

The Illinois Conference began a partnership with the Evangelical Congregational Church of Angola (IECA) at the Illinois Annual Conference meeting in 2004. At that meeting representatives of IECA joined with the leadership of the Conference in proposing and promoting ways to enhance the new relationship we had begun. Since that time there have been delegation visits in Angola from three teams from the Conference and we have also received visitors from Angola, most recently at our Annual meeting in 2009. Rev. Augusto Chipesse, General Secretary of our Partner Church was able to visit with us at our 2013 Annual Celebration and as a visitor to the 2013 General Synod meeting in California.

Our Partnership Team meets every other month at First Congregational Church in Glen Ellyn to strategize how we may be faithful and active partners with our brothers and sisters in Angola. Over the years of our partnership we have been supportive of the Angola Bible Project, helping to raise funds to support programming at the Dondi Primary School, working to support the vision of Rev. Mike Solberg, a member of our team, who after visiting with a delegation team in Angola worked to raise \$70,000 to build a primary school in Waku Kungo by swimming the English Channel, and by supporting portions of the travel costs of our delegation teams. People to people relationships have been key to building trust to explore what partnership means.

Our team works to continue to provide opportunities to visit in local congregations to share the experience of our delegation visits, first-hand experiences of our own Donna Dudley, who served as a Global Missionary in Angola until early 2010, and to raise awareness for ways we can support the church in Angola as they continue to rebuild the visions for the future. In 2014 we are working to raise \$60,000 to help build a home for married students at the only denominational Seminary near Dondi, continue to support the work of Christian education in local congregations, and provide for opportunities to share our witness together. It is our vision to also bring a "Missionary in residence" to the Illinois Conference in the future as another resource to learn more about life and ministry in Angola.

***Working together to build the one body of Christ in two different places...***



Evangelical Congregational Church in Angola  
**Igreja Evangélica Congregacional em Angola**  
I.E.C.A.