



## Congo Partnership Covenant Agreement 2015

The Partnership is a vision of the Central Congo Episcopal Area and three United States Conferences: Peninsula-Delaware Conference, Eastern Pennsylvania Conference, and Western North Carolina Conference to bring glory to God and care for our neighbors. Our Partnership seeks to bring the

renewal and restoration of spiritual and material ministries for the whole Church and especially its children. The Christ's Church has been given the commission to be a sign of hope in a world that is perishing, a sign that the dominion of division, destitution, despair and death is being overcome through the love of God that is poured out in our hearts and made manifest by our deeds. Through this partnership we have the opportunity to give dramatic testimony to the unity of the Body of Christ, the mutuality of love, and the promise of life that overcomes death.

The purpose of the Partnership is to develop a healthy relationship between brothers and sisters in Christ across cultures through God's grace that is transformational and inspirational.

The goal of the Partnership is to have honest and open interaction with the partners, carefully listening to one another as equal parts of the body of Christ. It is a sacred covenant to support one another and participate equally and proportionally in a ministry or project. We agree to pray for one another and to value the spiritual gifts and faith each brings to the partnership, acknowledging these as equal to, or even more important than, financial and human resources. The goal of the mission is a self-sustaining United Methodist Church with holistic ministries empowering people in their context, community and country.

The partners will set aside their own agendas and create a collective vision for the ministry together. As with any relationship, each participant brings God-given gifts, whether spiritual, physical or mental, tangible or intangible, which will be honored and appreciated equally by all partners in the covenant agreement.

We pledge not to do for the other what they can do for themselves. We gladly serve each other as Christ has served us, with humility, love and encouragement, building a strong foundation for the ministry together.

We create mutual accountability and transparency through patiently engaging one another. We will be flexible and adaptable, enabling all partners to bridge language and culture through God's guidance.

The Partnership Agreement has been revised and renewed to address the following needs in the Central Congo Episcopal Area 2015-17: *\*\* denotes new to Covenant*

✓ **Medical and Nutrition –**

- Support of Mpasa Medical and Nutrition Center

- Eye Care – Work with St. Joseph’s University in Kinshasa to launch an Ophthalmology Clinic at Mpassa to support the work of Dr. Yohadi\*\*
    - Construction of additional building to support medical and nutrition services\*\*
  - Support of Miriam’s Table Nutrition Center\*\*
  - Medicine for the Medical Centers in Diengenga, Minga, Nganza, and Wembo Nyama working with the Centers to assure they are receiving maximum resources from the government and other potential supporters
  - Ophthalmology Clinics – providing eye care, including cataract surgery, to underserved communities in the Episcopal Area. Emphasis on joint US and Congolese medical staff with the long term goal that eye care continue to be available in those areas.
  - Assessment of medical needs in underserved communities\*\*
- ✓ **Education and Training**
- Financial support for Jack and Rennie Miner Technical Institute\*\*
  - Financial Support for Lorena Kelly / Mama Tola Girl’s School – E.g. additional classroom, beds for dorm\*\*
  - Develop relationship between Youth in US Conferences and DRC Youth (up to age 25-30) to support Youth Ministry in Central Congo Episcopal Area\*\*
  - Children’s Ministry – Support of Children’s Ministry in Wembo Nyama with focus on developing leadership.
    - Assess and implement replication of this ministry in 2 other conferences within the Central Congo Episcopal Area\*\*
  - Provide financial and human resources to support Congolese leadership in the development and implementation of seminars for ongoing training, continuing education
  - Africa University for Congolese students – Peninsula-Delaware and W. North Carolina Conferences have provided numerous endowed scholarships at Africa University. The Partnership will advocate for use of these scholarships by students in the Central Congo Episcopal Area. The Partnership will seek ways to support students attending African University with other expenses not covered by scholarship support. \*\*
- ✓ **Communication** - develop a reliable and effective communications system for the Episcopal Center to satellite offices of the Annual Conferences
- Provide equipment, computers, cameras, and peripheral equipment to improve communication within the Central Congo Episcopal Area and between all partners and assist in resourcing training seminars
  - Research, plan and network with others (E.g. UMCOR) in the installation of the Internet in Wembo Nyama and Diengenga\*\*
  - Assist Congolese leadership in the development of a network of people with addresses and phone numbers\*\*

✓ **Agriculture**

- Resource Diengenga Farm as a model for sustainable farming to assure they have the necessary equipment, water and supplies that they cannot provide for themselves. Expand projects and develop ways to both provide food to combat malnutrition and sell to the public moving towards becoming self-sustaining.
- Provide ongoing training for Josey and other designated leadership in Zambia so that they can become trainers in the DRC\*\*
- Develop plan for a new farm in Degele. Provide onsite training of leadership at the Diengenga farm\*\*

✓ **Leadership Development**

- Partner with Directors of Connectional Ministry in providing ongoing training for pastors and laity. Give priority to using the experience and expertise of the Central Congo Episcopal Area in training US Conference leadership.\*\*
- Provide leadership in the development of the Resource Center across from the Parliament with priority given to the construction of a perimeter fence. The Resource Center shall empower and enable the Central Congo Conferences, pastors and local churches to be more effective in ministering to their people. Take the lead in networking with others for this project. E.g. GBGM – possible office; Africa University- site extension\*\*
- Seek funding sources by all partners for Wembo Nyama Centennial Building which will become a center for training and leadership development \*\*

✓ **Resources – Human and Financial**

- Resource Congolese Mission Coordinator for the Partnership to enhance communication and provide support and accountability for various projects
- Create an undesignated fund and provide financial support for Episcopal Office allowing it to quickly respond to emergencies in consultation with partners\*\*

New Covenant Agreement will take effect mid-2015 after the approval of various partner conferences and the Central Congo Episcopal Area. Joint Partnership Meeting was held November 12-14, 2014 in W. North Carolina.

*Originally signed on June 9, 2006 by Bishop David K Yemba Central Congo Episcopal Area and Bishop Marcus Matthews during the Peninsula-Delaware Annual Conference, it was then taken to Kinshasa in July 2007 where the two bishops signed the agreement during the West Congo Annual Conference.*

*The Partnership was reaffirmed and expanded by the Partnership Team, Bishop David Yemba and Bishop Peggy Johnson on October 21, 2008.*