

Dear Friends of Ukama / Partnership,

The United Church of Christ in Zimbabwe has invited the New Hampshire Conference, UCC to send a delegation of travelers to Zimbabwe in August of 2010. With this letter, I am offering the invitation to you so that you can see if any members of your church might be interested in this opportunity. Tentative travel dates are August 9-25.

I would like to hear preliminary interest from you as soon as possible. The plan for this travel is to include one person (or possibly two, depending on the amount of interest) from a variety of churches in the Conference to build a group of 12 travelers. Only churches with partners in Zimbabwe will be considered, and priority will be given to churches that have not sent travelers in the past. We hope that all travelers will be highly involved in the Ukama efforts in their local churches. We also hope to create an appropriate mix of travelers – clergy / lay, male / female – that sort of thing. Young people, 16 years of age or older, will also be considered.

The cost of such travel is considerable. Summer travel can be even more expensive than travel at other times of the year, but the invitation for travel in August was made so that visitors could attend the Annual General Meeting of the Ruwadzano, the women's group in the UCCZ to be held Aug. 20-22. That is a weekend "revival" type meeting, attended by several thousand women, along with some male leadership in the church. Travelers can expect to spend about a week with their partner church and a week visiting other Zim churches as well as some tourist sites, ending with the Ruwadzano AGM.

I am just beginning to do the airfare research. It will likely be in the range of \$2500, though there may be some lower fares. Then there will be expenses for lodging (most housing will be in homes), transport (rental of van and cost of fuel), some food and shopping. With prices so fluid in Zimbabwe, it is difficult to estimate cost, but I would think you might plan to spend somewhere in the vicinity of \$3000-\$3500 per person. Local church members often fundraise to offset some of the costs.

But I'm getting ahead of myself!! For now, please make this information available to folks in your congregation, so we will know if there is interest in August travel. I've included an application for travel that must be completed by all interested parties by January 15. This does not commit anyone to the trip, but does indicate serious interest. Feel free to call me at 339-0296 or email me at mckerley@gsinet.net with any inquiries.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Grace and Peace,

Kim

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