

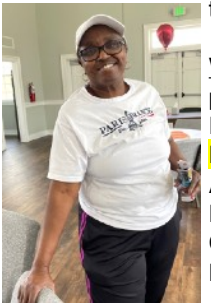
THANK YOU, Charleston Atlantic Presbytery (CAP)
For Hosting the Congo Mission Network (CMN) Conference
Preparation, Set Up, Welcome, Food, Clean up, Follow up

(Key: **Yellow**: CAP church members; **Aqua**: Helpers of other churches; **Green**: living/ministering in Congo DRC. Photos taken by **Jeff Boyd**, **Kelly Norrell**, and **Katheryn Nelson**.)

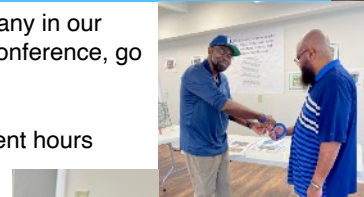
Preparation Beforehand: CAP staff **Michele Jones**, **Pie Mikell** and **Jimmy Hinson** advised Congo Mission Network (CMN) on hosting details at the CAP building. While the CMN Steering Committee funded the conference, FPC HHI and Sea Island PC made assisting donations. **Rev. Charles Heyward/Edisto PC**, **Alan Rousseau/St Andrews Charleston PC** and **Rev. Cibele Santos/CAP Moderator** advised **Charlotte White/FPC HHI** about presbytery participation in hosting. Early on, **Katherine Nelson** of Myers Park Presbyterian Church in Charlotte NC volunteered to cochair hosting with Charlotte White. CMN steering committee members were meanwhile planning the CMN conference program details, chaired by **Rev. Bill Reinhold/PCUSA minister** and **Roberta Spalding/Lafayette Orinda Presby. Church CA**. Many church members across the USA and Congo served on the CMN steering committee.



Who we were hosting: The PCUSA supported Congo Mission Network (CMN) conference from March 14 - 16, was attended by over 70 people in person, and up to 150 on zoom from across the USA and in the Congo DRC. Simultaneous translation was provided on zoom. Many in our presbytery joined or helped host. To review the **IMPORTANT CONTENT** of the conference, go to: <https://congopartners.org/cm-n-2024-conference/>



Wednesday Set up Crew: The following church members spent hours putting up posters and photos, and setting up the CAP facility: From Aimwell PC: **Rev. Perry Griffin**, **Clyde Harrison**, **Leslie Holmes**. From Wallingford PC: **Pam Freeman**. From St Andrews PC Charleston: **Rev. Spike Coleman**. From FPC Hilton Head: **Charlotte White**. From Myers Park PC in Charlotte, NC: **Katherine Nelson & Bill Gallagher**. From Boston MA Church of the Covenant: **Anne Crane**. **Rev. James Byensi** of Bunia, Congo DRC had just arrived in the USA and came to help! Wednesday and early Thursday, **Rev Diane Knaut/FPC HHI** helped procure and prepare food for workers and people staying in the bunk rooms.



Thursday Complimentary Refreshments & Welcome: The following from Second Presbyterian Charleston volunteered: **Sarah Cumming Mitchell**, **Marion Mitchell**, & **Penn Grove**. **Leslie Holmes/Aimwell PC** returned to help.



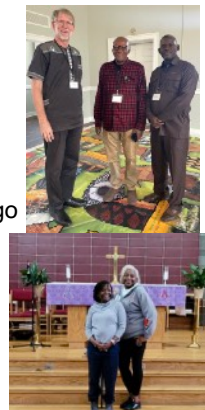
Thursday Lunch: Box lunches/\$10 each. **Katherine Nelson and Bill Gallagher** delivered them. Drinks - compliments of 2nd PC.

Thursday Opening Worship Service: Leading the service were **Rev. Dr. Charles Heyward/Edisto PC** and **Rev. Cibele Santos/Presbytery Moderator** and **FPC HHI**, and joined by **Rev. Mboyamba Kabala Zacharie/Congo Presbyterian Church**. The musician was **Ms. Simplicia Smith/Dorchester PC**. The service was arranged by **Rev. Cibele Santos** and **Rev. Jeff Myers/Retired CAP minister**.

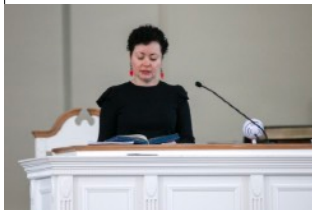




Thursday supper: 1st Scots PC and St James PC provided African chicken stew, rice, greens, fruit, drinks. 1st Scots cooks, deliverers and servers: **Hank & Betsy Martin, Lisa Gehlken, Todd and Hank Garrett, Clarissa McKenzie, Rob Dillon.** St James PC cooks and servers: **Doris Grant, Gwen Smalls, Connie Williams, Peggy Walton, Bessie Rivers, Valerie Morton.** The CMN conference speaker from the Congo Presbyterian Church, **Rev. Mboyamba Kabala Zacharie,** declared the African stew was excellent! (See him to right, between Congo Mission coworker **Jeff Boyd(l)** and **Rev. James Byensi(r),** also from Congo DRC.



Friday Continental Breakfast: Zion-Olivet PC served coffee, tea, juice, pastry items, fruit, toast, milk and cereal. **Cheryl Thomas and Kara Hart** were up early in Friday traffic to serve this.



Friday Morning Devotion: Led by **Elder Sandra Otero-Agosto/Misión Presbiteriana Mackay.** Musician was **Ms. Simplicia Smith/Dorchester PC.** Arranged by **Rev. Elizabeth Johnson/FPC HHI.**



Friday Lunch: Box lunches/\$10 each. **Katherine Nelson and Bill Gallagher** delivered them. Drinks compliments of Zion-Olivet PC. Attendees celebrated **Larry Sthresley's** birthday.



Friday supper: Provided by Mount Pleasant PC & Palmetto PC: BBQ chicken & pork, green beans, mac & cheese, banana pudding, drinks – MPPC: **Caroline Feller, Susan Mellichamp, Laura Graham, Lindsay Demos.** **Lynn Cobb** from St Andrews Mt Pleasant and **Irene Whaley/Edisto PC.**



Saturday Continental Breakfast: Summerville PC/Yeamans Park PC served coffee, tea, juice, pastry items, fruit, toast, milk and cereal. Servers were **Julie McCormick** and **Kelli Kemmerer** from Summerville PC and **Terri Myers** and **Carolyn Lackey** from Yeamans Park PC.



Saturday Morning Devotion: Led by **Rev. Perry Griffin/Aimwell PC.** Musician was **Ms. Kathy Tallent/FPC Knoxville TN.**

Saturday Lunch: Box lunches, \$10 each, ordered from Publix. **Katherine Nelson & Bill Gallagher** delivered them. Drinks compliments of Summerville & Yeamans Park PCs.

Saturday Clean UP: **Penn Grove** (Second Pres Charleston) returned with her **husband, Tom,** and they cleaned the whole upstairs bunk area. All attendees in the sanctuary put up chairs, swept and emptied trash. Many helped clean the fellowship room. **Anne Crane/Church of the Covenant Boston** stayed last to help **Charlotte White** clear out the refrigerator. "Many hands make light work!"



Sy Hughes, (seen on right), PCUSA Ministry Engagement & Support Advisor for SE region, provided a large PCUSA table display and spoke to the group about PCUSA engagement opportunities. He encouraged all to support our PCUSA mission coworkers. On the left are the six, who attended the conference: L to R back: **Rev. Cheryl Barnes, Inge Sthresley, Christi Boyd.** L to R front: **Jose LaMont Jones, Larry Sthresley, and Jeff Boyd.**



HOSTS



Congo Mission Volunteer co-workers **Jonathan and Janet Cameron** were hosted during the conference by **Marynell Wallace** of **Peace Presbyterian Church**. The Camerons departed on Saturday, March 16 for a brief rest in the USA, before returning to volunteer in Kinshasa.

Conference attendee **Rev. James Byens** of **Rebuilders Ministry** in **Bunia, Congo DRC** was taken to dinner by **Rev. Spike Coleman** of **St Andrews Charleston**, on the evening before the conference started.



Congo Mission co-workers **Jeff & Christi Boyd** were hosted by **Mary Mcabee** of **Westminster PC**. Mary hosted them after the conference in their home. Sunday, she took them to worship with Westminster PC, where **Rev. Daniel Smoak** introduced them to the congregation & also invited them to share with an adult Sunday School class. Mission committee member **Dee Bee Wright & her husband** took the Boyds to lunch. The Boyds then departed Charleston Sunday afternoon.



Congo Mission co-worker **Jose LaMont Jones** and conference attendee **Rev. Joseph Kazadi** of Texas were hosted by **Hank and Betsy Martin** of **First Scots PC**, after the conference ended Saturday noon. They took them to the **International African American Museum** and hosted them in their home. Sunday, they took them to worship at **First Scots PC** and then took **Rev. Kazadi** to the airport. Jose stayed with them until Monday.



Monday March 18, **Jose Jones** met at **Wallingford PC** with members of the **National Black Presbyterian Caucus**, arranged by **Rev. Charles Heyward**. Attending were **Rev. Perry Griffin/Aimwell PC**, **Rev. Charles Heyward/Edisto PC**, **Rev. Carolyn Heyward/Bethel PC**, **Rev. Brian Henderson/St James PC**, **Rev. Alex Porter/Wallingford PC**, and **Lay Minister Ray Whaley/Zion-Olivet PC**. **Woody Collins/Helping Hands Organization** and **Whitewater Valley Presbytery Volunteer mission coworker** in Congo also met with them. The group reviewed water projects and education programs in Congo.

NEXT YEAR

Charles Nash of **Brown Presbyterian Church** informed Congo Mission Network attendees that the 2025 Congo Mission Network Conference will be hosted in **Tuscaloosa, Alabama** in fall 2025 by **Stillman College**, **Brown Memorial Presbyterian Church**, and the **Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley**. Stay in touch about the 2025 conference information at <https://congopartners.org/>



**OUR GRATITUDE FOR CHARLESTON ATLANTIC PRESBYTERY
GOD BLESS THIS PRESBYTERY'S HOSTING MINISTRY and SHARING IN GOD'S LOVE.**

"Let us always meet each other with a smile, for the smile is the beginning of love."
Mother Teresa

POSTERS AT THE CONFERENCE posted by Aimwell Presby Church

THANKS to these Charleston Atlantic Presbytery Churches for food, funds, supplies, volunteers, hosting, and worship for our conference!

- Aimwell Presbyterian Church
- Bonnieville Presbyterian Church
- Felton Presbyterian Church
- First Scots Presbyterian Church Charleston
- First Presbyterian Church Hines Head
- James Island Presbyterian Church
- Maiden Presbyterian Church
- Mount Pleasant Presbyterian Church
- Piedmont Presbyterian Church
- Peace Presbyterian Church
- Second Presbyterian Church Charleston
- St Andrews Presbyterian Church Charleston
- St James Presbyterian Church
- Summerville Presbyterian Church
- Wallingford Presbyterian Church
- Westminster Presbyterian Church
- Wentworth Park Presbyterian Church
- Zion-Olivet Presbyterian Church



From Congo Mission Network Steering Committee members to our Christian brothers and sisters of Charleston Atlantic Presbytery. Gratitude for you & God's blessings on You!

"Coincidences are God's way of getting our attention."
— Frederick Buechner



"One day we will learn that the heart can never be totally right when the head is totally wrong."
Rev. Martin L. King Jr.



Hosting a meal!

