

The first part of his vicarship Dieter spent in the Afrikaans-speaking Philippi congregation in 1998. "It was a wonderful experience and I learnt a lot." For the second part he went to the USA where he studied for 6 months at the Wartburg Theological Seminary in Dubuque, Iowa, and subsequently worked for a year as an intern in a congregation in Omaha, Nebraska. "This was a transforming year for me as a minister and I learned the importance of team ministry. Doing ministry in a foreign country helped me to form my own pastoral identity."

In May 2000, while still in Omaha, he was diagnosed with Testicular Cancer and returned to South Africa for a major operation and chemotherapy. In November 2000, he was cleared of all cancer. "This experience taught me a valuable lesson that our lives are in the hands of God and that we should give our whole life into his hands. My cancer was a spiritual journey with God and I found out what it means to truly rely only on God."

Pastor Trümpelmann passed his Second Theological Examination in June 2001 and was ordained in his home congregation Pretoria in the same month. From July to November 2001 he served 4 congregations in the Limpopo province before joining the Cape Church and being placed in the parish King William's Town / Komga as pastor collaborator. After Church Council, in July 2002, had declared Pastor Trümpelmann eligible for a call, in September the congregations elected him as their minister.

"Serving the congregations in King William's Town / Komga gives me the wonderful opportunity to find my feet in the ministry. The congregations are English-speaking which makes outreach in our area easier. The parish is receptive to change and we are embarking on a journey to follow God's will for our congregations." Pastor Trümpelman is also serving the congregation of St Matthew's Berlin as *locum tenens*.

On 15 October 2002 he announced his engagement to Ms Yvonne von Elling, recently appointed Youth Worker in the Eastern Circuit.