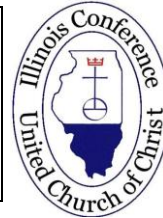




IECA-UCC
GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP



Dear Pastor and/or Mission Chair:

We are reaching out to invite your church to make a gift for the building of seminary housing in Angola in celebration of the 10th Anniversary of the Illinois Conference-UCC's formal partnership with the Evangelical Congregational Church in Angola (IECA).

Since 2004, the Illinois Conference Angola Partnership Team has worked to develop strong relationships with our partner church IECA and to define and meet mutual needs and aspirations as partners in ministry. Our partnership's motto is ***"Working together to build the one Body of Christ in two different places."***

In June, the Illinois Conference hosted Rev. Augusto Chipesse, General Secretary of IECA, at our Annual Celebration as a kick-off for our 10th Anniversary. Rev. Chipesse laid out the challenges and successes of IECA's rebuilding during the past decade of peace that followed 27 years of brutal civil war:

- ***On the success ledger, IECA is present in all 18 of Angola's provinces, has more than 1 million members, and has 2,400 churches;***
- ***In terms of challenges, IECA has only 220 trained pastors to staff its churches!***

Rev. Chipesse clearly identified a great need for seminary training and specifically requested our assistance in building student housing as our current major partnership priority.

In response, the Illinois Conference Angola Partnership Team is mounting a Conference Council - approved statewide \$60,000 Capital Campaign to support building seminary student housing at IECA's Emanuel Seminary in Dondi, Angola. This campaign was announced at June's Annual Celebration Gathering and has been seeded by two initial grants: \$10,000 as approved by the Tuthill Commission; and \$5,000 from Nancy Tucker Reed, of University Church, a founding member of the statewide Partnership Team, in honor of the missionary work in Angola of her parents and grandparents.

Please consider this letter a formal invitation to make gifts and pledges, as a congregation and/or as individuals, to the Seminary Housing Capital Campaign, through your church mission budget, via a special offering, as a special fundraiser, whatever the Spirit leads you to do! (Please see the enclosed brochure and pledge/gift form.) We hope to be able to announce we have achieved our goal at June 2014's 50th Anniversary Annual Celebration in Springfield. All gifts should be made out to the Illinois Conference with a notation for the Angola Seminary Housing Fund. As desired, Angola Partnership Team members are willing to come to your church to share information about this exciting international partnership project.

With gratitude for your prayerful consideration,

Rev. Tom Norwalk

Nancy Reed

Rev. Tom Norwalk
Illinois Conference Partnership Liaison

Nancy Reed
Convener, Angola Partnership Team

PS: For more information, please contact Nancy Reed: nreed8603@yahoo.com or 708-574-5046 or Rev. Tom Norwalk: ilconftom@gmail.com or 815-768-5511.