

Korea Covenant Report to the Annual Conference 2017

The Korean partnership was blessed with another fruitful and educational year. A group of Korean Methodist Church pastors and laity from the South Conference came to the Baltimore-Washington Conference May 23 - June 5, 2016. The group was comprised of four clergy members and two laity, of which four were male and two were female. They were welcomed into the homes of several of our pastors, and followed their host families into a variety of settings within local church ministry. The experience provided the Korean Methodist Church pastors, as well as their hosts, with the opportunity to compare the structures, disciplines, and ways in which ministry is carried out within each denominational setting.

The Rev. Dr. Emora Brannan invited the group to Lovely Lane United Methodist Church in Baltimore, and led them on a tour of the church and museum. Additionally, Dr. Brannan facilitated a brief lecture on our Methodist history with Korean mission.

The Rev. Michael Parker gave tours of several historic African American United Methodist churches throughout the city of Baltimore, and took the group to various Baltimore landmarks, including the Inner Harbor.

The delegation also had the opportunity to stay overnight and engage in worship at the West River Camp. We thank Andy Thornton, Director at West River and of Retreat and Camping Ministries for the BWC, as well as all who welcomed the Korean Methodist Church delegation to the camp.

Finally, the delegation attended our 232nd Annual Conference, joined by Bishop Seung Chul Ahn of the South Conference of the Korean Methodist Church. Bishop Ahn gave the greeting and Rev. JW Park, District Superintendent for the Central Maryland District, translated it into English. The group sang songs and were blessed by a wonderful solo performance.

We give our sincere thanks to each of the pastors and congregations who welcomed the 2016 Korean Methodist Church Delegation members into their homes, churches, and ministry settings - including the Reverends Bob Barnes, Emily Berkowitz, Sherri Comer-Cox, Rachel Cornwell, Lemuel Dominguez, Bonnie McCubbin, Kate Payton, Sarah Schlieckert, and all who assisted them.

I would also like to thank the members of the Baltimore-Washington Conference's Korea Committee, including the Reverends Alexis Brown, EunJoung Joo, Claire Matheny, Rod Miller, Kate Payton, YoSeop Shin, and Mrs. Katie Filano for their dedication to strengthening and continuing the partnership between the Baltimore-Washington Conference and the South Conference of the Korean Methodist Church. The committee is currently in the process of finalizing details for members of our conference to travel to the South Conference this summer. Five Baltimore-Washington Conference clergy and two laity, of which two are male and five are female, will make up the 2017 Delegation.

In addition, we are very grateful to the Baltimore-Washington Conference's Korean Caucus for their help and support.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. JW Park
Central Maryland District Superintendent
Chair, Korea Committee