



PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT BETWEEN



DISCIPLES OF CHRIST OF THE INDIANA REGION IN THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA AND THE DISCIPLES OF CHRIST IN MBANDAKA DISTRICT OF THE CONGO

The partnership is understood to be a relationship with the Indiana Region of the Christian 10^{ème} Community of the Disciples of Christ in Congo. The Indiana Region of the Disciples of Christ will twin with Disciples in the Mbandaka District. In consultation with all parties (Indiana Region, Mbandaka District, 10^{ème} Community of the Disciples of Christ and Global Ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the United Church of Christ) the partnership agreement should be for a period of 5 years from May 2008 to May 2013 with an option to extend, for an additional five year period if all parties are in agreement.

The partnership is being established based on criteria that recognize a common desire to act out our call to mission together. The purpose of this partnership is to expand the ecumenical and missionary horizons of our local churches in the Indiana Region and Mbandaka District, to develop a sense of responsibility for each other, and to learn reciprocally from each other's faith.

This goal can be achieved:

- a) through the exchange of information between partners, including
 1. information on the history of our countries and regions
 2. understanding of our distinctive worship practices
 3. ways in which our churches are engaging our respective cultures
 4. activities within our local congregations and Region/District.
- b) through prayer, mutual intercession in our worship services, and by the periodic celebration of special partnership services,
- c) through mutual visits that will reflect the existing diversity in our congregations (pastors, men and women committed to the church, youth, children, educators, health care workers, and farmers)
- d) through the sharing of resources with each other as facilitated through Global Ministries.

All projects and programs will be decided on by mutual written agreement and understanding between all signing partners below.

Rev. ILUMBE Ndjongo

Supervising Pastor of the Mbandaka Church
10^{ème} Community of the Disciples of Christ in Congo

Rev. Richard L. SPLETH

Regional Minister, Christian Church in Indiana
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada

Rev. BONANGA Eliki

President and Legal Representative
10^{ème} Community of the Disciples of Christ in Congo

Rev. Sharon E. WATKINS

General Minister and President
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada

Rev. Sandra R. GOURDET

Executive, Africa Office
Global Ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the United Church of Christ

Signed at Mbandaka III Church
May 25, 2008
Democratic Republic of the Congo