

ANN ARBOR DISTRICT LIBERIA PARTNERSHIP TASK FORCE

Liberia/Detroit Annual Conference Covenant

Suggestions for being a partner church to a congregation in Liberia:

- 1) Lift your partner church and its pastor(s) up in prayer often.
- 2) Contact your partner church through the local district superintendent:
 - a) St. John River—Rev. Nelly Wright: liberiaumc@yahoo.com (put “message for [name of partner church], St. John River” in the subject line, as Rev. Wright receives her emails at the conference office in Monrovia.
 - b) Rivercess—Rev. Jacob Nathan: rivercessdistumc@yahoo.com (put “message for [name of partner church]” in the subject line).
 - c) Grand Bassa—Rev. Clarissa J. Robertson:
grandbassadistrict_liberiaumc@yahoo.co.uk (note: _ between t & l)
(put “message for [name of partner church]” in the subject line.

Please keep in mind that because there is only generator power, and because the D.S.’s do not have power where they are based (one doesn’t even have an office), they have to pick up emails intermittently when they are able, then they must get the messages out to the churches in their districts. Transportation is a very challenging issue, particularly during the rainy season of June-September. It may take several months to get a message through to the church and back to you. Exchange information about your congregations, prayer concerns, etc.

- 3) Consider raising funds for the specific needs of your partner church. Ideas include: noisy can offering on a Sunday morning, special offerings, bake sales, flower sales, having a big jar out in the narthex or other conspicuous spot for people to throw their change into, fund-raiser dinner, etc.
- 4) Consider having a drive to collect goods *that are requested* by your partner church. These could include clothes, shoes, soap, Tylenol, children’s vitamins, school supplies, books, choir robes, Bibles, communion utensils, worship paraments, etc. Things can be shipped through Operation Classroom, a volunteer organization within the UMC based in Indiana that sends shipping containers to Liberia 3 or 4 times per year. The cost is approximately \$10 per cubic foot. They will ship requested items of any weight. They have shipped pulpits and even a jeep! See their website: www.gbgm.org/operationclassroom/ Please know that while this is an economical way to send things, it is not speedy. It may take up to a year for your box or crate to get to Liberia. They must pay tariffs on the Liberia end for anything that is shipped, so please send only useful things that are requested or meaningful gifts, such as a banner or cards and pictures for your partner church.