Bryan Parrish
Missionary Co-worker
Church of Christ in Congo

The Ministry of Missions and Education has spent several months researching and discussing various Global Ministries missionaries for our church to support, and has chosen Bryan Parrish in the Congo. As you may recall, our previous missionaries, Tom and Monica Liddle, returned home last May. Bryan Parrish is a long-term mission co-worker with Global Ministries, which is a partnership of the United Church of Christ and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

How would you describe the mission of our partner where you serve?
My partner in Kinshasa, the Church of Christ in Congo, is the ecumenical Christian organization that brings together 60 different denominations working for reconciliation, justice, struggle against corruption and respect for human life.

What is your role in their mission?
My role as a mission coworker is to be of service where the partner needs me, especially in the development area. I am hoping to help the Church achieve its goals and to help set priorities in cooperation with the Church leaders.

Is there a passage of scripture that carries special meaning in your daily work?
The prophets, the psalms and the parables of Jesus have always been sources of inspiration, but if I have to choose one passage of scripture, I would have to say that I would go with the letters of Paul, especially Romans 8. In my ministry, I have often been confronted by situations where hope seems to be lost. Paul's letter to the Romans has always been an inspiration and a way to understand hope. In Romans 8:18–27, Paul reminds us that in hope we are saved. Paul recognizes that the world is suffering, and that hope is possible by the promise of God through Jesus Christ. When in suffering, we must wait patiently and search our hearts. Prayer is also a way to find hope.

To best serve the Good News of Jesus Christ, I think the church needs to be present in places and with people where hope seems to be lost. Where do we find our hope? Hope is like an anchor according to Paul (Hebrews 6 :19) "We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure". It is the solid link with the promise of God in Jesus Christ. Hope is given to us, like grace. Hope that we see is not hope. Hope goes beyond us. "But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have? But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently." (Roman 8:24)

Paul says that three things remain, and hope is one of them with faith and love. (Corinthians 13) We can as a church, help build projects so that hope may blossom.

What are some of the challenges facing the people where you serve or our partner?
For his work with women, victims of rape and excision, Doctor Denis Mukwege was awarded by the Nobel Peace Prize in 2018. In his acceptance speech, Doctor Mukwege described his country, the Democratic Republic of Congo as one of the richest nations on earth with a population that is one the poorest on the planet. The DRC is very rich in diamonds and minerals, but more than 73% of the 80 million habitants live below the level of extreme poverty. In December 2018, a new president was elected for the first time without bloodshed. Even though political observers have criticized the result, Antoine Tshisekedi was declared the winner. The country is still recovering after 25 years of conflicts and some areas are still marked with violence. Since August 2018, the DRC is faced with a new epidemic of Ebola, and additionally in 2020 with the COVID-19 epidemic.

January 21, 2021

Rev. Matthew Richards, Pastor
Ms. Margo Taylor, Missions Committee Chair
Congregational United Church of Christ
301 E. 4th Avenue
Mitchell, South Dakota, 57301

Dear Rev. Richards and Ms. Taylor,

Thank you for the interest of the Congregational United Church of Christ in entering into a relationship with Bryan Parrish, Mission Co-worker, serving in Democratic Republic of the Congo.

You can reach Bryan at: bryanparrish8@gmail.com

We hope as you enter into this relationship that you will be in communication with Bryan. We encourage you to read the attached document on our relationship program (attached) and think about these questions for your church:
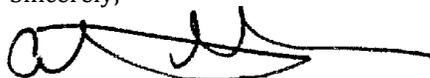
- Who will be the main contact person in your church for this relationship?
- What e-mail addresses should the mission co-worker use when corresponding?
- How often would you like to communicate? (Every month or two is a realistic range.)
- What type of information would you like the mission co-worker to share?
- How will you keep this relationship before the congregations?
- Can you involve congregation in getting to know Jeffrey and understand his work?
- Is there anything the mission co-worker should know about the church?

We suggest that this relationship last for the term of service of the mission co-worker. This will enable your congregation to grow over time in their understanding of mission. Again, there are many suggestions in the attached document of things that you can do to strengthen the relationship.

We hope that this experience will be exciting and that church members in Mitchell will gain a sense of participation in God's mission.

As you may have further questions, please contact us. Many blessings to you and the region as you pursue this mission co-worker connection.

Sincerely,

Catherine Nichols, Ph.D.
Executive
Mission Personnel Office of Global Ministries
cnichols@dom.disciples.org

Global Ministries

of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
and the United Church of Christ
confirms that

Bryan Parrish

serving with the

Church of Christ in Congo

&

Congregational United Church of Christ

Mitchell, South Dakota

have entered into a mutual relationship.

Global Ministries commends Bryan Parrish to the
Congregational United Church of Christ
and asks for prayers and support for his ministry.