

PC(USA) World Mission Conference '07
Tuesday, October 2 – Saturday, October 6, 2007

Notes of the South Africa & Lesotho Mission Network Gathering
Thursday Evening, October 4th
Regional Liaison Presentation – Doug Tilton

Highlights of what's happening in South Africa

Economic Picture

- Unemployed has peaked and is now slightly declining
- It is still high, officially 25%
- Unofficially the rate is probably closer to 38%
- The unofficial rate includes those who have given up trying, unlike the official rate
- While there has been progress in reducing poverty overall, the results are confusing and subject to misinterpretation
- The evidence suggest the gap between rich & poor is increasing
- There are some positives, as the overall standard of living is improving. This is seen in the efforts being made to expand those with access to water & electricity for instance

Social Net

- Some social nets exists (100 R per month pension) is available. That is if you are willing to go through bureaucratic hoops
- There is a huge government effort to get this out, especially to children & old age (whose pensions are 870R per month) And there are disability pensions also
- 12 million (one quarter of the population) get some assistance which has decreased the level of destitution, but this has not reduced inequality

Inequality and Poverty

- Overall, the absolute number of elites is still growing, with the racial content changing (increasing black entry)
- But huge inequality remains, and as a result, SA is experiencing increased unrest in some communities.
- These communities are demanding more delivery of social services.
- As sure as the weather changes, there are protest & barricades in different neighborhoods daily.
- The fact that SA has no official poverty line hampers there being put in place poverty policies
- The general socio economic situation points to the following
 - growing labor restiveness
 - public service strike (there was one recently)
 - conflicts in the health ministry on HIV/AIDS

Truth & Reconciliation (T & R) and healing in the Post Apartheid Days

- The T & R Commission offered amnesty to those who came forward to the Commission and “told the truth.”
- Those who didn't would face a trial and resulting sentence.
- This latter process is not promising in offering real justice if the following is any example of what to expect:
 - A former security man under the white apartheid government recently was on trial – the trial was short with a suspended sentence the outcome. This does not bode well for this process

Political Story

- The top political story is the ANC's getting ready ,for a policy conference in the fall – they will select the next leader of the party & hence the next president

Land issues – Land Reform

- Land reform is not a hot topic on the agenda but should be
- Over the years land reform has been very slow
- The target was 30% of arable land by 2015
- To date only about 3% has been achieved
- The government's focus has on been on commercial farms and not on subsistence farmers (poor farmers)
- The South African Council of Churches (SACC) is trying to increase the pressure to keep this on the agenda.

Crime

- The rate is exceptionally high and is a political football
- officially the rate is coming down, but is still way too high, especially crimes against women in the crimes of rape / assaults
- In a nutshell crime is bad but Doug says the wheels aren't about to come off

Uniting Presbyterian Church in Southern Africa (UPCSA) news

- General Secretary Vuyani Vellem is now a doctor
- A new HIV/AIDS expert has been appointed by UPCSA. Doug will let us know who it is.
- The denomination has recently completed a process of discerning & renewal. Coming out of it are the following areas of focus
 - Evangelism
 - Stewardship
 - HIV/AIDS especially focused on women & orphans
- Stewardship & evangelism are seen as relevant to the issues of poverty, inequality & reconciliation
 - they offer the ability to explore the topics of justice by the back door, as well as exploring the problems of inequality
 - evangelism as radical justice
 - what does it mean to be good news to the poor
 - a retraining of the ministry is needed

Items that the Rev. Dr. Vellem wished to share with the network & their partnerships

The network turned to these questions on Saturday morning. The comments of Rev. Dr. Vellem are printed there (see the bottom of page 9)

Evangelical Presbyterian Church (EPC) news

The EPC has a new moderator

The South African Council of Churches (SACC)

- The SACC recently held triennial conference
- They are considering new ways through a position paper in conjunction with their 40th year celebration.

Notes of the South Africa & Lesotho Mission Network Gathering Friday, October 5th

Presbytery to Presbytery Partnerships

Presbytery of Northern New England (PNNE) partnership with Amatola Presbytery (UPCSA)

Origins personality driven formation – began at presbytery level but w/ congregation involvement early on
Eric Markman, Jenny Stoner & Paul Brown

- Rev. Gideon Khabela was instrumental in the partnership formation
- He traveled to PNNE in 1999 and this visit got the presbytery interested

Pastor Exchange 2007

- 2 years in planning
- a slow process included a visit by a small group to South Africa to meet and help in setting it up
- There was an even number of black & white pastors involved from Amatola Presbytery
- This represents a relatively new experience as the white churches were not always involved or thought of themselves as a part of the partnership.
- The partnership's previous youth exchange brought the white churches more into the partnership
- The pastor exchange included 12 PNNE pastors including seminarians, 3 immigrant pastors, a Sudanese & Dominican pastor and 4 pastors from the partner Amatola Presbytery
- The week long event was a really rewarding experience.

- After the exchange there was three more weeks in which the pastors fanned out to presbytery churches
- The PNNE experience is that the going back & forth of exchanges like this is the real foundation of the partnership
- The next step is for a pastor exchange where PNNE pastors travel to Amatola Presbytery

Content of the Pastor Exchange Seminar

- A bringing together of Anglo pastors, Immigrant pastors in the USA, and 4 pastors from Amatola,
- Eric Law led the seminar
- They talked on issues of communication using the iceberg metaphor (i.e., most of the iceberg is unseen and under the water)
- Through this metaphor it was noted that there is much that is unseen, under the water line, and in reality much is happening there with folks not really perceiving it.
- Included Bible Study using a mutual Invitation model and two Worship Services

Youth Exchange

- Original Amatola partner's idea was: we want you to come give classes to our kids so they can better qualify for exams
- In fact it was truly just an exchange and interaction of youth
- In 2003 15 youth & 3 adults from Amatola came to PNNE Presbytery.
 - All were hosted in homes
 - Included white youth
- In 2004 17 youth from PNNE went to Amatola
- Due to a lack of planning in a timely matter, several folks from PNNE traveled to SA to help in the planning. Their mere presence helped spur things on
- It came off great and was a life changing experiences for especially the PNNE youth

General Partnership notes

- The big problem is in communication
- The PNNE committee meets about every 6 week – due to distances
- The exception is when trips are happening they meet more

Funding

- There is only about a \$2,000 line item in the PNNE budget for the partnership
- Churches & Foundation grants pay for a large portion of \$34,000 total budget for the pastor exchange.
 - Mission in the USA paid half the airfares for the pastor exchange and in general
 - Other grants included Synod Grant, Family Foundation Grant
 - A Lilly Grant was written but was not accepted
- There are 30 churches in the Presbytery with about half involved in monetary support of the partnership expenses
- A handful of churches have partnership with a sister church in Amatola

Florida Presbytery partnership with Western Cape Presbytery

Origins personality driven formation– Began at a church spreading to other churches & to the presbytery
Paul and Ginger Caro, Ken & Barbara Overholt, and Mary & Walt Reese

Paul Caro –Trinity Presbyterian Church, Pensacola, FL

- Bob Schminkey & Sara Hoben (Interim Associate Pastor) planted the seed of partnering with Western Cape
- They set up a rainbow school at a church there
- Apartheid schools for blacks very basic & not good,
- Often no parents are at home to help the kids in their studies. As a result, Sara set up an after school program.
- There are now over 100 kids a day who also get a hot meal (often the only one they get).
- Trinity PC adopted part of the rainbow school - enthusiasm bred it happening.
- Rev Spiwo Xapile is also a dynamic presence
- He formed a music & dance group, SIYYA, as way as a way of spreading HIV/AIDS aids education.
- Youth came from the townships without jobs and is often able to breed talents & job opportunities for the group

- The enthusiasm soon spread beyond Trinity to others in Florida Presbytery.
- There developed church to church partnerships in 5 congregations in Florida Presbytery
- They've had exchanges with Western Cape Presbytery – 40 people have come for visit , with 18 the largest visit
- The partnership includes an exchange of travelers with churches paying SA expenses when they come here
- At the Presbytery level there is an International partnership committee, under which there is one for South Africa and one for South Korea, which don't compete
- The Presbytery of Florida is undergoing a restructuring with a new partnership division

Mary and Walt Reeses from Pace PC in Pensacola, FL

- Their partnerships started with the black churches but are now getting white churches involved.
- Communication is important but very difficult with especially the black churches.
- By bringing the white churches in, communication has improved
- The partnership is only as strong as the communication which must be more than with the pastor
- Trips & what people do when there is what its all about
- They have found that they can help be a bridge between the white & black churches
- There are 44 churches in Western Cape Presbytery with 11 black & 33 white.
- They are now pushing for partnerships to form between black & white churches in SA
- In the past when they brought visitors from SA to Florida they stayed in “wealthy” members homes that skewed their vision of the USA. They now try to find “

Donegal Presbytery partnership with Mthatha Presbytery

Origin Presbytery level decision – Top down, well funded, but w/ struggle to get individual churches involved
Rick Schmidt – Presbytery in SE PA three counties west of Philadelphia

Rick Schmidt

- 1999 Presbytery level decision to partner with a presbytery somewhere in the world
- Sought denomination advice and was partnered with Mthatha Presbytery in SA
- Communicated and both sides crafted a covenant agreement, with the foundation being that it was to be a true partnership
- In the USA's Spring of 2000, a team of three traveled to Mthatha where both sides sat down and cooperatively, crafted the final covenant agreement. It was celebrated by worships and sharing communion together. Also spawned was the idea of a shared project.
- Given the true partnership foundation, the Mthatha partners were to discern the project they desired and to develop it and bring it to their Donegal partners
- In November of 2000, a contingent of three from Mthatha traveled to Donegal to celebrate the new partnership and to meet their new partners.
- Donegal Presbytery, as the result of their presbytery's Moving Christ's Mission forward Campaign (MCMF), had a significant amount of money designated to the partnership for projects and a yearly line item in the budget of \$7,000 for trips.
- This has been both a blessing and hindrance. The hindrance is that it resulted in a very top down approach where a small group in the Task Force developed and did everything. They reported to the presbytery and were visible there, but there was no individual church involvement by the presbytery's 60 odd churches.
- In 2002 a contingent of five (including 2 youth) traveled to sit down with their partners and talk about the shared project.
- The projects desired were two garden projects, one at the Sommerville Congregation and one at the Lower Ngwara Congregation.
- Also of interest was the Presbytery's Youth for a Computer Literacy Project. The hope was that by teaching the youth of the Presbytery and then expanding out, the trainees would have computer skills that would make them better able to find employment locally.
- By this time some \$30,000 was available for the projects as the result of the MCMF campaign. About a third of this money is the result of the garden project being the presbyterywide mission project.
- The Mthatha partners traveled to Donegal in April of 2004. The garden projects were sputtering and were the topic of discussion. The land that was thought to be available for the Lower Ngwara site was

commandeered by the local municipality and therefore unavailable. The site at the Sommerville garden project was about to be plowed but things were moving slowly.

- The computer literacy project was also on hold waiting on a proper site
- In November 2005, a six party team from Donegal (including two youth) traveled to Mthatha. They viewed the beginnings of the Sommerville garden project, and the proposed new site for the Lower Ngqwaru garden project. The later was deemed too hilly and rocky and it was decided that for now all eggs would be placed in the Sommerville basket.
- It was also during this trip that the beginning of the Congregational Connection program was discussed. With the money from the MCMF Campaign at an end, the task force on the Donegal side realized there was a strong need to get interest below the presbytery level to individual churches by their partnering with sister churches in Mthatha Presbytery.
- This has proven to be a slow and difficult process. To date there are 3 congregations on the Donegal side on board. Note these partnerships are to be sharing cultures and faith and not about money and projects. All money for projects are to flow up and over via presbytery channels on both sides of the pond.
- Donegal again traveled to Mthatha in March of 2007 with a team of twelve. The purpose of the trip was to build the masonry walls of a new church side by side with the Khulani Congregation. This is a very poor, rural congregation who attempted at building the walls of a new church without proper reinforcement. This resulted in the walls falling down. This was observed by the Donegal team on their 2005 trip.
- Unfortunately the team arrived and the groundwork for the project was not in place. Instead the team was put to work at the T. P. Finca Memorial Congregation's Manse to install a kitchen and two bathrooms. While this did not probably meet the initial plan of the partners working side-by-side, it did create a new group of 12 Donegal Presbyterians with a call to and love for the partnership representing 7 churches in Donegal Presbytery. The hope is that the original plan to help with the Khulani Church will be possible down the road.
- The plan for 2008 is to build on this momentum and get the Congregational Connection off the ground, culminating in a visit by a group from Mthatha Presbytery In September representing the initial class of partners in the Congregational Connection program

Boise Presbytery partnership with Central Cape Presbytery

Origin personality driven formation – church level spreading up to presbytery level
Elizabeth Beck and Frances Adeney

Elizabeth Beck from Evan, Idaho – near Boise

- Clifford Leo pastor and the first moderator of the UPCSA came to USA as moderato
- He came to Boise and got their small church in the small town of Evan hooked
- 12 – 15 contingent went to Central Cape Presbytery
- They are looking to get equity in the pay for pastors
- They are looking to get the presbytery to budget for trips
- They are looking for way to get their presbytery connected into the partnership
 - While in SA they noticed the children often had only one toy
 - They asked the members of the churches in their presbytery to bring one toy.
 - This resulted in 700 toys, and a big cost to get the toys to SA
 - While in SA they bought fabric to make pillows to sell
 - The women who bought the fabric made them into pillows and sold them
 - They came up with the idea of alternative gift giving for Christmas to raise funds
 - A gift in your name goes to some item of need across the pond in Central Cape Presbytery
 - There are 16 churches in the presbytery, and 8 are participating
 - Resulting in \$25,000
 - The partner churches in SA didn't want to distribute the money as there is not trust between the white and black churches. So, they went through PCUSA channels.
 - White candle with red ribbon in all churches
 - 11 churches are now involved in the alternative gift giving project
- They are now trying to match churches in Boise Presbytery to partner churches in Central Cape Presbytery. But there are three times as many churches in Central Cape Presbytery as in Boise Presbytery

- There is one Native American church in Boise Presbytery. They have always been somewhat apart. In many ways they relate to the SA partners and this has brought them closer to the rest of the presbytery

Los Ranchos Presbytery in Orange, CA – Joining Hands Lesotho

Bruce Boyer & Betty Thompson–

Bruce Boyer

What is Joining Hands

- Came from the Presbyterian Hunger Program (PHP) which grew out of frustration out of project oriented mission. So what it is not about is projects.
- Instead it pairs a Presbytery with network of some country in the world.
- My notes are unclear as is my memory, but my notes seem to suggest there was someone from Los Ranchos in Lesotho and this and the interest of the Executive Presbyter resulted in the Presbytery deciding to become the Joining Hands Presbytery in Lesotho...*[Question to Bruce & Frank... was that Los Ranchos mission person in Lesotho Frank Dimmock?]*
- They get a small budget from PHP each year
- A small group from Los Ranchos went to Lesotho in 2005 to see if there was interest
- A larger 6 member team went in 2006
- The network in Lesotho is forming around the issue of poverty.
- They talked to NGOs in 2006 to give their story and also began talking among themselves about problems
- In particular they are interested in food security and sustainable food.
- Lesotho has a 2 million population with many working in SA with work permits
- Right now Los Ranchos is listening and discerning

Church to Church Partnerships

Trinity PC, Shenandoah, VA – partnership with St. Peter's and Ivory Park Uniting PC in Tembesa Township & the Tembesa Academy

The Cornishes (Homer & Larue)

- Their church formed a partnership with a church in Tembesa Township outside of Joburg
- The current pastor has limited education and servers two churches for money reasons.
- Their church's first trip was agenda driven that didn't meet their partner's desire
- They painted church together
- They have a group from South Africa coming this way that is funding their trip themselves.
- The partner church used to be partnered with a white church through Rev. Dr. Maake Masanga but no more.

House of Hope PC in St. Paul, MN – Partnership with S. B. Ngcobo Memorial Congregation Tom Forster-Smith

- Tom's church became interested through Rev Spiwo Xapile of the J.L. Swanie Congregation in Guguletu Township in the Cape Town area
- Spiwo was brought to the Twin Cities in 2002 by Open Arms
- He came to House of Hope's men's group and was very compelling
- He invited Tom to bring a group to Guguletu Township near Cape Town.
- A team of seven went.
- They couldn't help but notice the sharp contrast between Guguletu and Cape Town
- They traveled to East London and then Mthatha and the S. B. Ngcobo Memorial Congregation
- They then traveled to Joburg and saw Janet Guyer
- The S. B. Ngcobo Memorial Congregation seemed to be the most in need as their church was literally falling down.
- They decided to make that congregation their focus and to help build a new church.
- In 2005 House of Hope took a group of 25, about 50% of whom were youth.
 - They started out in cape town
 - But the bus broke down – they had to hike and call for rescue group

- Eventually they got to the partners at the S. B. Ngcobo Memorial Congregation.
- They spent a week laying bricks
- A math person in the group taught school
- The hardest thing was leaving due to the friendships made
- They sent a group of 14 back last summer in 2006
- They did not send a group this year (2007) but they did fund a new roof
- They hope to go for the dedication
- A dietician from their church named Laura wanted to go and work on nutritional issues
- Laura was living in guest house & working on their garden project
- Laura came back after 1 year and has now gone back and will be there through August of 2008
- The garden project is sputtering with Laura trying to improve it and in the process improve their diet
- Another project they would like to start is providing scholarship money for kids for post high school training.

Mission Workers in South Africa and Lesotho

Frank Dimmock - Mission Co Worker - Africa Health Liaison

- In 85-92 was in Lesotho as community health organizer
- He then went to Malawi where his wife Nancy started a crisis nursery
- He's been back in Lesotho for the past two months
- His assignment is now split
 - Working for the Christian Health Association network
 - Working for partner across Africa on children health issues
- Frank wrote new book: *Africa's Children: A Church Response to Children's Issues in Sub-Saharan Africa*
PDS# 25384-07-003
- Nancy works with young girls at risk
 - drop out of school
 - teen pregnancy
 - HIV/AIDS
- Frank is happy to offer his services to the network on public health issues:
 - food security
 - micro enterprises; small scale loans / opportunity bank
 - water sanitation & public health
- He sees there is a lot of talent in the PC(USA) for this type of work. We need to develop it and put it to work

Note: The group together decide that given Lesotho's geographic location (surrounded by South Africa) that we would add them to our network and call ourselves: South Africa & Lesotho Mission Network.

Janet Guyer – Mission Worker – HIV/AIDS Expert for Southern Africa

Politics of HIV/AIDS in SA

- Unenlighted President Thabo Mbeki, and Health Minister – Suggest olive oil use to raise immune system
- Health Minister took leave for a kidney transplant and someone from Labor Department appointed temporarily.
- His Deputy Minister put instituted a good program
- The temporary Health Minister worked with his deputy minister to implement the program that is now being used
- It was hoped SA was at a turning point
- But in may or June the Health Minister came back from sick leave and was severely snubbed at AIDS conference in Durban
- Later in the year the Deputy Health Minister blew the whistle on a hospital in Durban with a high mortality rate
- But it blew up at ministry with the Deputy Minister sacked

- Things are backward looking again
- In SA National Aids Council is under the VP office\
- Often folks left on their own
- Is government money for aids?
- Government is looking to roll out anti-retro virals but is dragging their feet
- No sign of decline in HIV/AIDS levels at this point
 - Except in young women who are pregnant where there is a slight decline
 - Others group are on an upward swing maybe at a slower rate
- HIV/AIDS is still devastating in SA
- Anti-retro virals have the potential to turn this around
- But access to them is critical - through home health care
- They are free, but they need to be accessible at all clinics and there needs to be an accompanying nutrition program. Neither of these exists at present.
- SA is funding it themselves
- Janet is works on this funding angle

UPCSA

- Most presbyteries are doing something:
- They organize folks to do educational work with their congregations or by linking up with other NGOs.
- Western Cape Presbytery: Janet called clerk – other than Guguletu nothing is happening in the presbytery.
- UPCSA now has a part time HIV/AIDS employee
- The focus of the UPCSA is widows & children
- Amatola has a HIV/AIDS policy

Education

- Tough to talk about sex and sexuality through church
- The government provides free condoms, but access is limited in township & rural areas
- Has seen condoms delivered with instructions stapled to them

Other Ideas

- Small, grass-root projects work better and are easier to duplicate
- One such program of interest within UPCSA
 - A child care center in Joburg is a good project and may be able to be duplicated.
- Janet's dream
 - Regional training events for the day, spread of hospices, home health care etc.
 - Letter from central office of UPCSA to pass out saying she is there & is the person to talk to on HIV/AIDS – She now has that letter
- Janet wants to work with presbyteries to do a poll of what is being done
 - First stop Mthatha Presbytery
- The challenge is to help the presbytery to say: we want to do this
- Part of the problem is that folks are overwhelmed
- Need to encourage folks that there are small steps to take
- List the problem
 - Many orphans
 - Children to deal with
 - People can't work
 - No money f
- They need to know there are some things they do well
 - Raise children
 - Strong women's groups etc
- Yield they have gifts
- Need to link those gifts
 - Leadership

- Ownership
- Hiring folks & training
- Teaming up USA & in house nurse is a good idea
 - Ownership is big part
 - As is cultural understanding
 - Follow-up is also necessary
 - Training – you can go & be trained with the folk you are working with – learning together and walking forward together A good thing

Women's conference: Tumekutana Conference in Africa

- Four women from SA – changed each of their lives
- Highlight : African women said we need to meet by ourselves
- The last day a letter for USA saying: Thank you for putting on the conference but we'll take over from here thank you
- We'll walk with you, but we need to do our own thing

Next gathering of the South Africa and Lesotho Mission Network

- The network general plan is to have a church or presbytery that has partners visiting them host future network meetings
- Donegal Presbytery will have their partners visiting in mid September 2008 around their Presbytery Meeting
- Rick tentatively volunteered Donegal to host our next gathering (contingent on presbytery and task force approval)
- Janet Guyer said the dates could work around an event she will be at the USA.
- After exploring the September calendar for 2008, it was decided to tentatively plan the SAMN meeting for Wednesday, Sept 17th and Thursday, Sept 18th, following Donegal's Sept Presbytery meeting on Tues, Sept. 16th.
- It was further decided that along with the general sessions on partnership news and best practices, that there be a special emphasis on Health Issues and HIV/AIDS to take advantage of the possible presence of Frank and Janet.
- The following group volunteered for the Network's Leadership Team
 - Paul Brown – PNNE / Amatola Presbytery
 - Eric Markman – PNNE / Amatola Presbytery
 - Rick Schmidt –Donegal Presbytery / Mthatha Presbytery
 - Walter Reese – Florida Presbytery / Western Cape Presbytery
 - Bruce Boyer – Los Ranchos Presbytery / Lesotho Joining Hands Partnership
 - Betty Beck – Boise Presbytery / Central Cape Presbytery
 - Homer Harnish - Trinity PC, Shenandoah, VA / ?
- The leadership team will use emails to communicate as much as possible but will supplement them with conference calls as needed
- Rick Schmidt will continue on as convener (somewhat reluctantly). He and his Presbytery will be responsible for the logistics of the next meeting
- The rest of the leadership team will be responsible for developing and putting together the meeting's agenda

Notes of the South Africa & Lesotho Mission Network Gathering Saturday morning, October 6th

Response to Rev. Dr. Vuyani Vellem's Questions

Those remaining turned to the questions and comments that Doug Tilton brought to us from the General Secretary of the Uniting Presbyterian Church of Southern Africa. These comments are as follows:

Items that the Rev. Dr. Vellem wished to share with the network & their partnerships

The UPCSA has received several requests of churches/presbyteries seeking partnerships with a sister church/presbytery in the USA. He actually stated it to Doug as “several presbyteries want to be placed on the list.”

Question One: What can we do to help make that happen?

Sometimes the partnership approach exacerbates rather than helps inequality. They are sometimes personality driven (actually often if the various partnerships of yesterday are any indication), whether at the presbytery or church level, yielding a centrifugal force of inequality across the denomination’s presbyteries or between congregations within a presbytery. Both breed inequality and thus result in jealousies.

Question Two: What can we do to help grow partnerships past the point of mutual exchange and to overcome these inequalities and resulting jealousies?

The GA office has often been kept out of the loop on partnership happenings and comings and goings. The Rev. Dr. Vellem would like to see change.

Kay – Robert Volkwijn

- Kay Robert, as a native South African and a retired Mission Worker, was able to offer real insight into the questions and comments of the General Secretary. He especially had insight into the questions of churches/presbyteries in SA desiring to be “put on the list” for a partnership, the question of personality driven partnerships and inequality they tend to exacerbate.

Charity/Project/Money Driven Mission not addressing questions of Justice/Equality

- Kay-Robert said the history of mission work is that it is difficult to get people (on both sides of the pond) to understand that they need to get to know each other first and that this takes time.
- The obvious tendency is to get to work on a project right away.
- As a result, little care is taken to ensure it be done in such a way to create equality.
- The end product is that things are money driven and inequality is the end product.
- Parallel tracks often ensue with one track of charity/projects and another track of justice/equality.
- The charity/projects need to evolve to bring the two tracks together where they also bring about justice/equality. Here-to-fore this coming together of the two tracks is a rare occurrence.
- This is **VERY** difficult to do, yet **VERY** important to do.

The problem of personality driven partnerships

- Kay – Robert used the example of Spiwo and the J.L. Swane Congregation in Guguletu Township.
- He was not trying to be critical of the important ministry Spiwo is doing, but it is to say his overpowering drive and personality tends to attract outside presbyteries and churches to his work and those he is working for, and leaves others churches and presbyteries in South Africa out of Spiwo’s loop somewhat forgotten.
- His projects and programs that are many, while good and important, also tend to be lacking depth.
- His tendency also is to work outside the UPCSA system,
- All of this tends to breed the jealousy and inequality that the General Secretary is speaking about.

Black vs. Colored vs. White Church

- In Cape Town there is a large group of churches that were classified as colored in the apartheid system.
- The observation is that the PC(USA) churches and presbyteries, in general, are attracted to the Black churches only and feel left out of the loop as a result.
- This also speaks to the General Secretary’s question of inequality
- We need to be intentional about bringing all groups together, black, colored, and white.

Response to Gen. Sec. Vellem

- On the question of creating more partnerships, we see this as above our pay grade. We see a need for increased visibility of the new network system developing with this emanating from Louisville by getting the word out about the networks and partnerships and creating a link to the various networks websites. Our part would be in developing our website and being available to interested presbyteries and churches when they come to us seeking a partnership. We will pass this message up the chain of command to Doug Welch and Hunter Farrell.

- On the question of moving partnerships past the point of mutual exchange and to helping overcome inequalities and jealousies, we can only suggest that within our partnerships, especially presbytery partnerships, we will be conscious of these negative outcomes. We will work in our partnerships to not let strong personalities and other factors create inequalities and their ensuing jealousies within our partnerships.

Finally, in answer to keeping the Rev. Dr. Vellem in the loop, we suggest the following to all partnerships at all levels.

- That they keep the General Secretary in the loop by the following:
 - Informing him of all partnership trips to South Africa and to try to set up a visit with him during the trip.
 - That periodic reports of the partnership happenings be crafted and emailed to the General Secretary.

Rick will write a response to the General Secretary that he will send out to all the attendees for comments and suggestions. A final version will be written and emailed to General Secretary Vellem.