



Dear Friends,

Welcome to the 2020 Kenya Mission Conference! What a blessing to join with you all in worship, fellowship, conversation, and community.

Our theme for the 2020 Kenya Mission Conference is “Abundant Life, Holistic Ministry” which comes from John 10:10 where Jesus proclaims “*The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it abundantly.*”

In this passage, Jesus contrasts the ways of the thief who comes to kill and destroy with his own ways which lead us toward the full and abundant life that God intends. There are many thieves in our world who seek to destroy the life we are promised in Christ. In East Africa, the thief comes in various forms: poverty and deprivation, income inequality, lack of clean water and healthcare, retrogressive cultural practices such as FGM and child marriage. In Western societies, the thief comes in different forms: individualism, rampant materialism, the loss of community and connection, wealth disparity and deep polarization. In all of his forms, the thief is the opposite of God’s will for human beings.

Our Mission Conference theme celebrates the abundant life that God desires for us - lives overflowing with the love of Christ. It also recognizes the many areas of brokenness that prevent God’s abundance from being experienced. Holistic ministry embodies the gospel by addressing both the spiritual and physical needs of communities.

Evangelism and discipleship are the core ministry of the PCEA Department of Mission and Social Responsibility. They introduce communities and individuals to the love of God which we know through Christ Jesus. Through a relationship with Christ, people are invited to encounter God’s transformative grace, grace that makes all things new - including us. We also recognize that for communities who are suffering, the gospel must be embodied. In arid and semi-arid areas, the gospel takes the form of boreholes that provide life-giving water for women who walk 7 or 8 hours a day to fetch water for their families. For girls who have been subjected to the indignity of child marriage, the gospel takes the form of schools and rescue centers that provide a safe place to grow and learn. For impoverished communities, the gospel takes the form of vocational training which opens up opportunities for men and women to earn a fair wage and support their families.

We are delighted to share the next few days with you, to celebrate and discuss all of the ways that the Holy Spirit is at work bringing forth the abundant life that God intends for each of us and for all of us.

Mungu awabariki,  
Reverend Lauren Scharstein  
PCEA Deputy Director of Mission & BSR