

Where is the North Katanga Annual Conference?

The North Katanga Annual Conference is in the Katanga province of the Democratic Republic of Congo, formerly called Zaire and also known as the Belgian Congo. It is one of three Annual Conferences in the country, and extends all the way into part of Tanzania, covering hundreds of square kilometers.

The region of North Katanga has an agricultural-based economy. It is rich in pasture, lakes (including Tanyanika), rivers (the Congo and Lomami), and minerals (gold, coltan, and hematite). They grow cassava, rice, corn, beans, peanuts, soy beans, garlic, cabbage, bananas, plantains, pineapples, avocados, sugar cane, oranges, coffee, palm oil, etc. North Katanga exports its crops to the surrounding regions. Zebras, giraffes, antelopes, lions, hippopotami, crocodiles, rhinoceros, monkeys, etc. were once plentiful here.

The Methodist church officially arrived in North Katanga in 1962. The Church was started by three pastors: Pastor Ilunga K. David, Pastor Andres Mundeke, and Pastor Joel Bulaya. Before that, early in the 20th Century, Bishop Springer was planting Methodist churches throughout this region. Kabongo Hospital, for example, was started by the Methodists in the 1920s. Between the 1920s and 1962, there was little Methodist activity in this region due to an agreement between Christian denominations to evangelize in different parts of the country. The first United Methodist Bishop from North Katanga to

be elected was Bishop Ngoy Kimba wa Kadilo in 1976. He was followed by our current Bishop Ntambo Nkulu in 1996.

The North Katanga Episcopal area is divided into two conferences, with a total of 36 districts.

Why was the North Katanga Annual Conference Task Force put in place?

In 2006 the Western New York Annual Conference affirmed entering into a covenant relationship with the North Katanga Annual Conference. The measure was reciprocated by the North Katanga Annual Conference.

For more than ten years there have been many connections between churches in the Western New York Annual Conference and the North Katanga Annual Conference. After Rev. John McNeill, Rev. Ann Kemper and Rev. Daniel Bradley visited the region in 2005 it was clear that a partnership of mutual encouragement had been formed. The covenant relationship which was entered into in 2006 solidified our commitment of partnership, friendship, and faith.

The WNY Conference Board of Global Ministries created the North Katanga Annual Conference Task Force to help facilitate the distribution of funds that will be received for the North Katanga Annual Conference Special Offering at our 2007 Session of Annual Conference. The offering your church makes will be used to support three key projects in the North

Katanga Annual Conference. The task force will also be monitoring the progress of these projects and provide periodic updates to the WNY Annual Conference on our partnership.

Who is on the North Katanga Annual Conference Task Force?

Rev. Daniel J. Bradley, Chairperson, Rev. John McNeill, Rev. Ann Kemper, Terry Street, Rev. Robert Zimmerman

If you would like to work with the North Katanga Annual Conference Task Force please contact:

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What are the Goals & Projects of the Task Force?

1. **Clean Water Project** ~ *“Let anyone who is thirsty come to me”- John 7:37b*

Water is the source of life. Without clean water, disease, and death run rampant in communities. In the Democratic Republic of Congo, many women and children walk several miles each day in search of even *dirty water*. The North Katanga Conference is working to dig as many deep wells as possible to address this need. There are currently five wells thanks to the generosity of United Methodist churches in the USA. Obviously, we have a long

way to go. The average cost for a well to be hand dug 28 and 30 meters deep is about \$6000.00. At present there is no modern machinery for digging readily available.

2. **Agriculture** ~ *"I brought them into a fertile land, to enjoy its harvests*



and its other good things... -Jeremiah 2:7

The North Katanga region of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, has been particularly blessed by God. God has provided a paradise: plentiful land, rain, sun, and fertile soil. The North Katanga United Methodist Church provides training and materials so harvests will become as plentiful as God intended. Agricultural initiatives are underway creating farms with community education components in Samba, Kamungu, Kamisamba, Muanza Seya, Manono, Kanene, Kaniama, Lunge, and Nyembo Umpungu.

Now that peace has returned, work is proceeding to quickly bring seeds, equipment, and training programs.

3. **"Mama Nshimba's Friends"** is a cooperative project through which women can support each others' educational interests. In the North Katanga Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, Mama Nshimba (Nshimba Nkulu, wife of Bishop Ntambo Ntanda Nkulu) has organized women into an informal school, called "Mama Nshimba's Foyer," to promote women's literary and self-determination.

Mama Nshimba's Foyer emphasizes reading, writing and home economic skills that allow women to grow food to feed their families and sew clothes to sell in order to pay school fees for their children.

The women of the Foyer are also supporting the work of the Kamina Orphanage, another project of the North Katanga Conference.

How can your church get involved?

1. Participate in the offering that is being received at Annual Conference this June.
2. Pray for the clergy and laity of the North Katanga Conference who participate in these projects.
3. Have your church begin a relationship of mutual encouragement with a church or a project in the North Katanga Conference.

North Katanga Annual Conference Task Force

www.northkatangaumc.org

