

SHEEP FUND SUNDAY

February 12, 2023

Give From Your Heart



In 2010, Penn West Conference under the guidance of Charlene Burch, our Interim Conference Minister, started the process to become a Global Missions Conference. Interested church members and pastors joined the committee. We studied what mission work is in the world today. We learned the Church exists by and for God's mission in the world. A global mission church prays, educates, seeks justice, receives, gives, sends, and grows.

As part of the process, a profile for Penn West had to be compiled by the committee. A Global Missions Team Theological Statement had to be submitted with the profile. The team discussed ideas and Rev. Frank Demmy wrote this Theological Statement.

“In carrying out Jesus' mission we act as recipients of grace, sharing what we have been given. We enter the world with open hearts and hands to receive the fresh gifts that God will give us through the people to who we reach out in Jesus' name. In Jesus' name we go forth to learn and to teach, to be healed and to heal, and to discover Jesus in the faces, cultures, and experiences of all those we will meet.”

The committee discussed various countries of interest as our choices. Germany and the Philippines were the top choices. We chose the Philippines because we believed we would learn more about cultural differences, and the Philippine United Church of Christ was well established in the North Luzon Conference which is also an agricultural area.

At the Annual Conference Meeting in 2010, Rev. Ester Padre, the Conference Minister, brought greetings to our delegates and visitors via Skype. A quote from her message states, “May this be a good start to affirm and strengthen our solidarity as faithful and committed servants of God.” We had hoped she would be present at the meeting, but the government in the Philippines wouldn't grant her permission. She also expressed her thankfulness for the Welcome Basket we sent to the Conference. We included pictures and post cards of our area including Amish in the buggies, maple syrup and candies, pancake batter, a small canned ham, and other nonperishable.

Our conference sent two delegates to the Philippines to have our first person to person meeting. We then sponsored their new Conference Minister and two other pastors to join our Annual Meeting a few years later.

We started the SHEEP Fund to continue our support for education of children and adults entering the ministry.

Money given from our hearts is sent to the Philippines through our national office. This money has opened educational possibilities for children and adults in the North Luzon Conference. Fresh drinking water projects have also been completed with our SHEEP money. Search your hearts as individuals and churches as you give to help those in need half a globe away.

Penn West Conference Global Mission Team