



# **Ukama Mission Group**

## **New Hampshire Conference UCC**

### ***Opportunity to Host a Guest from Zimbabwe in October 2018***

#### ***DELEGATION OF GUESTS COMING FROM ZIMBABWE IN FALL 2018***

The Ukama Partnership between the New Hampshire Conference and the United Church of Christ in Zimbabwe has included visits from members of UCCZ churches to New Hampshire every 4-5 years. The Ukama Mission Group is planning to host up to twelve delegates in October 2018. Individual delegates are hosted by partner churches. The information below is intended to assist partner churches as you consider the possibility of hosting a person from your partner church.

#### ***THE BLESSINGS OF HOSTING***

Welcoming a member from your partner church is a gesture of Christian hospitality that calls for a significant investment of time and care, but yields extraordinary blessings. You are giving yourself and your guest the opportunity to make a deep and lasting friendship that will deepen your faith and unquestionably strengthen your Ukama Partnership. As your congregation considers what is involved in hosting, it is important to keep the benefits in mind.

#### ***MAKING THE DECISION***

It is wise for a leadership board in your church to consider and approve the opportunity to host. The success of hosting increases when people in the congregation are aware of, supportive of, and excited about the opportunity to host a guest from their partner church.

It is also wise for the church to recruit a person or persons willing and able to collaborate with the Conference Ukama Mission Group regarding logistics, transportation and scheduling.

We are asking that churches commit to hosting a delegate by January 17. This will allow time for delegates to be selected and visas to be processed. You can indicate your interest by emailing or calling Kathy Blair, the Ukama Mission Group Chairperson, at 355-0433, [mblair1@ne.rr.com](mailto:mblair1@ne.rr.com) or the Rev. Richard Slater, our Ukama Coordinator, at 225-6647, [rslater@nhcucc.org](mailto:rslater@nhcucc.org).

## ***WHILE YOUR GUEST IS HERE***

The delegation will be in NH for about 18 days, including 3 Sundays. On the first Sunday, your guest will worship with you and bring greetings from your partner church. On the final Sunday your guest will plan to preach at your church. The middle Sunday, your guest will attend worship at another church.

You should arrange for accommodation in one or more host homes from among your church members. The Ukama Mission Group has suggestions for hosts to manage the cultural differences between the US and Zimbabwe.

Your church should plan some all-church events to engage your guest in your life during the week he/she spends with you. Additionally, you should plan for some sightseeing and/or educational opportunities beyond what will be planned by the Ukama Mission Group for the whole delegation. The schedule will involve time with the guest's own partner church, time in other partner churches, and time that the delegation will be traveling together. All UCCZ delegates will attend the Annual Meeting of the NH Conference UCC. Once you have decided to host a delegate, the Ukama Mission Group will assist you with suggestions of activities while the delegate is with you.

## ***WHAT DOES IT COST?***

We cover the costs for delegates from Zimbabwe to visit us since money for non-essentials is almost non-existent for our friends in Zimbabwe. The Ukama Mission Group asks partner churches that wish to host a delegate to provide \$2500 to cover airfare and in-country expenses. These funds are remitted to the NH Conference, UCC. There may be some additional expenses when hosting your guest such as admission fees to an event or purchasing souvenirs. In the past, our guests have appreciated buying clothing at thrift stores. We discourage giving money to our guests. This once-in-a-lifetime trip to the US is a significant gift in itself. If you choose to support a project in Zimbabwe, please provide your support through the Ukama Mission Group, NHCUCC.

## ***TIPS FOR FUNDRAISING***

Many churches hold a fundraising event to cover a portion of the cost. Some churches take up an offering or hold a fundraising event while the guest is among us. In some churches a few people are willing to provide a substantial portion of the expense if they are asked. It is possible for two churches to share a delegate and the expense of hosting. There are creative ways to raise the funds for this opportunity, and ample time to prepare for the visit.

