



Dear Pastor or Minister,

From now leading up to October 2017, all around the world, Lutherans and Catholics are coming together to commemorate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. This is a timely opportunity for all Christians to turn towards one another in efforts to help answer Jesus' prayer in John 17 "that we would be one." In a world that is divided on many lines, especially politically and racially, it is imperative that Christians come together to demonstrate the fullness of our communion in Christ.

Here in New England, an ecumenical leadership committee is planning opportunities for joint bible studies and liturgical services across Christian traditions. Additionally, UniteBoston has been asked to lead the New England CityServe effort. On **May 6, 2017**, we will be encouraging every church in New England to serve in their neighborhood together on one day. Our goals include:

- **Strengthening the Bridges Between Churches and the City** - Encourage churches and individuals to become more deeply engaged in serving their communities.
- **Deepening Relational Connections** - Build and strengthen local relationships among churches, Christians, and the city.
- **Making Visible Christ's Love for Our Cities** - Display our united witness for Christ and our love for the city in a way that one church cannot accomplish alone. Together, we can do more.

Locally in Boston, we have a team of UniteBoston Reps who are currently building relationships and helping to establish shared missional goals for neighborhood communities. Greater Things for Greater Boston is providing leadership to foster service projects in the metro Boston area and the suburbs. We are also reaching out to churches throughout New England who desire to serve their city and identify shared missional goals for neighborhood transformation.

Churches can participate in an area of service they are already involved with (church/school partnerships, homeless outreach, etc.) serve with another church in their neighborhood. If your church would like to coordinate a service project in your area, please let us know.

For more information, or if you would like to join these initiatives, email kelly@uniteboston.com and we will add you to the list of committed churches. I'd also enjoy meeting up with you to hear more about your church and its contribution to Christian unity in New England.

I firmly believe that acts of service and compassion open hearts for the gospel. May we come together to tangibly demonstrate the love of Christ to our cities and region!

Sincerely,

Kelly Steinhaus

UniteBoston Executive Director

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loving. giving. reaching. ●