

HELP US PURCHASE THIS VAN

Ohio Conference has awarded a matching grant of \$10,000 to go towards the purchase of a 15-passenger van for the Akron Swahili Mennonite Church. We are calling for churches and individual donors to raise an additional \$24,000 to purchase.



Make checks payable to "Ohio Conference" designated to "Congolese Van," 5358 Kidron Road, Box 210, Kidron, OH 44636.

Donations must be received by December 31, 2022.

If you would like more details, contact Thomas Dunn at thomas@crownhillmennonite.com.

Thank you in advance for your donations!

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The Akron Swahili Mennonite Church is a church that is made up predominantly of Congolese Christians living in the North Hill neighborhood of Akron. The church has a weekly attendance of around 50 people, most of whom immigrated to the United States as refugees about 5-7 years ago. The International Institute of Akron is a refugee resettlement agency and it just so happened that Rollin, a social worker that worked there, had Mennonite and Congolese connections. We believe this was the working of the Holy Spirit to have Rollin placed there to help facilitate this connection! Through Rollin's guidance, individuals and churches from Ohio Conference began relating to the Akron Swahili Mennonite Church in 2017. It has been a life giving relationship for everyone involved. We've all learned a lot about cross cultural communication! There have been many combined multicultural worship services and visits to Akron for worship there. There are currently two students from Akron Swahili Mennonite Church attending Central Christian School in Kidron. The two pastors will be licensed for Ministry in Ohio Conference on October 2, 2022 and we anticipate that Akron Swahili Mennonite Church will officially join Ohio Conference at our Annual Assembly in March. Helping procure a van for the Akron Swahili Community Church is just one step in our ongoing relationship together, but it is a step that anyone can participate in by donating to the cause. Thank you for your generosity!

