



Zimbabwe

UKAMA ADVISORY BOARD

*New Hampshire Conference
United Church of Christ
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New Hampshire

CROSBY SCHOLARSHIP

As you may know, Rev. Ben Crosby, one of our former Conference Ministers, has retired from active ministry. As a way to honor his ministry Rev. Crosby's family and friends announced the establishment of the Benjamin C. L. Crosby Scholarship Fund to benefit students from the United Church of Christ in Zimbabwe who are studying at United Theological College in Harare. The hope is that each year, one or more students from the United Church of Christ in Zimbabwe attending the seminary will receive the scholarship. It seems a fitting tribute to Rev. Crosby, as the Global Partnership between the New Hampshire Conference and the United Church of Christ in Zimbabwe was such a significant piece of his ministry here. In fact, it would never have happened without Ben's leadership.

It is also particularly fitting because there is such a need. The church in Zimbabwe is growing at a far faster pace than clergy can be trained, so there is a shortage of pastors. The cost of a seminary education has also skyrocketed, and it is increasingly difficult for the UCCZ to bear the financial burden of sending its promising students to seminary. This scholarship will be a great help to individual students and to the church as a whole.

The scholarship will be managed through the United Church of Christ Wider Church Ministries. The plan is for it to become a permanently endowed, named scholarship. That will happen when the amount of the gift reaches \$10,000. It is already well over half-way there!

As word of the scholarship spread, it became apparent that others were interested in contributing as well. The Ukama Advisory Board discussed it and Kim McKerley presented a proposal to the Conference Council, asking that the New Hampshire Conference support the scholarship, and invite its member congregations to contribute, as a way of honoring Ben's eleven years of service to our Conference.

At its November, 2005 meeting, the NH Conference Council approved the following motion: "that the New Hampshire Conference give its blessing and support to the establishment of a Zimbabwean scholarship in Ben Crosby's name, and authorize Kim McKerley and others to solicit donations to help reach the \$10,000 minimum for a scholarship to be handled through the UCC's Wider Church Ministries."

We encourage all who wish to support this important opportunity to send checks to the Finance Department at the New Hampshire Conference. Please note "Crosby Scholarship" in the memo.