



# Denver Presbytery Zimbabwe Partnership

## MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

### Introduction

The church of Jesus Christ is God's church, existing all over the world. There is a growing appreciation in the church's understanding of how God intends for us to do work in unity as equal children of God, although new dynamics may emerge as we share in God's grace together.

God has called together two Presbyteries separated by thousands of miles. Although the history of the partnership is outlined in the preamble, we recognize that it was God, not us, who called us into partnership. It is a partnership that is grounded in love and respect for one another. We are able to extend God's love to one another because God first loved us.

### Seven Goals of the Partnership

1. *Continue to learn together how to strengthen and nurture the life and work in our congregations and put into action what we learn.*
2. *Learn, incorporate and share the mission work carried out by the churches in each Presbytery and the Presbyteries.*
3. *Expand our ecclesiastical relationship, strengthening ties between the two governing bodies, increasing our understanding of what church life is like in each community and within each Presbytery.*
4. *Continue to enhance our relationships through experiences of two-way visitations.*
5. *Continue to develop new and existing common missions.*
6. *Build up the Body of Christ beyond the boundaries of our Presbyteries.*
7. *Expose ourselves to what God is doing in the church elsewhere.*



**Partnership Committee:** The MOU establishes one Partnership Committee comprised of elected members of each Presbytery that meets in two locations. Decisions will be ratified at both locations.

**Funding:** The partnership and all its activities will be funded primarily by the Presbytery of Denver in light of the material blessings of that Presbytery. The Presbytery of Denver will fund the majority of travel made to the United States by partnership delegates.

**Communication:** There shall be regular exchange of information between the Presbyteries, including, but not limited to, Presbytery meeting minutes and Partnership Committee meeting minutes. The Partnership will take advantage of information technology to maintain

and strengthen regular communication.

**Partnership Education:** Education will take place in both Presbyteries to ensure that pastors, commissioners, elders, and congregations have a clear picture of the scope and work of the Partnership. The blessing of pastors and commissioners must be evident as they convey information about the partnership to their congregations and sessions.

### Preamble

This partnership has grown out of a particular mission endeavor by several churches of the Presbytery of Denver known as the Zimbabwe Mission Partnership (ZMP) and has led the Denver Presbytery to pursue a larger relationship with the Presbytery of Zimbabwe. While both presbyteries acknowledge the work of the ZMP, we recognize and embrace our desire for a relationship that will encompass all aspects of our presbyteries' lives. We trust that God will use this partnership to enrich the mission and vitality of the Body of Christ in Colorado, Zimbabwe, and elsewhere.



### This Covenantal relationship shall include:

- ◆ Genuine commitment
- ◆ Open, honest, transparent communication
- ◆ An equal partnership with equal input – an attitude of psychological, spiritual, and emotional equality – relating within our common faith.
- ◆ A deepening understanding of each other with mutual learning at all levels.
- ◆ An agreement to disagree on occasion, and to offer and receive forgiveness when an honest mistake has been made.
- ◆ Prayer for each other and each other's Presbyteries
- ◆ A willingness to remain open to the Spirit and risk new common endeavors.



*If you want to go fast, go alone;  
If you want to go far, go together.*



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