

IN MISSION TOGETHER

PARTNERSHIP COVENANT 2020-2022

Name of USA Partner UMC: Blacksburg UMC

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Pastor: Rev. Jennifer Fletcher

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Name of Ukrainian Partners: Spring of Life UMC & Kyiv United Methodist Church Center “Spring Family Center”

Address: Ul. Verkhovinna 84, Kyiv, Ukraine

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After reading 1 Corinthians 12: 12-31, we will then consider the following:

- The purpose of this IN MISSION TOGETHER partnership program is to develop a **healthy relationship** between Blacksburg UMC and Spring of Life UMC and Kyiv UMC Center, through God’s grace that is **transformative and inspirational**.
- The goal of this IMT program is to have **honest and open interaction** between the partners, **carefully listening to one another** as equal parts of the body of Christ. It’s a **sacred covenant** between recipient and donor to support one another and **participate equally and proportionally- 50/50** – in a ministry or project.
- The goal of the mission is the establishment of a **self-sustaining United Methodist Church** with holistic ministries **empowering people** in their context, community and country.
- The partners set aside their own agendas and create a collective vision for the ministry or project together. As with any relationship, each **participant brings God-given gifts**, whether spiritual, physical or mental, tangible or intangible, which will be **honored and appreciated equally-50/50** in the covenant agreement.
- This roundtable of **listeners and learners** embarks on a journey **with a vision for the mission as a whole** with God’s help focusing not simply on the task at hand, but on the more significant impact of building strong relationships, **empowering local people** to improve their lives and develop their church.
- We pledge **not to do for the other what they can do for themselves**. We gladly **serve each other** as Christ has served us, with **humility, love and encouragement**, building a strong foundation for ministry together.
- We create **mutual accountability and transparency through patiently engaging one another**. We will be flexible and adaptable enabling both partners to span language and culture through God’s guidance.
- **The ownership of the ministry or project** rests not with the donor, but the recipient. They are the leaders called by God to nurture the church in their community. The **donors are “working themselves out of a job,” seeking neither credit nor control**, and all partners are sharing in the blessing of a job well done together!

We, the above partners, have read and understand the guidelines for being an IN MISSION TOGETHER Partner and this Partnership Covenant, and after prayerful consideration and relying on the Grace of God; we believe we are led to continue our joint participation in this program with each other for another three years.

Specific things we covenant about with each other include:

1. TIME DURATION:

The commitments in this covenant are made for a three-year period, beginning 1/1/20, and ending 12/31/2022. The covenant is not a legally binding document, and can, if necessary, be dissolved by either

of the partners, informing the partner 3 months in advance. In September 2022, the partners will enter into an evaluative process to determine the value of the partnership and any extension of the covenant.

2. **FINANCES:**

a. **Blacksburg UMC pledges to:**

- Provide financial support into the general operating fund of Spring of Life UMC in the amounts of: \$3,500 in 2020, \$3,000 in 2021 and \$2,500 in 2022 to be used at the discretion of the church council
- Provide financial support into the general operating fund of the Kyiv United Methodist Church Center “Spring Family Center” - in the amounts of: \$1,500 in 2020, \$1,000 in 2021 and \$500 in 2022
- Forward these funds via the GBGM Advance project; #14053A noted for Spring of Life UMC project and Kyiv United Methodist Church Center “Spring Family Center” project, by the end of the second quarter of each year **and** inform their leadership when these funds have been sent to the Advance.

b. **Spring of Life UMC pledges to:**

- Provide for the balance of their general operating funds not provided by Blacksburg UMC.
- In addition, their leadership is invited to apply to Blacksburg UMC for a one-time annual grant to fund a special project related to local church growth or outreach project.

c. **Kyiv United Methodist Church Center pledges to:**

- Provide for the balance of their general operating funds not provided by Blacksburg UMC.

3. **COMMUNICATIONS:**

a. *Each partner will send to the other:*

- An email letter every two months, in English, including some highlights of the ministry, prayer concerns and news of joy, and recent photos.
- Spring of Life UMC will create a web page & a **closed** FB page for members of both our UMCs.
- Quarterly use SKYPE or ZOOM (or similar technology) to interact with each other in such things as; Bible study, worship, music, and young adult connections.
- *Each partner also covenants’ to be in prayer for one another;* in worship service(s), especially after each regular communication (see above) has taken place, in small groups, at upcoming events and projects, for goals we have set up together, and for other goals we have set up separately in our churches, for joys and concerns we share with one another.

4. **VISITS:**

- Representatives of each partner will attempt to visit each other one or more times during the term of this covenant. *When we visit, we covenant to listen to one another and learn from each other as we; share cultural heritage and historical development, share faith stories, take part in the process of setting goals for the churches and/or parts of their ministry, study the Bible and worship, take time for fun, meals together and personal conversation, participate in practical work and ministry together to others.*

SIGNED: We thank God for one another, and are “confident of this, that the one who began a good work among (us) will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. “Phil 1:5”

- Spring of Life UMC, Kyiv, Ukraine; _____, Date:
- Kyiv United Methodist Church Center “Spring Family Center; _____, Date:
- Blacksburg UMC, Blacksburg, VA, USA; Karen Kline _____, Date: 12Nov2020