

## **Reports on Green Lake, NECU, and Creation Justice Network**

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October 24, 2017

### Green Lake Conference Center

The Board of Directors of the Green Lake Conference Center continues to reflect and envision the center's place in today's conferencing ministry. The marketing staff has reached out to new potential constituents in order to bring in more revenue. While the Golf Courses of Lawsonia are sustaining a healthy source of revenue, there is an ongoing challenge to sell more of the lots of the Estates of Lawsonia to balance operating budgets. One immediate physical plant problem is the outdated plumbing system in RWI resulting in a significant number of rooms un-useable. Executive Director Ben Mott completed a much-deserved re-creation sabbatical this summer. Plans are underway to celebrate Green Lake's 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2019. At the Oct. 26-28 meeting, I completed my 2-year service on the board on behalf of the General Secretary. Lee Spitzer will begin his service with the first meeting in 2018 on the January 9<sup>th</sup> conference call.

### Northeast Christian University (NECU), Kohima, NE India

Supported by OGS, I continue to serve as the Vice-Chair of the Friends of NECU, an US-based advisory group. In late September and early October, Rev. Solomon Rongpi, GS of the Council of Baptist Churches of Northeast India (CBC-NEI) visited the US to raise support for NECU: MA, NH, SD, KS, CA, CO, and IL. Planting seeds with the hope of flowering results was the goal for this effort. We trust that God will do the rest. The immediate challenge is to raise sufficient funds to renovate a building in Dimapur, Nagaland to begin classes. The new site of the campus is being cleared of trees, bamboo structures have been erected to serve as retreat facilities for churches to rent, the local government is providing road access, electrical and water/sewer systems. For the purpose of providing an eyewitness experience of NECU, I'll lead a group to NE India in early Feb. 2018. Group members will be offering workshops at a pastors' conference of 200 people recruited from all the conventions by CBC-NEI to advocate for NECU. Following this conference, we'll attend the Garo Baptists' 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary that is expected to attract over 200,000 people! Members planning to attend are: Rex Rogers (Great Rivers), Kay Farley (Rocky Mts.), LeAnn Snow Flesher and Jennifer Davidson (ABSW, Berkeley).

### ABC Creation Justice Network

Funded by the BRC, the CJN is sponsoring its first training event with resource person, Margaret Billitt-Jonas at the Rolling Ridge Retreat/Conference Center, North Andover, MA on Friday, Nov. 10<sup>th</sup>. The new director of Rolling Ridge is Rev. Larry Jay, an ABC minister who worked at Redwood Glen in N. CA and received his doctorate in creation justice studies. Both prior and after the training event, the CJN members will meet to strategize next steps to promote the topic of eco-justice in the life of American Baptist churches.