

ITEM D.204
FOR INFORMATION

AFRICAN EMERGING MINISTRIES OFFICE

More and more PC (USA) congregations are witnessing an increase in the number of Africans joining their worshipping communities. The Office of African Emerging Ministries was established in response to this rapid growth. The office works in collaboration with mid councils to develop and grow African worshipping communities in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and resources existing congregations.

Some congregations classified as multicultural churches in the PC(USA) include individuals who are new immigrants from African countries. These individuals are assuming roles as ruling elders and deacons in these congregations. There are fifty-four congregations that have African participation. Twenty of these congregations have been identified as multicultural churches, and five of these are being led by Africans.

Eight hundred and fifty Ghanaians gathered for the first "ASEMPATREW" (Spread of the Gospel Meeting) in Columbus, Ohio, in June 2014. The event was organized by the Conference of Ghanaian Presbyterian Churches to strengthen Ghanaian churches in the PC (USA). The African Emerging Ministries Office resources many of the churches that participated in this conference. During the conference, Teaching Elder Philomena Ofori-Nipaa was commissioned to serve as a short-term mission co-worker to work among the Masai in Kenya. The Ghanaians received an offering of \$50,000 during the event to be used for mission and evangelism.

The African Emerging Ministries Office is helping the First Presbyterian Church in Guymon, Oklahoma, to understand how it can be more supportive of the Dinka Sudanese people, who have arrived in Oklahoma and are attending the church. The African Emerging Ministries Office purchased thirty new Bibles written in Dinka Bor for the new African worshipping community, which meets at First Presbyterian Church in Guymon.

Leaders of African worshipping communities from fifteen presbyteries will attend a transformational leadership training event on August 11–14, 2014. The African Emerging Ministries Office identified the fifteen participants and will sponsor this training. Participants will have an opportunity to discuss the cultural challenges they face while growing their worshipping communities in the PC(USA), and to learn about the PC(USA)'s Constitution. The worshipping communities represented worship in twelve different languages (Ibo, Anuak, Ewe, Twi, Fanti, Dinka, Kikuyu, Arabic, Awahili, Oromia, Maaban, and Asante), in addition to speaking English.

The African Emerging Ministries Office remains grateful for the opportunities of this ministry, which seeks to inspire, equip and connect African Presbyterian leaders and African communities in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).