

TWINNING PARTNERSHIP- NEXT STEPS

January 3, 2012

DEAR EOP FRIENDS,

Eastern Oklahoma Presbytery (EOP), has been partnered with the **Church of Central Africa, Presbyterian (C.C.A.P.) Synod of Livingstonia, Malawi, Africa** since 1998. Likewise in 2003, EOP and CCAP further established a Twinning Partnership whereby churches in EOP and churches/presbyteries/departments in Africa (CCAP SOL) would be partnered with one another to allow them to develop stronger ties. It is now time to review and renew these twinning agreements. In the first Twinning, each congregation was twinned with a Presbytery or a Department. Clearly it was difficult to build a relationship with a department! Therefore, in conversation with the General Secretary, Rev. Levi Nyondo and Rev. Debbie Chase, the partnering has been rearranged. Each EOP Member Congregation is to be twinned with a partner congregation (not a department) in Malawi. For those pleased with your current partner in Malawi, and do not wish to change, no changes will be made.

WHAT IS THE GOAL OF A TWINNING PARTNERSHIP WITH ANOTHER CHURCH?

The twinning partnership can be tailored to fit each congregation, but recommendations for goals are as follows:

1. This partnership is primarily about building lasting relationships, worshiping together, seeking to understand one another while respecting one another's cultures,
2. Exploring ways we can work together on projects of common interest,
3. Sharing with one another, our God-given gifts.
4. These things can be done through the exchange of delegations.
5. Praying for and with one another.
6. Make a financial commitment. Work together with your partner church to develop plans to share resources, saving a small portion back each week for the Lord's work, according to the abilities of each congregation. EOP encourages pre-planning to budget a financial commitment to your partner church in Malawi; the suggested sum might be \$500 per year. This could also be done through a 5th Sunday or other special "love" offering just for foreign mission work. EOP can send this for you.

WHAT CAN WE DO IN OUR PARTNERSHIP? HOW DO WE GET TO KNOW SOMEONE WHO IS SO FAR AWAY?

Here is what you might do to start this new partnership:

- Create a small album that tells about your church. Include a letter of introduction, a map of Oklahoma showing where your church is located, perhaps a brief history of your church, particular traditions or missions, and pictures. Pictures should be of the church building, *but even more importantly*, people, and activities. Do not include pictures of your homes. We suggest putting them into a vinyl folder, about 12 pages max.
- Be sure to include your church's mailing address and email address. Letters are important to them.
- **Email:** Once you find out who your twinning church is and if they have email, this will probably become your major method of correspondence. However, you can also send email to the Synod Office in Malawi, with the name of the church in the subject line. The Synod will get the letter to the Twinning Partner. solinia@malawi.net,
- When you send financial donations through Eastern Oklahoma Presbytery Office, please designate "Twinning Project- (Name of Malawi Church Partner)" on the memo line. That way we know how to post it. (*Be Specific so that this is posted your congregation.*)
- **Mail:** Initially correspondence will go to the Synod of Livingstonia, but their goal is to have churches and presbyteries correspond directly. Here is the address for the Synod of Livingstonia. *Please do not sent money in the mail.*

CCAP, Synod of Livingstonia

P.O. Box 112 MZUZU,

Malawi, AFRICA

Attention: (Name of Partner Church, Presbytery) Twinning Project

The Synod of Livingstonia has asked that a copy of "official" correspondence be copied to them. It would also be helpful if EOP was copied also to help keep track of projects and head off potential problems.

TRIPS AND VISITS

Contact Julie Burton in the EOP office and she can arrange to have a person or team contact your church to help prepare your team for your exchange visit.

Rev Judy Henderson (Tulsa, OK) and Julie Burton(EOP office) are available to help you with any questions about your visit, communications, or projects. Rev Judy Henderson has lots of experience in planning trips and can be available to make a presentation to your church.

Appendix A- is a sample Malawi Twinning Partnership, Memorandum of Understanding Agreement template that can be used as your congregation moves forward with mission planning. You may use as a place to start and customize it to our congregation and partner congregation.

Thanks for participating in the Twinning Partner Project! Feel free to contact **Julie Burton** at the Presbytery office if you have any questions about Twinning at **(918)-582-3077**, eop-rc@sbcglobal.net ; or **Judy Henderson** at **(918) 622-4403**

Blessings will abound!

The Malawi Partnership Committee.