Dear Friends,

We would like to invite you to the 50th Anniversary of Action Reconciliation Service for Peace (ARSP) in the United States (Aktion Sühnezeichen Friedensdienste-USA) which will take place in New York City from October 5 – 7, 2018.

1968 was a turning point in the history of both Germany and the United States. Yet the issues that moved the American Peace Churches to invite ARSP to serve here that year – justice, peace, honest reflection on the past, and reconciliation – are just as relevant in 2018, 50 years later.

Join us – friends and partners, former and current volunteers – as we use this opportunity to mark ARSP’s 50th Anniversary, to reflect on what has shaped who we are and to consider where we are going on both sides of the Atlantic as friends, involved citizens, and as part of an organization committed to setting a sign for justice and peace today.

Together, we will discuss the challenges, the issues and threats we are facing, the rise of rightwing populism and anti-Semitism, the continuation of racial injustice and try to identify approaches towards peace today and in the future.

PROGRAM SUMMARY

Friday, October 5, 2018

6:00pm Opening Reception and Welcome // with support of the German Consulate General, New York

Saturday, October 6, 2018

9:00am Registration for the Anniversary Gathering // Venue: To be announced
9:30am – 5:00pm Main Speakers, Lunch, and Breakout Sessions, short films and interactive discussion and about the past, present and future of ARSP, the meaning of service to its volunteers and partners and the issues we face today as we move forward in building a society that celebrates diversity.
7:00pm Dinner together // Venue: German Lutheran Church of St. Paul’s
8:30pm – 11:00pm Anniversary Party // Venue: German Lutheran Church of St. Paul’s

Sunday, October 7, 2018

10:30am Church Service followed by Coffee and Cake // Venue: The German Lutheran Church of St. Paul’s
2:00pm Witness Theater: A New Documentary Film // Venue: To be announced
Screening of a new film from ARSP partner Selfhelp Community Services about surviving the Holocaust and teaching the youngest generation about the past through the innovative »Witness Theater« program.

Registration: Please register on-line at www.actionreconciliation.org or by using the attached data file and emailing it to info@actionreconciliation.org.

Registration deadline: Friday, August 31, 2018.