

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
PRESBYTERY INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIP  
Established in 1996  
(WORLDWIDE MINISTRIES DIVISION RECOMMENDED FORM)  
2018-2022 Extended Revised Agreement**

Presbytery: PC(USA) Blackhawk Presbytery, Synod of Lincoln Trails  
Overseas Partner: PCEA Imenti North, Central and South Presbyteries

**1. BACKGROUND DATE:**

**A. Presbytery Contact Persons:**

Claire Brennecka                      Member of Kenya Network for Blackhawk  
313 N. Jefferson St.  
Harvard, IL 60033  
Clairebrennecka3@yahoo.com

Rev. Dr. John E. Rickard            General Presbyter  
Blackhawk Presbytery  
1922 IL Rt. 2 N  
Oregon, Illinois 61061  
johnrickard@blackhawkpresbytery.org

**B. Overseas Partner Contact Persons**

Rev. Samuel Riungu                Secretary, Imenti Presbyteries Partnership  
P.O. Box 12-60206  
Kanyakine, Kenya  
samuel\_riungu@yahoo.com  
samuelriungu@gmail.com

Rev. Peter K. Kaniah                Secretary General  
Presbyterian Church of East Africa  
P.O. Box 48268  
Nairobi, Kenya  
revkaniah@pcea.org

**C. Brief Outline of contacts and negotiations leading to this agreement**

09/91 Blackhawk Presbytery conceives of International Mission Education Trip  
12/95 Blackhawk Presbytery begins discussion with Imenti Presbytery  
01/96 1<sup>st</sup> Memorandum of Understanding Established- 01/98 – 12/02  
09/97 Imenti Presbytery delegation visits Blackhawk Presbytery  
01/99 & 09/00 Blackhawk Presbytery makes home visits in Imenti Presbytery  
05/02 Imenti Presbytery makes home visits in Blackhawk Presbytery (20 people)  
11/02 Blackhawk Presbytery sends two persons to assist in Evangelist training  
01/03 2<sup>nd</sup> Memorandum of Understanding Began – 01/03-12/07  
09/03 Blackhawk Presbytery sends two persons to assist in Elder Training  
09/04 Blackhawk Presbytery sends two persons to assist in Deacon Training  
01/05 Blackhawk Presbytery makes home visits/work trip to Imenti Presbyteries (23 people)  
09/05 Blackhawk Presbytery sends 4 persons to assist in Pastor Retreat  
09/06 Blackhawk Presbytery sends 1 person to assist with Evangelists Training  
          And also begin process of preparing new Memorandum of Understanding  
09/07 Blackhawk Presbytery sends one person to assist in Elder training

- 10/08 Blackhawk Presbytery sends two persons to assist in Deacon training
- 09/09 Blackhawk canceled trip because of health of two trainers
- 01/10 Blackhawk Presbytery sends two people & coworker to conduct Pastor/Spouse Retreat
- 01/11 Blackhawk Presbytery asks assistance of co-worker to conduct Evangelist training  
And preparation of new MOU begins
- 05/11 Imenti Presbyteries makes visit in Blackhawk Presbytery (1 pastor)
- 10/13 Blackhawk sends thirteen persons to make home visits and conduct joint mission project(delivered food to Tharaka and Isiolo
- 11/14 Blackhawk sends clergy couple to assist with Pastor Retreat
- 01/17 Blackhawk sends nine people to celebrate twenty years of partnership

**D. This Memorandum of Understanding for the Partnership was presented and approved by the Presbytery on the date of ..... (letter signed by Stated Clerk attached)**

**E. What committee or group is responsible for implementing the partnership activities? How are they accountable to the Presbytery.**

The Blackhawk /Imenti Presbytery Network Partnership is the group responsible. They report annually to Mission Strategies and Resource Board (MSRB) of the presbytery.

**F. This Memorandum of Understanding for the Partnership was presented and approved by the partner church at all appropriate levels – presbytery or agency, and/or the highest governing body of the church on the date of ..... (letter signed by partnership church attached)**

**G. What consultation has there been with other church governing bodies?**

Contact has been maintained with area coordinator for Africa. Consultation with National Kenya Network PC(USA) has been maintained.

**H. Anticipated length of the Partnership – from January 2018 to December 2022**

## **2. THE NEEDS TO BE ADDRESSED**

**A. Identification of the Blackhawk Presbytery’s Partnership needs:**

- to have and further develop personal and denominational involvement in mission
- to provide accountability and oversight of mission projects that inform and stimulate Mission giving, and provide a system for the safe transfer of funds
- to learn of the history, traditions, and culture of Kenya
- to energize and create our enthusiasm for the message of the Gospel of Jesus Christ
- to assist parish to parish relationships in the global setting
- to gain sense of the strength and vitality of the PCEA in Imenti presbyteries and to infuse that vitality in the churches of Blackhawk presbytery
- to encourage as Imenti partners are able, to cover a portion of the costs of future trips to the USA and provide accommodation and other care for Blackhawk visits to Kenya, including supplies for work projects, and other partnership needs, as negotiated.
- to develop a relationship with the international Christian Community
- to learn from and share each other’s successes, mistakes, and way of meeting challenges
- to encourage lay involvement in the partnership
- to maintain existing parish to parish relationships and encourage new partnerships

**B. Identification of the Imenti Presbyteries' Partnership needs (as indicated by them)**

- to have and further develop personal and denominational involvement in mission
- to provide accountability and oversight of mission projects and safe transfer of funds
- to learn history, traditions and culture of USA
- to enhance commitment for the message of the gospel of Jesus Christ
- to assist parish to parish relationships in the global setting
- to share strengths in ministry and help each other to grow where we need help
- to work with Blackhawk in raising funds and assisting with visitors arrangements
- to develop a relationship with the international community
- to encourage lay involvement in the partnership
- to learn from and share each other's successes, mistakes and way of meeting challenges
- expertise professionals in areas that Blackhawk may have a need
- to maintain existing parish to parish relationships and encourage new partnerships
- to step up communication with the partners and provide timely reports

**3. OPPORTUNITIES FOR SHARING (spiritual gifts, human, material and/or financial resources, learning opportunities, etc.)**

**A. Identification of what the Blackhawk Presbytery Partner has to offer to the Imenti Presbyteries:**

- a caring spirit that responds to the needs and hurts of others
- hospitality, offering a friendly warm welcome to all who visit
- a variety of skills and knowledge within our membership and a willingness to share these with others (i.e. agriculture, education, health care and business)
- a desire to learn a new perspective, ways of life, and to gain new ideas
- a willingness to share knowledge and resources pertaining to worship, stewardship, church growth and church education
- a desire to share in the Reformed tradition of worship, prayer, sacraments, and polity
- eagerness to create parish partners willing to share God's gifts as able (i.e. spiritual gifts, prayer support, and financial resources).
- willingness to work on joint mission projects beyond Imenti and Blackhawk presbyteries
- commitment to establish and link up prayer partners

**B. Identification of what the Imenti presbyteries have to offer to the Blackhawk Presbytery (as indicated by them)**

The same that Blackhawk has to offer

**4. ACTIVITIES OR OBJECTIVES MUTUALLY AGREED TO BY THE PARTNERS:**

- to improve Presbytery to Presbytery regular communication.
- to continue Parish to parish partnership program.
- to encourage a visitation program (including preaching/teaching opportunities and shared work projects as may be negotiated) when invited, to continue to assist with lay training for elders, deacon/deaconesses, evangelists in partnership with Imenti officers and the PCEA.
- to participate in events for the PCEA clergy as invited by our Imenti pastors.
- to continue development of Guest House Compound including furnishings, staffing, equipment, and resourcing events for future training and education.
- to prompt all projects for parishes, churches or institutions to have a separate written MOU spelling out clearly project, length of commitment, financial implications and who is responsible for financial implications if there is a shortage who will pay and if there is left over how money is to be used. Each individual partnership shall submit a copy of the MOU to their Presbytery partnership committee.

- to prompt all individual partnerships to submit an annual report of partnership activities to their partnership committee at the end of each calendar year.
- to establish a partnership Sunday annually for spiritual support.
- to seek ways to establish a scholarship fund to support the bright and needy students.

**5. COMMITMENTS MADE TO CARRY OUT THE PARTNERSHIP ACTIVITIES OR OBJECTIVES (as indicated in item 4 above)**

**A. Blackhawk Presbytery agrees to do the following to maintain and nurture the partnership activities:**

- assist in leadership development
- assist in resourcing, coordinating, and accountability of parish to parish relationships
- through its annual budget process will attempt to designate an amount to assist partnership travel; sponsor periodic visits with Imenti presbyteries recommending mixed representation between Presbyterian members and clergy
- provide visiting partner opportunities to participate in the total life of the church including the opportunity to preach.
- assist in mutually organized work projects as may be negotiated

**B. The Imenti Presbyteries agrees to do the following to implement the partnership activities**

- assist in leadership development
- assist in resourcing, coordinating, and accountability of parish to parish relationships
- attempt to designate funds to assist with partnership travel of members of clergy and lay from Imenti to the USA
- provide preaching opportunities for visiting members of Blackhawk presbytery
- assist in mutually organized work projects as may be negotiated
- in the life of each MOU, in consultation with the partners, Imenti will be actively involved in exchange of visits to strengthen the partnership

**6. RESOURCES AVAILABLE FOR CARRYING OUT THE PARTNERSHIP ACTIVITIES**

**A. What human and/or material resources will be available for implementing the partnership activities. In what way will the overseas partner contribute to these activities?**

- After twenty years of interactions and commitment to a presbytery-to-presbytery partnership, the human resources available to facilitate the partnership are vast.
- Intimate friendships have developed in unlikely circumstances and locations that, none the less, continue through the years and through changing times for both the friends. Strong spiritual connections between people whose lives are very different, but whose connection in Jesus Christ and love for Him diminishes the difference and brings forth the similarities.
- Commitment to shared time, even when partners are not together.
- Hospitality from both partners – in churches, homes, and communities.
- Commitment to funding and expanding internet service for our partners.
- Commitment to sustaining email and regular mail communication – even in the face of technological challenges.
- Hospitality between both partners has been and will be a treasured resource of our relationships
- Parish to parish sharing of resources
- Regional groups of churches sponsoring a guest to provide leadership resourcing
- Blackhawk travelers to Imenti will return home to share their experiences with their home church, area churches and Blackhawk Presbytery.

- Blackhawk Presbytery may allocate resources through the annual budget process for implementing the partnership activities.
- Blackhawk Presbytery will cover a portion of the costs of all future visits to Kenya, as funds are available and provide accommodation and other care for Imenti visits to USA, supplies for work projects and other partnership needs, as negotiated.

**B. What are the anticipated funding requirements for carrying out the partnership activities or objectives?**

- to be determined yearly on projects to be undertaken with agreement between both parties at least 6 months in advance

**C. How will these funds be raised?**

- annual requests for grants from Blackhawk Mission Committee
- individual contributions
- contributions by local congregations
- from visitors wishing to provide for their own airfare and travel expenses

**7. EVALUATION**

The partners agree to enter into a review process no later than one year before the end date for the Partnership. The results of the review will be shared with the area coordinator for Africa, Debbie Braaksma and Nancy Collins regional liaison PC(USA). The partners agree to review and evaluate their own fulfillment of the commitment to the MOU annually.

**8. IMMEDIATE NEXT STEPS**

- approval by the overseas partner
- approval by presbytery
- plans for exchange visits
- continued encouragement of parish to parish relationships
- other plans

**9. OTHER INFORMATION (if any)**

(When completed and approved by the Presbytery and the Overseas Partner, this Memorandum is to be sent to the Presbytery International Partnership Office, Worldwide Ministries Division PC(USA), 100 Witherspoon Street, Louisville, KY 40202-1396).

Signed:

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Rev. Samuel Riungu  
**SECRETARY OF PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE IMENTI PRESBYTERIES**

Signed:

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 Rev. Peter K. Kaniah  
**SECRETARY GENERAL, PCEA**

Signed:

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 Rev. Dr. John E. Rickard  
**GENERAL PRESBYTER, BLACKHAWK PRESBYTERY PC(USA)**

Signed:

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 Rev. Debbie Braaksma  
**AFRICA COORDINATOR, WORLDWIDE MINISTRIES, PC(USA)**

CC Nancy Collins, regional liaison