

What are Some of the Experiences of Seacoast UCC Churches Who Are in Partnership?

- Developed a non-material relationship with their sister church.
- Sent money to UCCZ for a well.
- Hosted a visitor from Zimbabwe who spoke at the church.
- Has a partnership that is “powerful and profound.”
- Has pen pals that range from Sunday school children to elders.
- Directed the church’s Heifer Project offerings to a Zimbabwe based program.
- Has a member who went to Zimbabwe to build homes with members of their sister church.
- Learned a lot about their culture , their way of life and their strong faith.

What are the next steps for North Church?

- North Church affirms its desire to partner with a church in Zimbabwe at the annual meeting in May.
- The Ukama Committee prepares a profile to submit to the Conference.
- The Conference reviews our submittal and communicates our interest to the UCCZ.
- A partner church in the UCCZ with similar interest is found.
- Our two churches begin the journey toward building a relationship.

For further information you may contact one of the following members of the Ukama Partnership Committee:

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An Ukama Partnership



North Church
of
Portsmouth
(UCC)

What is the Ukama Partnership?

In June of 1996 at its annual meeting, the New Hampshire Conference voted to establish a relationship with the United Church of Christ in Zimbabwe (UCCZ) which was affirmed later in the year at the UCCZ annual meeting.

These actions began the partnering of dozens of churches, the exchange of gifts and the welcoming of visitors from across the ocean. This relationship represented a new way of interacting, replacing the old mission ministry concept with an equal partnership that looks beyond giving financial support. The Ukama relationship requires that partnered churches be both givers and receivers of friendship and spiritual support.

Currently there are over 40 churches in New Hampshire with sister churches in Zimbabwe including our neighbors in North Hampton, Dover, Greenland, Exeter, Brentwood and Rochester.

To become a partner we need to commit, for no less than three to five years, to mutually agreed goals and opportunities for shared worship and growth.

What Would be the Reasons for North Church to Embrace a Ukama Relationship?

The North Church community and its children would

- Experience a broader, mission.
- Develop an awareness and appreciation of life beyond the U.S.
- Have an opportunity to share its faith with a broader community.
- Model in action what it preaches.
- Develop an awareness and an interest in another culture.
- Have an idea what other local UCC churches involved in a Zimbabwe relationship have experienced.
- Expand its reach beyond geographical borders.
- Be continuing in an historical church experience developed by New England churches.

What Might a North Church Zimbabwe Relationship Look Like?

- Providing spiritual support for each other.
- Share worship experiences.
- Exchange letters.
- Develop information exchanges: Mothers to mothers, grandparents to grandparents, etc.
- Children exchange stories and artwork.
- Send and receive photographs and post cards.
- Host visitors from Zimbabwe and have them share in worship.
- Perhaps send a representative to Zimbabwe on a UCC visit
- Keep track of political happenings in Zimbabwe.