

JoinHands Blesses Eden Life Church

April 28, 2019

The four language communities of Eden Life International Church of Kansas City, Missouri, gathered for a combined service of celebration on April 28, 2019 to receive the JoinHands grant of \$30,000 towards the purchase of their meetinghouse.

The church began under the sponsorship of South Central Mennonite Conference in July 2016 with the calling of Ethiopian church planter, Pastor Omot Aganya and his wife, Hanna.

The building was purchased in September 2017 for \$150,000. Repairs and improvements have been made by members of the congregation and service groups from Bethel Mennonite Church, Inman, KS and Hesston Mennonite Church, Hesston, KS.

Four services are held sequentially from morning to evening on Sundays. Each service in its own language: Amharic (Ethiopia), Anouk (Sudan, Ethiopia), English (Second generation immigrants), and Swahili/French (Congo).

Clarence Rempel, representing the board of Mennonite Men, presented the grant and offered a blessing from Colossians 1:9-12, "...May God strengthen you with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, and give joyful thanks to the Father..." He also preached a sermon from Colossians 1:6 on "the gospel is bearing fruit and growing throughout the whole world." Pastor Omot and James Wenger, Regional Conference Minister, led in a shared communion service. The celebration dinner of Ethiopian and American dishes was enjoyed by about 50 participants.

The elders of the church decided to immediately apply \$25,000 toward the mortgage principal which will eliminate the balloon payment of \$36,300 at the end of ten years. A reserve fund of \$5,000 will be created for improvements and needed repairs to the building.

JoinHands, a ministry of Mennonite Men begun in 1985 as Tenth Man, has distributed over \$2 million helping 75 churches in the United States, Canada and in other countries to build or purchase their first building.

