



September 9, 2013

Dear Members and Friends of the New York Congregation,

In March, I shared with you the intention that for the near future, after Erk Ludwig's retirement in September, the priests in Spring Valley would cover the services in NYC. This arrangement has now been adjusted so that only one of those priests will carry the work in NYC.

Gisela Wielki has been asked to assume the work and responsibility for the congregation. This has been made possible because Bastiaan Baan has assumed full responsibility for the seminary.

Although Gisela has a long history in the NYC Christian Community, this is a new assignment after many years as our Seminary director. Please join me in extending a warm welcome to her for this new chapter for her and for the community.

Rev. Oliver Steinrueck  
Lenker for North America

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, saw a moving and spirited celebration in our chapel, filled to overflowing in honor of Rev. Erk Ludwig, who has now retired after serving the New York City congregation for 26 years. On Monday, September 9, his car packed, he turned the corner of 74<sup>th</sup> Street to drive towards the Californian sunset. There is something bitter sweet in this picture. For sure Erk will be missed, but we can also feel a heart - bridge forming, spanning the continent from sunrise to sunset as our thoughts traverse from heart to heart.

ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6, you are invited to a community meeting: In Movement.

Come and join us, so we can get acquainted or re-acquainted as we look together at the future. Although I am quite familiar with the New York congregation, having worked here from 1972 – 2001, the face of the congregation has changed, with new friends and families having found their way to this chapel, quite an oasis in our big city. Let us look back on what has been built and consider what new impulses may be waiting to come to the fore, what new tasks, events and activities can be taken up, how we can continue to be in movement, true to our name. I am looking forward to seeing many of you.

FOR SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26, 6:00 pm, our Seventh Annual Fundraising Dinner is in the planning stage. As always, we can look forward to yet another evening filled with the unexpected, accompanied by good food and unusual entertainment. Further details will be announced in time.

Sleeping buds on trees dream of falling leaves.  
Autumn greetings,