

Bethel Presbyterian Church is committed to a sustainable, multi-faceted, and equivalent-standing relationship with Grace School in Limuru, Kenya. The impetus for the relationship is the school's positive contribution to the lives of some of the world's most needy citizens coupled with the church's appreciation of this ministry as exemplifying the purest forms of faith and love. Further, the connection between the two bodies began based on personal friendship between the school's founders and individuals within the church, and these ties remain an integral element going forward.

Foundational to the relationship is recognition by the church of the vast economic disparity between its members and the students, staff, and other stakeholders of the school. Given this difference and the substantial poverty that is integral to the operation of the school, the church commits to providing regular financial support in a measure and fashion that is sustainable for the church and beneficial to the school. Further, the church understands that the school's financial operations and record keeping are, by necessity, significantly different in style and substance from that which might be expected of a western or western-sanctioned charitable organization. The church desires a spirit of transparency and accountability from the school but recognizes that formal structures that would be means to these ends do not and likely will not exist.

In contributing to school's financial survival, the church makes no claim, stated or otherwise, as to the appropriateness of the magnitude of its contributions relative to the need of the school, of the individuals there, or of impoverished people in general, both at home and abroad. Given the overwhelming need, the church could easily be tempted into doing nothing, thinking that its meager contributions would hold little effectiveness or measure. However, the church refuses a lapse into such futility and instead affirms that the worth of its contributions cannot be measured in pure and conventional economic measures. Also, the church recognizes that contributions to the school could be thought of as interrupting support for needs closer to home. Again, the church rejects any impulse to retard its contributions based on this admitted realistic and practical question, believing that some engagement in far corners of the world is an appropriate element of a balanced outreach program.

The church desires that despite the one-way flow of financial resources, the relationship between the school and the church is a friendship between equal partners. The church does not wish to be thought of as a stock or lien holder and will strive to foster an atmosphere of equality in this regard. Further, the church fully expects that the gifts brought to the relationship by the school are of equal import to those provided by the church, be they financial or otherwise. Finally, the church recognizes that the school is in charge of its own affairs, and the church overtly resolves to remain apart from those matters.

The school has the need for a US-based not-for-profit organization to accept financial gifts, from time to time, from individual benefactors otherwise lacking an appropriate path for providing assistance. The church commits to fulfill this relatively limited role until or unless a more appropriate organization emerges.

The church believes communication between the school and the church to be vital to the desired sustainable relationship. Historically, the church, by way of the generosity of one of its members, has provided hosting, content development, and editing for the school's website. The church commits to continue to do its part to insure the continued excellence of this important link between the school, the church, and numerous others for whom the website may be the best source of information about the school. Further, the church commits to regular, informal communication to and with the staff and other stakeholders of the school via email and other methods. When and if the opportunity arises, the church commits to facilitating personal visits from either side to the other.

Faith in the same omnipresent God is key to the trans-global relationship that exists between the church and the school. The church commits to engagement in regular, meaningful prayer for the school and trusts that the school will do the same on behalf of the church, its staff, its members, and its missions.

Overall, the church acknowledges the uniqueness of this relationship. The set of circumstances that is the backdrop for the friendship presents challenges in terms of distance and differences. Despite these challenges, the church believes the relationship to be entirely appropriate and desirable for these portions of the body of Christ.