



## GUIDELINES FOR CONGREGATIONAL CONNECTION BETWEEN DONEGAL PRESBYTERY PC(USA) AND MTHATHA PRESBYTERY (UPCSA)



To strengthen the International Partnership between Donegal and Mthatha presbyteries, we will work to facilitate connections directly between congregations in the two presbyteries. Our goal in these connections is to advance the purposes of the Partnership, which include breaking down stereotypes and prejudices that affect us, increasing mutual understanding, and encouraging one another as we learn how Christians live their faith daily in contexts different from our own. To this end, we offer the following guidelines for Congregational Connections between congregations in Mthatha Presbytery, Republic of South Africa, and Donegal Presbytery, USA.

### A. Making the Connection

1. The Session of a Donegal Presbytery Congregation will commit to the Congregational Connection Program (indicated by filling out and mailing the form found on the back page to the Presbytery of Donegal Office).
2. A Connection Coordinator will be appointed by a Donegal Presbytery congregation interested in making a connection with an Mthatha congregation.
3. The Mthatha Partnership Task Force will provide to the Coordinator the name and mailing address of an Mthatha congregation as well as the name of the congregation's pastor and their corresponding Connection Coordinator.
4. The Task Force will lead a workshop to get the congregation started (this could be with other new Connectional Congregation Program).

### B. Role of the Connection Coordinator

1. Facilitate interactive activities between the Donegal and Mthatha congregations (see the back of this sheet for some ideas).
2. Communicate with the Connection Coordinator of the partner Mthatha congregation.
  - o Explore similar interests
  - o Organize and coordinate communications
3. Be a member of the Mthatha Network

### C. Task Force Networking:

1. All Donegal congregations with a Congregational Connection will be part of the Mthatha Network.
2. The Task Force will host semi-annual Network meetings.
3. Each congregation's Connection Coordinator will attend the Network meetings. The coordinator may also invite other interested church members to attend.
4. Network meetings will serve as a forum for:
  - a. asking questions and sharing problems and successes.
  - b. learning from each other and the Task Force
  - c. developing new approaches to interact with connectional partners.
  - d. finding alternatives to ineffective plans or actions.
  - e. developing ways to encourage other Donegal Presbytery churches to establish a Congregational Connection.

### A. Restrictions

1. All financial or in-kind contributions to the connectional congregation above \$50 must be approved by the Task Force.
2. Larger contributions by Connectional Congregations are encouraged, but must be made through the Task Force for use in Presbytery-wide projects approved by the Mthatha Presbytery.

**Mthatha Partnership Task Force**

**Congregational Connection Application Form**

Interactive Activities (this is not an exhaustive list)

1. Exchanging letters: between pastors, sessions, educators, group representatives, youth, children and / or “regular members.”
2. Exchanging pictures of your church building, individuals, groups within your congregation, and the neighborhood where your church is located.
3. Exchanging maps: showing the location of your church, town and area.
4. Praying for each other: making prayers for your connectional congregation a regular part of worship, Sunday School classes, women, men, youth and devotions.
5. Developing and sharing Bible studies
6. Exchanging histories of your church, area and individual members.
7. Celebrating together: by planning materials to use jointly at Worldwide Communion, and World Day of Prayer
8. Designing and making banners to send to your connectional congregation when a traveler to South Africa becomes available.
9. Sharing music: by recording your choir or congregational hymn singing and exchanging cassettes (purchasing a recorder and tapes if necessary for your Connectional Congregation).
10. Exchanging small gifts: making hand crafted items, which can be used in the Connectional Congregation as communion table cloths, stoles, or banners.
11. Exchanging children’s artwork.
12. Conducting an educational series on South Africa with your church’s adult and youth groups.
13. Exchanging descriptions of how each congregation celebrates Christmas & Easter.
14. Exchanging recipes and then holding a dinner using the exchanged recipes for the meal.
15. Be creative and share ideas with the Network.

Tear off the below form and mail it to:

Mthatha Partnership Task Force  
Attention: Rick Schmidt  
Donegal Presbytery  
P.O. Box 10054  
Lancaster, PA 17601-5872

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Name of Donegal Congregation \_\_\_\_\_

• email address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Church’s Connection Coordinator \_\_\_\_\_

• email address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Clerk or Pastor \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Session Approval \_\_\_\_\_