

SIERRA LEONE INITIATIVE UPDATES

Sierra Leone (SL) Guests to Visit Susquehanna Conference

Two Sierra Leone guests have been invited to the Susquehanna Conference, tentative dates, Oct. 3-22, 2018. Invite our guests to visit your congregation or mission team and learn about life in SL, supporting pastors' salaries, and partnering with a SL church. For details contact Pam Perna, pam04sierra@gmail.com or 570-837-9062.



Two highlights of 2017 SL guest's, Rev. Edwin Momoh and Principal Isaac Peacock's visit: participating in our Annual Conference and meeting with 92 year old Elizabeth Walker, a multi-term Susquehanna Conference missionary to SL.

Sierra Leone Initiative Sierra Leone Trip

Travel to Sierra Leone January 13-25, 2019. Visit with partner church pastors and congregations, participate in the Partner Conference, Jan. 21-23, a biannual meeting of UM conferences and related organizations working in SL. In 2017 we met in North Carolina, in 2019 we will meet in SL at the Miata Conference Center in Freetown with the General Board of Global Ministries facilitating the conference. In addition, we will attend the first day of the SL Annual Conference, Jan. 23. **Initial team meeting Sept. 16 at 3:00 at Calvary UMC Harrisburg.** For more details contact Rev. Jeff Fisher at missions@calvaryunitedmethodist.org or 717-545-0021.

Growth in the Number of SL Pastors Created a Deficit Budget

Wanting to pay the pastors of SL as his highest priority, Bishop John Yambasu borrowed funds from other categories of his budget. The SLI did not understand we had not sent enough funds to meet the needs of paying the increased number of SL pastors. At the end of 2017, the deficit: \$57,734 which the auditors made the SLAC show as a deficit in the SLI's account. Fair? Maybe. Unfortunate? Yes. To date through the generosity of Susquehanna Conference churches, some coveted with the Initiative and others giving one-time or monthly donations, the **current deficit \$37,700.**

In explaining his thoughts, Bishop John stated God had two gardeners caring for his creation, Adam and Eve. Today, Bishop John describes God's gardeners, caring for God's creation, as pastors. **Can you help? Join the SL Initiative at \$1,200, \$1,500, or \$1,800 a year or give a one time gift or perhaps a Thanksgiving or Christmas gift to Sierra Leone's pastors, whose 2019 salaries will be reduced until the deficit can be met.** Bachelor's degree SL pastor's salary: \$1,032 a year! Current needs: \$20,000 a quarter, plus the deficit amount. In advance : **Thank you!**