

## **Report of the Administrative Commission for the Neema Fellowship**

The Neema Community Fellowship, under the able leadership of the Rev. David Nzioka, has become a growing ministry for immigrant families in the area served by Heartland Presbytery. Neema, in Swahili, means “grace.” The mission of the Neema Church is to reach out to and serve people who come to the United States from Africa and other countries. Recently, the Neema community has expanded its evangelistic outreach, welcoming into membership a more diverse group of people from various cultures, races, and backgrounds.

Currently, more than 100 adults and 25 children are worshipping each week in temporary facilities at 9900 Mission Road in Overland Park. On April 11, Neema held its annual youth service with 177 adults and 39 children in attendance. If you would like to experience worship in an upbeat African style, and utilizing a mixture of English and Swahili languages, you would be most graciously welcomed at the Neema church. Services begin at 10:30 and end with Kenyan tea and snacks about 12:30 p.m.

In the past two years, a number of financial commitments have been made to the Neema Fellowship from Heartland Presbytery’s Committee on Development and Redevelopment, The Presbyterian Urban Ministry Network, and The Synod of Mid-America. A General Assembly Mission Program Grant in the amount of \$99,000 was also approved for distribution over a six-year period. The Neema Fellowship was also honored as the recipient of our General Assembly’s 2009 “Sam and Helen R. Walton Award for New Church Development.” The award, in the amount of \$50,000, is intended for capital needs, and was deposited in a building fund until a permanent location for the church can be secured. Currently the building fund has accumulated \$85,000. On June 13 a special fund raising event for the purchase of a new building will be held at the church. The stewardship commitments of the Neema family continue to grow, and the church’s financial future looks secure.

The Administrative Commission of Heartland Presbytery is looking forward to continuing its work with the elected leadership of the Neema community and fine-tuning plans for the church to be fully incorporated as a new church in the presbytery. It is expected that the Neema Fellowship will be ready to take the next step toward incorporation in the summer of 2010. The Commission is grateful for the faithful work being done by members and leaders of the Neema church and the creative ministry that is taking place within Heartland Presbytery.

Respectfully submitted,  
Dwight Tawney  
Moderator, Neema Administrative Commission