

## Missional Partnership Update

As you are aware , the Missional Partnership has been running at 2 ministers short for a while. To remedy this The Greater Manchester South and Cheshire Missional Partnership Steering Group has been exploring a call to ministry in the partnership with Revd Kurauone Mutimwii who is currently serving three churches in Zimbabwe. (Attached is more detail about him, in his own words) Following a good and productive meeting by Zoom this minister has been unanimously invited to “Preach with a View” and he has accepted the invitation.

Kurauone and his wife Nancy will arrive in the UK on Tuesday 15th March and stay with us for two weeks. A programme has been devised for them to visit churches and their contexts, as well as to attend social gatherings in order to meet together informally.

Kurauone has lead hybrid worship at Altrincham URC on Sunday 20th March at 10.45 am. You can watch the service on YouTube using this link.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vFWQdSFAdiQ>

There is a service at Macclesfield URC on Saturday 26th March at 3 pm. If you wish to attend either of these services please contact the office , you can register to attend via this link : <https://forms.gle/Cz5Wzz7W9ePcQpTc7>

After this service there will be refreshments and the opportunity to meet Kurauone and Nancy.

Following the Macclesfield service there will also be a Q&A session at which Kurauone will respond to questions that have been submitted in advance.

After the services there will be a process to vote on whether or not you wish for Kurauone to join the partnership. Following Synod guidelines, the Missional Partnership Steering Group have offered four in-person occasions for prayerful discussion and one on-line meeting. As with all church meetings, only members may vote, and each person will have one vote. You are free to attend the meeting that suits you best to cast your vote.

At each of the in-person venues refreshments will be provided, so please forego coffee at your own building in order to head to one of the Sunday meetings as soon as possible after worship.

Voting will be by ballot and the voting papers will be collected and placed in sealed envelopes which will be taken to Wilmslow, where following the on-line meeting, after anonymous on-line voting has taken place, the physical votes will also be counted and the total agreed. Rev Bob Day will liaise with Kurauone following the result.

An announcement concerning the outcome will be made on 10<sup>th</sup> April in Sunday worship.

The locations for the meetings are :

Wednesday 30 March (in person) 7.30pm : Ashton-upon-Mersey URC

Sunday 3 April (in person) 12.00pm (or thereabouts)

Heaton Moor United Church

Cheadle Hulme URC

Wilmslow URC

Sunday 3 April (online) 6.00pm

Zoom details :

Steering group to meet at Wilmslow URC 3 April 7.00pm

This is an exciting possibility for the Missional Partnership. The Convenor of the Steering Group Revd Bob Day would like to apologise to churches about the short notice of this announcement.

As you can imagine the wait for visas and other practicalities has proved difficult. However, God has blessed us with this opportunity and so we ask you to pray for Kurauone and Nancy and our Missional Partnership Churches as we all seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

If you have any questions please contact me.

God Bless

Sharon

Hello friends,

My name is Revd Kurauone Mutimwii and I am an ordained minister in the Uniting Presbyterian Church in Southern Africa (which covers Zimbabwe, Zambia and South Africa). I am married to Nancy, and we have three children together – Tanaka who is 18, Blessed who is 13 and Courage who is eight. We also raised my nephew Blessing after my sister died and he is now 26.

My journey into ministry began in the 90s when I served as an evangelist, youth and worship leader in independent churches in Zimbabwe. In 2002, I joined the Uniting Presbyterian Church and later entered more formal ministry training and undertook a Bachelor of Theology Degree between 2008 and 2011 at Justo Mwale University. Following this, I undertook further training and completed a one-year probation prior to ordination in 2013. I also undertook further postgraduate studies with the University of Pretoria in South Africa in 2014.

Currently, I am in pastoral charge of three congregations in and around Masvingo, a city in the south of Zimbabwe (about four hour's drive from the capital Harare). I was originally called to serve one church but worked to plant two new fellowships and now serve all three.

The Eastern Synod of the URC has a partnership relationship with the Presbytery of Zimbabwe. It was through this partnership relationship that Nancy and I first came to the UK in 2018 while I was on sabbatical. We spent six very enjoyable weeks being hosted by URC friends across the country.

While we were at an event in Birmingham, we met Angela Bogg from North Western Synod. She invited us to come and stay in Manchester and we visited for about a week. It was during this time, we first met your minister Revd Jonnie Hill and steering group convenor Revd Bob Day.

Our six weeks in the UK was a very special experience for us. We were shown so much love and care by our friends in the URC. It was this experience which prompted us to wonder whether God might be calling us to serve the URC.

In 2019, the then moderator of Eastern Synod Revd Paul Whittle visited Zimbabwe and came to stay with us. We discussed the possibility of ministry in the URC and after a period of discernment and being interviewed by the

denomination, we were given a certificate of eligibility to apply to any vacancies in the URC.

We were shown two profiles of opportunities for ministry and felt drawn more towards The Greater Manchester South and Cheshire Partnership. We are eager to explore God's leading in this sense of call.

We both want to thank you for all the hospitality and welcome you have offered to us since we arrived in the UK to explore this call. We have felt very cared for and loved.

We are praying for you and your partnership and ask that you pray for us too – that God would be with us all and that we would hear his voice in this process.

Yours in Christ,

Kurauone & Nancy