

Southminster is a 1300 member congregation located in suburban Pittsburgh, PA. Our ministries include a strong youth program and a strong interest in mission. Southminster has partnered with the St. Andrew's Church of Central Africa Presbyterian in Mulanje, Malawi to build a secondary school. The school opened in 2012 with 100 students and attendance has now reached maximum capacity of 200 students. Southminster is in the process of building dormitories for the students and providing lunches for the students in order to rid hunger as an obstacle to learning. The partnership continues as we send teachers to help in the school.

Notes:

Out of pocket or On a stewardship (Mark Harper)

The presentation on stewardship will focus on ways that Covenant Presbyterian Church in Athens, Georgia and other Protestant congregations in the United States conduct stewardship campaigns or pledge-drives. A theological basis for stewardship along with some sample materials will be offered that could be useful as the ECCB transitions away from state funding.

Notes:

Analysis of Church Financing – ECCB and PC USA (Kateřina Srbová)

The presentation compares differences in church financing in ECCB and PC USA. Current state will be described as well as the transition to self-financing in Czech. Current situation at one American and one Czech congregation will be described.

Notes:

FRIDAY 22 APRIL

- 8:50 devotion (Petr Peňáz)
- 9:00 Typology of ECCB congregations
(Marek Horák)
- 10:00 Other partnerships: Faculty PFT / CTS,
PTS * Diacony
(Jan Roskovec, Kateřina Svobodová)
- 11:45 How I have encountered the ECCB
(Karen Moritz)
- 13:00 lunch
- 14:00 leaving for hosting congregations

Typology of ECCB congregations (Marek Horák)

The presentation offers an overview of basic types of the ECCB congregations, their characteristics, mission and activities.

Notes:

Other partnerships: Faculty PFT / CTS, PTS * Diacony (Jan Roskovec, Kateřina Svobodová)

Jan Roskovec will introduce Faculty PFT, both the history and the present with focus on international and ecumenical relations and will be ready to answer questions.

Kateřina Svobodová will introduce ECCB Diacony: who we are, mission, values, structure, main tasks, services, projects, support (finances), services in numbers.

Notes:

How I have encountered the ECCB (Karen Moritz)

Karen will share her fun, and often humorous, journey with the ECCB and the PCUSA over the past 5+ years. How are we alike and what can our differences teach us about ourselves and each other?

Notes:

SUNDAY 24 APRIL

19:00

dinner

20:00

Czech Mission Network session

Notes:

MONDAY 25 APRIL

- 8:50 devotion (Rev. Sarah Bird)
- 9:00 What we have learned (all)
- 11:00 How to make a partnership (all)
- 12:00 Concluding session (William Hatheway)
- 13:00 no organized lunch
- 14:00 Free afternoon
- 18:00 Worship with the Lord's supper (Ken White)
- 19:30 dinner

What we have learned (all)

Notes:

How to make a partnership (all)

Notes:

Concluding session (William Hatheway)

Notes:

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Mark Douglas

Professor of Christian Ethics at Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, GA, where he teaches a wide variety of classes and directs the Masters of Divinity degree program. He is also the founding editor of *@ this point: theological reflections on church and culture*, the seminary's online journal and the current chairman of the board of Georgia Interfaith Power & Light, the largest faith-based environmental organization in Georgia. He holds degrees from Colorado College (B.A.), Princeton Theological Seminary (M.Div., Th.M.), and The University of Virginia (Ph.D.). He is an ordained Presbyterian minister and is married to Lindsay Armstrong, who is also a Presbyterian minister. They have one child, their daughter, Logan. His most recent book is *Believing Aloud: Reflections on Being Religious in the Public Sphere* (Cascade, 2010). He is currently working on a book about the impact of climate change on war.

Carol Finlay

She has worked for the Church since 1990, first as a volunteer in Pakistan and India and then for 10 years as a Nurse Teacher in

Malawi. On returning to Scotland, she took up a position in the Church Offices, within the World Mission Department. Her main role is to engage the Church in Scotland with the challenges and opportunities of our International Partners and to seek areas of mutual learning and support.

Mark Harper

He is in his 12th year as pastor of Covenant Presbyterian Church in Athens, GA. A native of North Carolina and a graduate of Princeton Theological Seminary, He has served churches in Pennsylvania and Georgia, while also working with people who are homeless and in prison. He is married to Susan Harper, and together they have three children: Chris, Gabe, and Hanna. Susan, Gabe, and Hanna have all traveled to the Czech Republic with earlier delegations from Covenant.

„We deeply value our friendship with our sisters and brothers in the ECCB and especially the congregation at Olomouc.“

Martin Horák

Pastor of the ECCB.

Ministered in ECCB Jilemnice, Potters Bar and Brookmans Park United Reformed Church (United Kingdom), now in ECCB Brno II.

Betty McGinnis is an Elder in the Presbyterian Church USA and has served on numerous Local Church, Presbytery, Synod and General Assembly Committees, as well as serving as Moderator of the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic and organizing the international part of the Presbyterian Church Youth Triennium in its origin. As well, Betty has served as a consultant with numerous embassies and non-profits to set vision and organize projects. She worked in both public school and University settings in the fields of science and education. Presently, she chairs the PCUSA Czech Mission Network Steering Team, serves as the director of World Artists Experiences which bridges cultures and people across the continents in communities, colleges and schools. She is married to John McGinnis and has four children, all who have wonderful memories of serving along side members of the ECCB on Dlaconie projects, in Brno, Belech, Klobouky, etc. She is a grandmother of seven grandchildren.

Karen Moritz

The Rev. Dr. Karen R. Moritz is a PCUSA Mission Coworker in Prague, Czech Republic. She was born in Sanford, Florida and ordained in Jacksonville. As a “Navy Brat” and minister she has lived all over the US in the South, East, and Midwest and now resides in Prague. Her mother, brother, nieces and nephews currently reside in Council Bluffs, Iowa. Karen is currently a minister member of Homestead Presbytery and has served as a hospital chaplain, parish pastor and university chaplain in various places around the country. She has completed almost six years of service as a mission coworker. She works with our partner

denomination the Evangelical Church of Czech Brethren as a bridge between ECCB and PCUSA congregations and individuals. She also works with English speaking individuals and groups travelling to the Czech Republic. You can learn more about her and her ministry at www.pcusa.org/karen-moritz or contact her at moritz@e-cirkev.cz or karen.moritz@pcusa.org.

Pavel Pokorný

First Deputy of the Moderator and Pastor of the Congregation Prague – Střešovice. Hospital chaplain of mobile hospice. Married, four children and one grandchild. My wife Daniela is a school psychologist.

Jan Roskovec

Graduated as Th.M. from ETF UK in 1990, between 1990-1999 a minister of ECCB congregation in Nymburk. In 2003 received PhD degree from ETF UK. At present Director of the Center for Biblical Studies, Associate Dean for international and ecumenical relations in ETF UK, Assistant Professor of the Department of New Testament in ETF UK.

Pavel Ruml

Chaplain of Personnel Agency of Army of Czech Rep., deputy Chief Chaplain.

The pastor of the Evangelical Church of Czech Brethren, studied Comenius theological faculty of Charles University in Prague and University of Aberdeen, Scotland.

1984 - 1999 pastor in the church, since 1999 military chaplain. He served in the 4th brigade of rapid deployment in Havlíčkův Brod, in the Joint Forces Command in Olomouc and in the Central Military Hospital in Prague. Since 2013 chaplain of Personnel Agency of Army in Prague.

Missions abroad : SFOR (Bosnia and Herzegovina), Enduring Freedom (Kuwait / Iraq), Tunisia (Tobruk), KFOR (Kosovo).

Jan Sláma

A civil engineer. Since 1990s he has been working for Diakonie in Klobouky, Synodical council of the ECCB and Naděje charity as a building and management deputy. Retired and living in Brno with his wife Jana, he volunteers for various charity projects. He is member of the 1st Brno congregation of the ECCB. Since 1992 Jan Sláma had been co-organizing meetings of the ECCB and PC USA members, based on common manual work, sharing and visiting historical sites.

Petr Sláma

Ordained minister of the ECCB. Reads the Old Testament at the Protestant Faculty of Theology of the Charles University in Prague. With his wife Lucie and three daughters they are members of the congregation in Brandýs nad Labem.

Kateřina Srbov

Senior at Faculty of Economics and Administration at the University of Pardubice and a member of Pardubice congregation. As her master thesis Analysis of Church Financing – International Comparison.

Ondřej Srb

Graduated from Economics and Administration faculty at Masaryk University in Brno. Currently working at the Office of International Affairs and Development at the University of Pardubice. Member of Pardubice congregation.

Kateřina Svobodov

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