COVENANT AGREEMENT

ALLEGHENY WEST CONFERENCE AND KENYA CONFERENCE

2024-2029

The Kenya Conference and the Allegheny West Conference have entered into a mutually supportive partnership Covenant Agreement. This document sets out the terms, conditions, and commitments of the agreement:

We make this Covenant recognizing we are starting afresh as the Global Methodist Church with renewed hope of a relationship between our conferences built on trust, transparency, and accountability.

We have much to offer each other. Our Kenyan brothers and sisters have gifts to share in evangelism and church planting—a depth of faith born out of perseverance—an affinity to ministry with and among the poor—a way of sharing resources among themselves—and a passion for worship that will benefit our Allegheny West brothers and sisters.

Our Allegheny West brothers and sisters have gifts to share in strategic planning and vision casting—access to world-class faculty and education—a desire to offer a hand-up to sustainability—a need to grow spiritually—and an abundance of resources that need to be shared.

We commit to developing our relationships by:

- Having at least three representatives attend each other's Annual Conference each year for the next six years (2025-2030).
- Sending regular mission trips from circuits in Allegheny West to districts in Kenya for the next six years.
- Inviting guests from Districts in Kenya to come to visit circuits in Allegheny West for the next six years.
- Partnering at least two circuits in Allegheny West with each district in Kenya.
    - Columbus East and Warren Circuits will partner with the Coast District (Mombasa)
    - Columbus West and Zanesville Circuits with partner with the Nairobi District
    - Akron/Canton, Cleveland and New Philadelphia Circuits will partner with the Kisii/Nyanza District (Kisumu)
    - Erie and Alliance Circuits will partner with the Nakuru District

  - Johnstown and Pittsburgh South Circuits will partner with the Busia District
  - An ad-hoc group from circuits not engaged will coordinate matching pastors and churches with engaged circuits.
- Partnering at least two PE's in Allegheny West with each PE in Kenya.
- Partnering at least one pastor from each district/circuit across conference lines.
- Partnering at least one church from each district/circuit across conference lines.
- Using technology to help us engage pastors and churches in prayer, coaching, teaching, mentoring, and discipleship.

Phase 1: Allegheny West commits to funding the following in 2025: *

- The salary package for the Kenya Conference Superintendent $48,800
- The office expense for the Kenya Conference Office/Vehicle $18,720
- The expense for the Annual meeting of the Kenya Annual Conference $16,600
- A partial salary for five Presiding Elders (5X$200X12) $12,000
- A partial salary for the Conference Director of Operations $300X12) $ 3,600
- A partial salary for the Conference Secretary ($200X12) $ 2,400

TOTAL
$102,120

**Allegheny West will transfer these funds during the first week of every quarter. These amounts will decrease by 20% per year starting in January of 2026. It is our belief that this amount will be offset by increased stewardship development in Kenya resulting in connectional funding to the conference—and revenue developed by charging a 3% administrative fee on all other fund transfers from Allegheny West EXCEPT the expenses listed above. This 3% will be used by the Kenya Conference to begin covering their conference level expenses.*

Kenya commits to the following:

- To provide quarterly accounting for the distribution and use of all funds*—including the documented use of the 3% administrative fee

- To train its pastors to preach and teach stewardship and tithing and implement the expectation of connectional giving from its local churches to the Kenya Conference at 3% of local church tithes, gifts, and offerings in support of conference self-sustainability.
- To use electronic transfer directly into student and church accounts whenever possible
- To embrace the Saving Circles training as outlined in the Memorandum of Understanding
- To embrace the River Network Church Multiplication Seminar at the end of the 2025 Annual Conference session

Phase 2: Allegheny West commits to pay the following in 2025 out of the Miracle Offering balance until sponsors are found in our Circuits and Churches:

- Tuition for 25 high school students for the spring semester $ 2,700**
- Tuition for 19 college students for the spring semester $ 8,500**
- The expense for a term for 50 pastors at the WMTC in April $16,000**
- Costs associated with a two-day church multiplication event after AC $ 8,280**
- Costs associated with the implementation of Saving Circles in '25 $ TBD**

  To be determined after acceptance and plan developed
- 50% tuition for 11 CTM at United Seminary for fall '24 and spring '25 $ 11,500***
- 50% tuition for 5 MA/MD at United Seminary for fall '24 and spring '25 $ 22,000***
- Past tuition due to Africa University for Reuben Ososo $ 5,655***
- Past tuition and fees due to Africa University for Walter Khalonyere $ 3,040***

Total: $ TBD

***Will be paid directly to the Kenya Conference and includes a 3% Administrative Fee to be kept by the Kenya Conference.*

****Will be paid directly to the academic institutions listed and does not include a 3% Administration Fee.*

Kenya commits to the following:

- Provide a detailed list of the present high school students including how much longer they have in school.
- Provide a detailed list of the college students including how much longer they have before graduation with a bachelor's degree.
- To encourage all college graduates to tithe to their local churches once employed.

- Provide a detailed list of all clergy in educational tracks—WMTC, United, and Africa University—including how much longer they have before graduation from their present track.
- To not enroll or make commitments to any new students until a sponsor is identified in the Allegheny West Conference

Phase 3: The Kenya Conference will provide the following information on a District-by-District basis by January 1, 2025:

- Name and contact information (WhatsApp and/or e-mail) for the Presiding Elder of each District
- Names and locations of each congregation
- Names and contact information (WhatsApp and/or e-mail) of the Lead Pastor and all Associate Pastors for each congregation
- Names of present pastors needing further education after July 1, 2025—and the schools where they are attending.
- Share how much more education is needed (in terms of years) and the cost per year for the clergy in each district.
    - For example: the actual cost for a student at the WMTC is $900 per year for three terms. A 3% administrative fee should be added to this amount of $27. Therefore, the cost should be $927 per student per year.
    - The cost per year (2 semesters per year) for students at United. This will be paid directly to United and will not be subject to the 3% administrative fee.
    - Reminder: no additional students will begin training in addition to the WMTC or other schools without a committed sponsor from the Allegheny West Conference.
- The cost for 5 books for each pastor

1) Swahili Africa study bible	$ 39.00**
2) Swahili bible dictionary	$ 39.00**
3) Swahili Old Testament commentary	$ TBD**
4) Swahili New Testament commentary	$ TBD**
5) Swahili missions book nnnn	$ 29.00**
Total	**$ TBD per pastor****

***Will be paid directly to the Kenya Conference and includes a 3% Administrative Fee to be kept by the Kenya Conference.*

These books are to be ordered in Kenya. It is hoped these books could be purchased in Nairobi and distributed at the WMTC or through the PE's to every pastor.

- A prioritized list of projects needing support for the next three years in each district as determined by each District's Committee on Development.
    - A list for 2025, 2026, and 2027 is needed by March 1, 2025.

  - Lists will be evaluated by each District, updated, and extended one year by March 1 every year.
  - A condition for future funding will be the faithful distribution and use of funds for their intended purpose.
- Each project should list the actual cost plus a 3% administrative fee. It is hoped the list will include a mix of small-price projects, micro-business loans, land purchases, and building priorities.
- The list of projects must be approved by the Kenyan Conference Superintendent, the Allegheny West Conference Superintendent, and the GMC's Mission Partnership Ambassador.

The Allegheny West Conference commits to the following after March 1, 2025:

- Name and contact information (WhatsApp and/or e-mail) for the Presiding Elder of each Circuit
- To encourage regular communication between PE's from each conference
- Names of all churches in each Circuit—and the contact information (WhatsApp and/or e-mail) of the Lead Pastor and all Associate Pastors for each congregation
- To connect at least two pastors and congregations from the Allegheny West Conference with each pastor and congregation in the Kenya Conference
- To distribute the prioritized needs for each Kenyan District to their partner Circuits in the Allegheny West Conference.
- To develop the mechanism by which designated funds will be collected in the Allegheny West Conference office and distributed to the Kenya Conference office.
- To recruit and begin planning for a team from partner circuits to visit the partner district to build relationships and work on a project.
- To sponsor the visit of at least three persons from partner districts to visit and itinerate in partner circuits to build relationships and help raise funds for prioritized projects.

Phase 4: This covenant will be revisited, evaluated, and refined by November 1 of every year beginning with 2025.

- It is our intention to develop this partnership in a mutually beneficial way that offers a "hand-up" from the resources our respective conferences have to give.
- The initial five-year term of declining support begins January 1, 2025, and will end on December 31, 2029.
- Some concern has been expressed by our Kenya partners about a year of an embargo of funds from Allegheny West. The only way an embargo of funds will occur is if the funds are mishandled or used in ways other than their designated use.

We, the representatives of the Kenya and Allegheny West Conferences, sign this covenant in good faith and great hope.

Date: _____

_____	_____
Wilton Odongo	Jeff Greenway
Conference Superintendent	Conference Superintendent
Kenya Annual Conference	Allegheny West Conference