

Fruits and Seeds of Partnership

Final Declaration of the Jubilee Conference 30 Years of Partnership KPS – Southern Zone 28. September – 1. October 2006 in Njombe

1. Thankfully we recognize that for the first time representatives from all Dioceses and from all KPS Regions (Propsteien) and from both levels, the leadership and the grassroots, were convened on one place.
2. We experienced the importance of bringing together the levels of leadership and grassroots. Therefore the question arose how to maintain the connections in future.
3. One proposal of the conference is to repeat a meeting like this (possibly in a smaller composition) in a certain rhythm of time, for example five years. Another proposal is to convene both levels in partnership committees in both continents. The respective outcome should always be communicated to the partners in overseas.
4. We recognize transparency being an essential element in improving our partnership. Transparency means to inform the partners as well as the other level about the amount and purpose of donations. Secondly to reveal the connections to other partners. Transparency helps to avoid corruption and misuse of funds and resources.
5. In future we should not allow that projects and money dominate our partnership. The basis of our partnership is that we as Christians need one another on our way to our Lord in the search of the kingdom of God. In the past and present this is expressed among other things especially in mutual intercessions. (e.g. Rogate Sunday)
6. Whatever we do we must remember that Jesus called us to be his people of all men and women and this means to be one church among the poor and for the poor. (The church is not allowed to leave the poor behind.)
7. To the unity in partnership belongs that men and women equally participate on all levels of responsibility.
8. From the bible studies during our conference we experienced how important and fruitful it is to commonly share insights from the bible

in connection with the respective very different contexts. This is a cross cultural reading of the bible.

9. We propose that the commonly reading and studying the bible becomes an constant element of our partnership. For example during partnership travels and visits there should always be reserved time for cross cultural bible reading. In general we underline the importance of partnership visits and partnership travels (in both directions) and the exchange of volunteers and coworkers.
10. We acknowledge that in both countries churches are not any more the leading voice in questions of life, religion and values. Therefore the recommendation is that within our partnership we regard good and high education of our pastors/ordained leaders/ who communicate the gospel as essential for remaining relevant for the future.
11. We recognize that our partnership grew well where we made language skills an important issue to learn. We therefore recommend for the future that the knowledge of Swahili and German to be improved.
12. As KPS was very strong in the past and has initiated many fruitful partnership relations and projects on different levels, it is a desire for the future that the existing network be expanded. Especially the combination of grassroots and diocesan levels (including Propsteien) has been a fruitful structure which should not be lost in the process of federation of KPS with Evangelical Lutheran Church of Thuringia.
13. We are thankful that the history brought about a change in the understanding and practice of mission. Now we are partners in mission. We need each other as it is true that faith can only be lived and witnessed in dialogue.
14. We recognize the importance of establishing a partnership committee for the six dioceses of the Southern Zone.
15. Lastly we confirm that our partnership is a gift from God, a new mission approach, and that it did not and will not flourish without the blessing of God.