

Partnership agreement between Ev. Kirchenbezirk Breisgau-Hochschwarzwald and Bui Presbytery (Presbyterian Church of Cameroon)

Guideline 1

The foundation of our partnership is the unity we are called to as one body in Christ Jesus (John 17).

This unity becomes visible in our denominations through the responses we make to our specific historical, cultural and religious contexts.

Aim:

To live in unity as Christians with an awareness and appreciation of our differences.

This means:

1. That we meet and engage with each other.
2. That we learn from each other about our traditions and how they shape our lives.
3. That we engage in theological reflection.
4. That we study the Bible together.

Points of Agreement:

1. In the presbyteries of Bui and Breisgau-Hochschwarzwald we celebrate a 'Partnership Sunday' in May.
2. The sermon text for this Sunday will be chosen alternately, and an accompanying exegesis and meditation will be provided. In March it will be sent to all congregations. In even numbered years the preparation work will be undertaken by the presbytery of Breisgau-Hochschwarzwald, and in odd numbered years by the presbytery of Bui.
3. Every two years visits will take place.
4. In 2009, a group (maximum 8 people) will be invited to come to Germany. The make-up of the group shall take into account:
 - continuity in personnel
 - participation of youth
 - active participation in the "Kirchentag"
 - representation from the zones of Bui presbytery
5. Shared bible studies are part of the programme. The foci of these studies will be discussed a year in advance through a dialogical process, after which a final decision will be taken.

Guideline 2

Our partnership is based on the words of Jesus:

**You are the salt of the earth,
You are the light of the world.**

Aim:

With this understanding of Christian life (and witness), we are led to take on responsibility for each other, and it demands that we be committed to justice, peace and the fulfilment of the essential needs of all people.

This means:

1. That we explore the biblical meaning of justice, peace and the fulfilment of the essential needs of all people.
2. That we analyse the real conditions under which people live.
3. That we provide each other with information about the work and activities that take place in the congregations, in the district/presbyteries, and in the church at large.
4. That we develop common projects.

Points of Agreement:

1. Twice a year, a **partnership letter** will provide information about church life and the real conditions under which people live. This letter will be passed on to all congregations of Bui and Breisgau-Hochschwarzwald presbyteries.
2. The **volunteer programme**, in co-operation with EMS (Evang. Missionswerk in Südwestdeutschland), will be continued with two volunteers taking part each year.
The costs for renting, accommodation and for travel expenses to visiting congregations will be met by Germany; additional expenses will be met by Cameroon.
Germany and Cameroon are to provide the names of contact persons with responsibility for the volunteer programme.
On their return, the volunteers will share their reflections and experiences with the congregations.
3. The **support of schools** through the woman's work will continue, so that remote places can also benefit from the experiences of the partnership.
4. **The PYC (youth centre)** will remain a priority of the partnership. The work of the PYC will be evaluated by the two Youth Wardens. On the basis of this evaluation they will suggest further steps with view to its work until Easter 2008.
5. In the Bible body and soul form a unity, and in the same manner the care of body and soul belong together. Therefore, the work of the **Health Centre Kishong** will be supported.
 - Help will be given to acquire urgently needed supplies
 - The medium-term tasks and expenditure will be planned according to the following steps: Establishment of an action plan; a survey and estimate of costs; How the plan can be put into practice; approval of the Medical Board has to be given.
6. Issues relating to the car will be discussed in Germany.

Signed:

Kumbo

Müllheim

adopted:

Bui Presbytery

Breisgau-Hochschwarzwald