

**Annual Report of the Church Development Committee
May 3, 2008**

The Church Development Committee (CDC) continues to move forward in both areas of its mission: new church development and redevelopment in existing congregations.

New Church Development

1. The Presbyterian Church serving the Pioneer Valley.

The congregation has received a temporary certificate of occupancy for their new building. Now they can use the new sanctuary for Sunday worship. We look forward to joining with them in the dedication service at a time yet to be determined. They are considering a change of name to “First Presbyterian Church of the Meadows—Serving the Pioneer Valley.” They very much appreciate our prayers.

Dan Cunningham is our liaison with this congregation.

2. Tumaini Kenyan Community in Springfield.

Tumaini has met all the requirements listed in our guidelines for becoming an Immigrant Fellowship with the exception of providing the minimum salary for the pastor, Joseph Kimatu. Joseph became a member of our Presbytery at our last Presbytery meeting. They now have a worshipping congregation of 100 people, including children.

CDC has appointed a task force to guide this fellowship through the organization process. Members of the task force are: Terry Davis, chair., Carol North, Steve Thayer, Ann Beams, and Jessi Johnson. CDC has arranged funding for a year of transition by applying for a promised grant from the National Immigration Ministries, by designating \$10,000 from the CDC budget, and by applying for a grant from the new Synod “Bridge Fund.” To help cover expenses for the subsequent five years the task force is applying for a New Church Development Grant from the GA and Synod.

We have established a four-step process for New Church Development. (Immigrant Fellowship is the second step.)

1. Self-forming Community – this is the initial nurturing step as we move toward official recognition of a new fellowship

2. Immigrant Fellowship – in this step the fellowship expresses its commitment to move toward being established as a new congregation in the PCUSA and will begin following the guidelines of a PCUSA congregation under the direction of the CDC and its representatives (task force).

3. New Church Development (Mission) (NCD) – a time-line is put in place whereby the congregation will become financially self-supporting and will grow to sufficient size and vitality to sustain an on-going church.

4. Chartered Church

Carol North is our liaison with the fellowship and is on the task force.

3. **Brazilian Fellowship in Hyannis**

A small Presbyterian Portuguese-speaking, Brazilian fellowship in Hyannis, MA has approached our committee seeking direction in how to become a church in our denomination. They are nesting in the Federated Church there in Hyannis. They have about 25 adult members at present. Their pastor is the Rev. Alonso Dacunha, a clergy member of the IPB church in Brazil.

We have appointed a task force to work with them: Gerson Annunciacao, Ron Minor, Tiffany Nicely-Halleck, and Julio Tulpo (Christ is Life). The Rev. Angel Suarez of the National Immigration Ministries has met with the task force and with their leadership (as he has with Tumaini) to advise us on the proper steps to take. The fellowship has submitted their budget to the task force which will be advising the CDC on how best to proceed with funding. In the meantime we have applied for a grant from the National Immigration Ministries to help support the pastor during this time.

Gerson Annunciacao is our liaison with this fellowship.

Redevelopment

CDC has entered into an eighteen-month redevelopment partnership with three of our smaller congregations: First Church Hartford, Woodbury Union, and Milford.

This agreement includes providing a coach for the pastor, developing an instrument with which to survey the congregation, two one-day workshops, joint meetings of representatives from the participating churches, establishing a core group in each congregation, attending a national conference, evaluating the progress. We are now six months into this process.

Dr. Ann Philbrick of Heartwood Consulting Services is our consultant. Between 55 and 60 people from these congregations and the CDC attended an all-day revitalization workshop which Ann led at Hartford: First during a monsoon in early March.

Ronald E. Minor, chair