MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

November 1, 2024 – October 31, 2029

Association of Baptists Churches of Rwanda (AEBR) https://aebr.org.rw/
Canadian Baptist Ministries (CBM) https://www.cbmin.org/
Westview Baptist Church (Westview) https://www.westviewchurch.ca/

Association of Baptists Churches of Rwanda (AEBR)
AEBR is a faith-based organization created in 1964 and officially recognized by the government of Rwanda on May 29th, 1967. AEBR has over 58,000 men and women in active membership operating throughout all of Rwanda to bring people to Christ, strengthen people in faith, teach Christian living, and serve the world's spiritual and physical needs. AEBR seeks to bring about God's justice, steward the environment, promote socio-economic development, and prepare the way of Jesus until His return.

Westview Baptist Church
Westview Baptist Church was founded in 1976 in northwest Calgary and is part of the Canadian Baptists of Western Canada. Westview seeks to be a diverse people with a deep sense of *belonging*, united in God's love, *abiding* in the Holy Spirit, and intentional in *becoming* more like Jesus by *extending* Christ's love to the world. Westview has sought to follow God's leading to make disciples locally, nationally, and around the globe by funding church-building projects in India, Mexico, and Rwanda and working locally with the Crossover Japanese Church, the Calgary Christian Church of The Deaf, Hope Christian Church of Calgary, Greenhills Christian Fellowship, and AWAKEN church in Calgary.

Canadian Baptist Ministries (CBM)
CBM is the global mission partner of 972 local Canadian churches working to bring hope, healing, and reconciliation through word and deed. CBM has active projects in 26 countries and a partnership with the Canadian Foodgrains Bank (CFGB) to support food security initiatives and local agricultural production around the world. Founded in 1995 to continue the work of its predecessor organizations, CBM acts as a liaison between churches and international partners with a focus on poverty, justice, kids at risk, building the local church, and crisis response.

INTRODUCTION: UNDERSTANDING OUR COMMON MISSION

We, the leaders of the **CBM, AEBR and Westview Baptist Church,** view our relationship as a blessing given by God. We understand this Memorandum of Understanding as a move towards a commitment to work together in contextual mission. In this regard, we will work together for the duration of this MOU in a spirit of mutual enrichment.

Our model of ministry is the incarnation, the story of our God who loves the World and expresses that love in drawing near. It is the story of a God who enters into the scene of human need, not for his own sake, but for the sake of those to whom he comes. His motive is love and his mode of operation is compassionate action: healing, feeding, teaching and empowering. It is a holistic, incarnational ministry aimed at reproducing itself in a reconciled community. We believe that working together emerges from the very heart of God and is shaped by the way that Jesus lived among us.

We share together the following core values:

BIBLICAL

Joint cooperation emerges from a Biblical understanding of discipleship in Christ and the belief that all people are created in the image of God. As the Church is founded on redemptive relationships, we endeavour to uphold the Biblical principles of righteousness, justice, peace and compassion.

HOLISTIC

We seek to establish a healthy relationship from a holistic perspective, affirming physical, spiritual, social, emotional and intellectual growth and formation

MUTUAL TRUST

Our relationship is based on mutual respect. All partners bring their strengths, potential, perspectives and wisdom. This is a working relationship characterized by trust, transparency, communication and consistency. Our cooperation is most effective when all partners commit themselves to being attentive to each other, communicating clearly and being culturally sensitive. Likewise, we commit ourselves to giving the time and resources required to build this partnership.

CONTEXTUAL

Our joint cooperation recognizes cultural and contextual differences and realities. All partners shall ensure that their unique values and local circumstances create opportunities for learning and growth. Healthy cooperation respects these differences while discovering commonalities from which they can work together. All contexts are unique, requiring understanding and flexibility in strategy building and implementation.

ACCOUNTABLE

Cooperation requires mutual accountability. All partners pledge to hold each other accountable to the agreed values, vision and commitments. This is a process built on trust, integrity and transparency.

Purpose of Agreement

To facilitate each organization's desire to more faithfully participate in the active outworking of God's worldwide redemptive work, we agree to this partnership of mutuality through which all parties give and receive according to areas of their God-given expertise and resources. In accordance with God's leading, we seek together to grow the kingdom of God by first cultivating intentional relationships with each other and then assisting one another with various discipleship and project initiatives.

Commitments and Contributions of Agreement
Each organization agrees to fulfill the following commitments in four KEY AREAS:

KEY AREA #1: TEACHING AND LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

A. AEBR will:
    1. Share models for local evangelism practices with Westview Baptist Church
    2. Encourage mutual learning between AEBR youth/children/young adults and others of similar age at Westview
    3. Share Rwandan history and culture with Westview Baptist Church (eg: peace & reconciliation)
    4. Sharing Rwandan best Practices/Models in the area of peace and reconciliation with Westview Baptist Church for mutual learning purposes.
    5. Facilitate community with CBM & Westview Baptist Church through mutual prayer and sharing of life in ministry
    6. Be responsible for long-term management of local development initiatives by CBM and AEBR, facilitating Westview's involvement in local AEBR ministry
B. CBM will:
    1. Share locally developed peace and reconciliation models/Resources with Westview Baptist Church
    2. Share Rwandan history and culture with Westview Baptist Church
    3. Recruit local Rwandan experts in particular areas of interest to encourage the teaching and development of Westview Baptist Church congregation
    4. Facilitate community with AEBR & Westview Baptist Church through mutual prayer and sharing life in ministry
    5. Facilitate long-term management of local development initiatives by AEBR and CBM, facilitating Westview's involvement in Local AEBR ministry
C. Westview Baptist Church will:
    1. Work with AEBR & CBM to supply theological resources, administrative training, and mentorship for AEBR Bugesera regional pastors
    2. Work with AEBR & CBM to supply training and resources in technology and various pedagogical areas for AEBR teachers and educational leaders. Areas of interest include:
        a. English language learning
        b. Digital literacy
        c. Specialized learning needs
        d. Disability learning
    3. Encourage mutual learning between Westview youth/children/young adults and others of similar age in AEBR churches
    4. Offer expertise, where applicable, to AEBR healthcare initiatives and providers
    5. Offer expertise, where applicable, in digital literacy for church leaders and youth/young adults as prioritized by AEBR
    6. Facilitate community with AEBR & CBM through mutual prayer and sharing life in ministry

7. Share experience with other Canadian Baptist churches considering engagement in global partnership initiatives.

KEY AREA #2: PROJECTS

A. AEBR will:
    1. Identify and prioritize potential joint projects to focus on in the course of this MOU
    2. Offer project support by recruiting local Rwandan experts to participate in project design and implementation.
    3. Provide local oversight and long-term management of project initiatives by CBM and AEBR, facilitating Westview's involvement in local ministry
B. CBM will:
    1. Offer technical support to projects identified by AEBR, and, in discussion with AEBR, invite field staff to share their expertise by participating in project design and implementation
C. Westview Baptist Church will:
    1. Focus project support on:
        a. Church building construction and church renovation projects for AEBR partner churches in the Bugesera sub-region
        b. Facilitating improvements of curriculum materials for Sunday-school ministries to AEBR partner churches in the Bugesera sub-region
    2. Support the creation of a communication and technology hub at the Nyabagendwa Church/Karera School /Regional headquarters facility in Bugesera sub-region
    3. Support other projects as mutually determined and prioritized by all three parties within the duration of this agreement (e.g. CFGB)

KEY AREA #3: PARTNER VISITS

A. AEBR will:
    1. Facilitate community, mutual learning, fellowship, and worship by engaging with annual Westview SENT teams
    2. Endeavour to send one team of AEBR Leaders to Calgary to be hosted by Westview sometime within the duration of this agreement
B. CBM will:
    1. Arrange for Rwandan CBM personnel to visit Westview when they are in Calgary
    2. Offer support to Westview from the local CBM representative
    3. Facilitate annual SENT team partner visits from Westview to Rwanda through logistical planning and other needed support with consideration to the capacity of the field.
    4. Help facilitate AEBR leader's team visit to Westview when in Canada
C. Westview Baptist Church will:
    1. Facilitate community, mutual learning, fellowship, and worship by engaging with AEBR and CBM partners through annual Westview SENT teams

2. Endeavour to send one SENT team each May from Westview to Rwanda within the duration of this agreement
3. Endeavour to host the AEBR leaders Team visiting Canada, once in the course of this MOU.

KEY AREA #4: FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS:

A. AEBR will:
    1. Contribute to the local joint projects' initiatives and/or provide personnel, facilitating Westview's involvement in local ministry
    2. Work with CBM and Westview Baptist Church to identify project costs and develop fundraising plans for prioritized project contributions
    3. Help to create promotional/fundraising materials
    4. Share expense reports after the implementation of each joint Project
B. CBM will:
    1. Will contribute to agreed-upon local joint project initiatives and/or provide personnel, facilitating Westview's involvement in local ministry.
    2. Will transfer funds from Westview Baptist Church to CBM who will transfer them to AEBR for Joint Ministries.
    3. Designate a portion of Westview's CBM contribution to African National Field Staff
    4. Help to create promotional/fundraising materials
C. Westview Baptist Church will:
    1. Contribute a portion of annual offerings to CBM that are designated to the Rwandan partnership. $20K of this annual funding will be allocated to four areas in the following amounts:
        a. African national field staff ($5K per year for Gato Munyamasoko, $5K per year for Andre Sibomana)
        b. Leadership Development ($2.5K)
        c. CFGB ($2.5K)
        d. Peace and Reconciliation ($5K)
    2. Raise funds for travel, food, accommodation and project support for annual SENT teams to Rwanda.
    3. Work with AEBR and CBM to identify project costs and develop fundraising plans for prioritized project contributions
    4. Help to create promotional/fundraising materials

Terms of Agreement

A. Length:
    1. The length of this agreement extends for five years from the date of signing
B. Partner Capabilities:
    1. AEBR, Westview Baptist Church, and CBM agree to annually self-review their own organization's fulfillment, in terms of Contributions and Commitments outlined in this memorandum, and communicate their progress to the other signatories of this

memorandum as outlined in the Terms of Agreement, Section C about Communication

2. CBM serves as the legal mediator of this tri-party memorandum of understanding and will also regularly evaluate the progress of the Contributions and Commitments of all partners throughout the length of the memorandum.
3. AEBR, Westview Baptist Church and CBM agree to carry out their responsibilities with a commitment to resolving any differences between partners that may arise by prioritizing support/grace for their fellow partners.
4. In case of any conflicting scenario, an adequate and open dialogue can be requested by any party to solve the conflict.
5. In case of conflict, open tripartite dialogue is the agreed-upon process of mediation between partners.

C. Partner Communication:
   1. In all forms of communication and discussion between partners, each partner entity remains responsible for speaking on its own behalf.
   2. AEBR, Westview Baptist Church, and CBM (representative) agree to meet two times per year for the length of the memorandum to discuss progression towards the Contributions and Commitments within the agreement and any necessary amendments. Scheduled yearly meeting times include:
      a. One in-person meeting during the May partner visit
      b. One digital meeting (Zoom or equivalent) during each October (or late fall as scheduling allows).
   3. Additional dialogue between parties may be requested and occur as necessary throughout the length of the agreement to facilitate forward progress on all activities within the scope of the memorandum
   4. Should communication occur between only two of the three partners, both dialoguing partners will endeavour to inform the remaining partner of the communication and its contents at the earliest possible opportunity.
   5. CBM will regularly evaluate the communication needs of all partners and facilitate adjustments in communication practices as needed throughout the length of the memorandum.

Amendments to Agreement

With the consent of all parties, items in this agreement may be amended or supplemented in writing if signed by all of the parties.