

**INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIP MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
RENEWAL, 2004**

between

**The Synod of Livingstonia
Church of Central Africa Presbyterian**

and

**The Presbytery of Northern New York
Presbyterian Church (USA)**

I. BACKGROUND DATA

A. Presbytery of Northern New York Contact Persons

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Executive Presbyter

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Elder Thomas Fife
Working Group Chair

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B. Synod of Livingstonia Contact Persons

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General Secretary

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The Rev. M.C.E. Munthali
Deputy General Secretary
Chair, Partnership Committee

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C. History of Partnership.

There was great enthusiasm for the Presbytery of Northern New York to be involved in a mutual ministry. This arose in support and follow-up of two members, Dr. Frederic and Mrs. Nella Stone, who as volunteers in mission, worked and worshipped in Malawi 1992-94. Communication between the presbytery and the Synod of Livingstonia started through telephone conversations, email between General Secretary, Rev. Dr. O.P. Mazunda and Rev. Dr. Clinton McCoy, Executive Presbyter, and love for Malawi in

general culminated into the discussion by both parties, beginning the negotiations for partnership in April, 1999.

A delegation of eight persons from the Presbytery of Northern New York visited Malawi in April, 1999. Synod of Livingstonia delegates had the opportunity during the visit by those from Northern New York to hold some discussions on the content of the partnership, and formulated much of a first draft of the "Memorandum of Understanding (Partnership Agreement). When a delegation of four persons from the Synod of Livingstonia visited the Presbytery of Northern New York in September-October, 1999, the discussions continued towards the completion of the first draft of the partnership agreement.

Subsequently two other visitation teams from each partner were exchanged in 2000 and 2001, with the partnership agreement formalized in Mzuzu when a group headed by the Rev. Donald Alexander visited the Warm Heart of Africa; the 2001 team was headed by the Rev. Jo Serchak.

In the year 2000 the Rev. Chunga, then Head of Stations at Embangweni, came to the United States and participated in the conference on international partnership, "Many Voices, One Calling," held at Wells College, Aurora, NY.

Following the 2000 exchange, the presbytery began a program called Woman-to-Woman through which vitenge, greeting cards, vests, hand bags and the like were sold in the Presbytery of Northern New York, the proceeds then sent to Women Living in the Synod of Livingstonia to assist the Women's Guilds of the presbyteries in their ministries, including ministries with orphan children. Additionally, the Presbytery of Northern New York established a special operating fund for International Partnership through which to budget for expenses and income beyond general mission allocations.

In 2002 the Rev. Paul and Darlene Heller spent two months at Livingstonia Mission Station where Paul engaged reflectively while on sabbatical, and Darlene served as a nurse at David Gordon Hospital. In that same year James Hargrave, an elder from the Scotch Presbyterian Church, Chipman, accompanied a team from Chapin Living Waters Foundation in order to instruct persons in the use of drip irrigation, one response to famine through the development of family gardens even in arid times and places.

One pastoral exchange was shared in 2001, with the Rev. Charles Monts, then pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Saranac Lake, NY lived with the family of the Rev. Henry Mvula, pastor of St. Andrews Presbyterian Church, Mzuzu for a month; Rev. Mvula then shadowed Rev. Monts for a month during the summer.

Other ministries in which the Presbytery of Northern New York has engaged in cooperation with partners include:

- Direct famine relief with donations to assist pastors with fertilizer for maize gardens;

- Generating \$150,000 (USF) with other international partners, \$6,000 of which was gift and \$24,000 a loan against the reserves of Northern New York Presbytery, towards the pay off of the Mzuzu Office Block mortgage and the completion of the Office Block IGA project.
- The support, through congregation and individual gifts, of dozens of shallow wells through partnership with Marion Medical Mission.
- The funding for an indigenous coordinator from the Synod of Livingstonia of the Chapin Living Water drip irrigation training.
- The purchase, through the leadership of the Plattsburgh First Presbyterian Church, in cooperation with another international partner, a lorry for Livingstonia Station after Rev. Heller's return from sabbatical there.

D. Approval of the Memorandum of Understanding by the Presbytery of Northern New York and the Synod of Livingstonia.

The outcomes of the discussions were presented to higher authorities: the Synod of Livingstonia to the synod assembly on December 16, 1999; the Presbytery of Northern New York to the gathering of the presbytery at its December 7, 1999 stated meeting. Basic principles agreed to, the partners continued in good faith in developing partnership activities. The final approval of the partnership agreement, with minor changes, occurred in May 2000 as part of a fellowship exchange of a contingent from Northern New York, under the leadership of the Rev. Donald Alexander, to the Synod of Livingstonia, while a delegation from the Synod of Livingstonia visited the Presbytery of Northern New York.

Review of the partnership agreement, towards revision and approval of a new five year agreement, occurred October 8-9, 2003 during a visit by a delegation of the Synod of Livingstonia, headed by General Secretary H. M. Nkhoma, to the Presbytery of Northern New York followed by a visit to the Presbytery of Eastern Oklahoma. Delegates from the three governing bodies met together in Plattsburgh, New York, where a new agreement was established by delegates from the Presbytery of Northern New York and the Synod of Livingstonia, assisted in conversation by delegates from the Presbytery of Eastern Oklahoma, who observed these conversations (subsequently delegates from Northern New York observed partnership conversations between our sister governing bodies).

E. Implementing Partnership Activities

The working committees on the partnership on both sides are responsible for implementing the activities and are accountable to the synod and presbytery respectively.

F. This memorandum will be presented to the Presbytery of Northern New York and the Synod of Livingstonia for their approval once representatives of both parties have reviewed and finalized it together.

G. Consultations with other Churches or Governing Bodies.

In the case of the Synod of Livingstonia, the Synod Assembly, the highest authority, was consulted and approved the partnership agreement in principle. In the case of the Presbytery of Northern New York, the presbytery itself was consulted and approved the establishment of the partnership. The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA) is aware of the partnership through the auspices of the Africa Office of the World Wide Ministries Division (Jon Chapman).

H. Duration of the Partnership

It was agreed that the partnership will continue for a period of five years, and within four years should be reviewed and evaluated to see if there is interest and willingness to continue.

II. Needs to be Addressed

A. Identification of the Presbytery of Northern New York's Needs

1. To experience true unity in Christ across racial, cultural, language, social and economic differences, broadening the spectrum of representation to include a variety of gifts (personal gifts, special skills and interests, physical and perceptual abilities, etc).
2. A growth in the understanding of practices of the Christian faith within the Malawi culture.
3. Examples of the way Christians in Malawi (particularly within the Synod of Livingstonia) witness to the gospel (health ministries, evangelism, education, lay preachers, youth ministries, music, etc.).
4. Identifying how to explore more deeply issues of prejudice such as racial profiling, Muslim competition, and racism.
5. Twinning between synod departments or presbyteries in the Synod of Livingstonia and congregations of the Presbytery of Northern New York, to include the specification of particular congregation projects or department programs with which Northern New York partnership may cooperate..
6. Synod of Livingstonia workshop leader on evangelism and spiritual renewal teaching evangelism concepts to participants from the Presbytery of Northern New York

7. To gain a better understanding of the dynamics of economic development in Malawi and other developing countries.
8. Understanding and promoting inclusivity in church leadership, particularly with regard to gender.
9. Recapture, with the assistance of people from the Synod of Livingstonia, the telling of the story of the Christian Church's historic and continuing activity in promoting multi-party government in Malawi in the face of threats from principalities and powers (Romans 8).
10. Periodic updates on the impact of HIV/AIDS and other life threatening diseases, particularly with regard to the care and nurture of orphans through extended family systems.

B. Identification of the Synod of Livingstonia's Needs

1. To learn how missiology is carried out in the partner's materialistic world.
2. To learn how the Presbytery of Northern New York, being predominately Caucasian, has related with Christians of other races.
3. To learn how our sisters and brothers in the Presbytery of Northern New York have dealt with the theological aspect of homosexuality, abortion, sex education, substance abuse, euthanasia, capital punishment, and domestic violence.
4. Have a person from the Synod of Livingstonia and a person from Northern New York together team teach classes in each country to help ministers and other church leaders gain an appreciation of the healthy expression of Christian faith through indigenous cultural symbols, traditions and ways, to explore how such symbols and expressions are changing in each culture, and to explore appropriate ways in which Christian faith may be shared through appropriate use of new symbols and expressions..
5. To learn how the Presbytery of Northern New York strives to achieve the goals of self-support, self-propagation, and self-reliance.
6. To share...
 - a. Training clergy and lay leaders;
 - b. The acquisition of office equipment to enhance management and communications;
 - c. CCAP Guest House expansion for Income Generating Activities (IGAs) and visiting mission teams;
 - d. Any other needs that would be agreed upon.

7. To encourage exchange visits at all levels so sharing of ideas on a personal level is promoted.
8. Need for teachers, technical and professional personnel who can work in a developing nations and offer their skills and expertise to train Malawians in the field of church leadership, construction, motor vehicle engineering, education and health, business management, technical skills such as computer skills, financial accounting, shorthand, key-boarding, etc.
9. Need to train women in helpful skills to enhance Income Generating Activities for the church and their families.
10. Assistance with procurement of books according to specific lists made available to Northern New York by the Synod of Livingstonia on an annual basis.
11. Assistance with the intensive theological training of new ministers through the theological program offered at Ekwendeni 2003-2005.
12. Human or monetary assistance with the development of the University of Livingstonia, founded 2003.
13. Used computers for Synod of Livingstonia institutions, adapted for us with UK 240 volt electrical system.
14. Musical instruments for congregations, specifically keyboards, microphones, public address systems. The partners will investigate whether it is more cost effective to send equipment directly from the USA or purchase it in South Africa, etc.
15. Transportation: synod vehicles, ministers' motor cycles, push bicycles.
16. Chapin Living Water Drip Irrigation Project Coordinator Salary for 2004 (negotiable for renewal in years following).

III. OPPORTUNITIES FOR SHARING

- A. Identification of what the Presbytery of Northern New York has to offer the Synod of Livingstonia
 1. Establishing pairing between congregations of the Presbytery of Northern New York and presbyteries and departments of the Synod of Livingstonia respectively.
 2. Exchanging letters, photographs, pamphlets, newspaper clippings, church newsletters, worship programs, prayers.
 3. Technical and Professional Experts to lead short courses.

4. Visitations of pastors and lay members for learning purposes, initially with mentoring.
 5. Willingness to learn of the partner's goals, disseminating the information, and assisting as the presbytery is able.
 6. Opportunities for partner pastors and teachers to teach in Northern New York (Mission to the USA).
 7. Provide warm clothing for CCAP guests who visit Northern New York in spring, winter or fall (size, gender, and age information would be helpful).
 8. Orient travelers to Synod of Livingstonia before persons leave Northern New York for Africa.
 9. Work together with our partner on mutually agreed upon mission projects.
 10. Where resources permit, exchange visit to become acquainted with the churches, culture, special gifts and needs of the partner.
 11. Supervised youth exchanges with Synod of Livingstonia to provide the youth of each partner opportunities to learn from one another and serve together. Specifics of each service will be identified before exchanges are help.
- B. Identification of what the Synod of Livingstonia has to offer to the Presbytery of Northern New York
1. Work together with our partner on mutually agreed upon mission projects;
 2. Where resources permit, exchange visits to become acquainted with the churches, culture, special gifts and needs of the partner;
 3. Exchange leadership (pastors, lay leaders, professionals) as a means to benefit from differing cultural perspectives and approaches to ministry and life;
 4. Establish sister church relationship between the presbyteries and departments of the Synod of Livingstonia and the congregations of the Presbytery of Northern New York, (using partnership guidelines of the synod; passing funds through the synod);
 5. Correspondence with the people of the Presbytery of Northern New York, knowledgeable about their presbytery meeting schedule in order to facilitate smooth, more personal communication of information, to share "good news," hopes and needs for mutual prayers;
 6. Supervised youth exchanges with the Presbytery of Northern New York to assist youth of the partners to learn from one another and serve together. Specifics of each service will be identified before exchanges are held.

7. Malawian traditional music/hymns, demonstrating how music can be developed and even affect liturgy;
8. Gift of prayers, compassion, loving concern, friendship, and hospitality;
9. Orient guest to Northern New York before they leave the Synod of Livingstonia.

IV. Activities or Objectives Mutually Agreed to by the Presbytery of Northern New York and the Synod of Livingstonia.

- A. Offer prayers for one another (develop a prayer calendar);
- B. Exchange visits frequently, and evaluation aspects of each visit;
- C. Possibility of exchanging/sharing material resources for program development;
- D. Promote the gifts of time, as stewards of the partnership's development, on the part of ministers, elders and other members of the partnering bodies;
- E. Regular correspondence;
- F. Willingness to be clouds of witnesses, testifying to the grace of God experienced in our partnership (Hebrews 12:1);
- G. Promoting exchanges between pastors, with initial mentoring.

V. Commitments Made to Carry Out the Partnership Activities Objectives

- A. The Presbytery of Northern New York agrees to do the following to implement the partnership activities:
 1. Send listing of congregations for prayer;
 2. Send delegations to learn;
 3. Consider applications for pastoral exchange;
 4. Consider joint sponsorship of projects with ecumenical, PC(USA) or non-profit entities;
 5. Proceed with assistance in design and implementation of economic development projects;
 6. Maintain an active Northern New York's Malawi Partnership Working Group;

7. Distribute a list of Synod of Livingstonia presbyteries, congregations, and leaders for prayer;
 8. Encourage people in our congregations to participate in PC(USA) related projects for Africa (e.g. HIV/AIDS Home Health Care Kits, bed nets, medicine boxes, etc.)
- B. The Presbytery of Northern New York agrees to abide by the principles and guidelines for Presbytery International Partnerships that have been prepared by the Worldwide Ministries Division of the General Assembly, PC(USA);
- C. Synod of Livingstonia agrees to do the following:
1. Present a list of the synod's churches and staff to the Presbytery of Northern New York for prayers;
 2. Distribute a list of the churches and staff to the churches of the Synod of Livingstonia for prayer;
 3. Send delegations to Northern New York to share in mutual mission, to learn about the history, culture, and faith of its partner, to teach evangelism, to teach Chitumbuka, to teach the history and culture of Malawi.
 4. To establish a Synod of Livingstonia and Northern New York Presbytery Partnership Committee.
 5. Share in the cost of airline tickets by Synod of Livingstonia guests at 5% of total.
 6. Distribute lists of Synod of Livingstonia churches and leaders in Northern New York for prayer.

VI. Resources Available for Carrying out the Partnership Activities

- A. The Presbytery of Northern New York will direct some of its financial resources from its annual budget, will direct presbytery staff and other leaders to devote time to the partnership effort, will invite member congregations and leaders to participate in this work through the agreed upon partnership activities.
- B. The Synod of Livingstonia will direct some of its financial resources from its annual budget, will direct the synod leadership, including staff, to devote some of their time to this effort, and will invite its member presbyteries and their congregations and leaders to participate in this work through the agreed upon partnership activities.

C. Anticipated Funding Requirements for the Presbytery of Northern New York and the Synod of Livingstonia

Year	Near Actual	Budget
2004	\$15,000	\$1,000
2005	\$31,500	\$1,000
2006	\$25,000	\$1,000

D. How will these funds be raised?

- ⇒ Synod of Livingstonia budget
- ⇒ Presbytery of Northern New York budget
- ⇒ Congregations contributions and sponsorships of travelers & projects
- ⇒ Individual donations and sponsorships of travelers & projects
- ⇒ Individual self-sponsorship by Northern New Yorkers in the exchange.

E. What expenses will the partners have in carrying out partnership activities?

The Synod of Livingstonia will sponsor participants from the Synod of Livingstonia as able, contributing 5% the cost of participants' travel. The Presbytery of Northern New York will sponsor participants from the Synod of Livingstonia and the Presbytery of Northern New York as able. Each partner promises to notify the other if visitations create a burden requiring reduced scope or increased contribution from the other partner.

VII. Evaluation

The Partners agree to enter into a review process during 2007. The results of the review will be shared with the Presbytery International Partnerships Office of the Worldwide Ministries Division, and with the Executive Committee of the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian Synod of Livingstonia.

VIII. Immediate Next Steps

- A. Continue communication and planning between partnership teams as has been done.
- B. Send information to begin prayer partnership
- C. Organize the next delegation visits
- D. Present the opportunities for mission support to our respective churches.

SIGNED:

Presbytery of Northern New York

Synod of Livingstonia

_____, 2004