



Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
Presbyterian Mission

Mission Crossroads

Fall 2018

God's Mission:
From the Neighborhood
to the World

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Mission Toolkit

Lessons on transformative partnership: 'We all have something to give,' panel speaker says

A church doesn't have to be wealthy to be a giving church.

That was the message that the Rev. Dave Carver shared as part of a panel on transformative partnership at the 223rd General Assembly (2018) in St. Louis. Dave is pastor of a Pittsburgh congregation, First United Presbyterian Church of Crafton Heights. He shared how a three-way partnership in faith among the Pittsburgh Presbytery, the Synod of Blantyre in Malawi and the South Sudan Presbyterian Evangelical Church is transforming the lives of those involved. Here's an excerpt of his remarks:

"I was sitting with a Malawian colleague, a pastor who has a sincere heart for the Lord, for his people and for the communities in which he's been planted. And this beautiful man was in tears. I asked him to speak about those tears, and he said, 'Dave, the gospel came to Malawi in 1876 — well over a hundred years ago. And it has grown. And it has shaped me and my culture. But listen to this, Dave: My whole life, I've been taught that my church is filled with poor Africans who could only be recipients of mission. I've 'learned' that we don't have anything to offer anyone, and in fact that anything good that happens is because some nice, white Westerner has been willing to bring it to us. But now, I have learned that my church — the African church — can be a giving church. We are a mission-sending church. Our brothers and sisters need something that we have — not what *you* have, Dave, but what *we* have. We can help. I am so happy. This feels so good.'"

Dave went on to say, "Partnership has taught me, again and again and again, that we all have something to give. And we all have something we need. And it works better when we share these things in relationships of trust and encouragement."

In recognizing the mutually transformative benefits of international mission partnerships and guided by General Assembly policy, World Mission offers support and resources to all Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) groups involved in or considering connectional partnerships. This support is primarily provided through the office of Equipping for Mission Involvement in collaboration with area office coordinators and PC(USA) mission co-workers.

For more information on beginning or strengthening partnerships with mission co-workers, global partner churches, institutions and organizations in 70 countries around the world, contact **Stephanie Caudill**, mission associate with Presbyterian World Mission, at **800-728-7228, ext. 5279**, or **stephanie.caudill@pcusa.org**.



In Malawi, a member of the Women's Guild assists partners from South Sudan and Pittsburgh in planting a mango tree to celebrate the opening of Gondwa Prayer House.

Sharon Carver

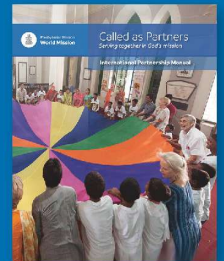
Support for mission partnerships

Get better connected to PC(USA) mission co-workers and global partners through these and other World Mission resources.

Want to learn more about establishing an international partnership?

Visit **pcusa.org/missionpartnership**

to find our international partnership manual, the PC(USA)'s partnership policy statement and other resources to help you discern your call to partnership.



Interested in planning a short-term mission trip and visiting one of our partners?

Visit **pcusa.org/missiontrips** to find planning tips, reflection pieces and contact information for mission co-workers serving as partnership facilitators.

Passionate about a particular country?

Join a mission network. Visit **pcusa.org/missionnetworks** to find a meeting schedule and contact information for each network convener.

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