



716 8<sup>th</sup> Ave SW

Cedar Rapids, IA, 52404

319-202-0069

Website: [www.comepc.org](http://www.comepc.org) email: [cepc@comepc.org](mailto:cepc@comepc.org)

## Community Evangelical Pentecostal Church

### **Goal:**

The Community Evangelical Pentecostal Church's mission is to spread the Word of God, to promote the integration of refugees, immigrants and the community at large into a self sufficient, healthy and spiritual society. We strive to rebuild safe sustainable life globally through supportive networks of people, Services and community activities.

### **Vision:**

To be an integrative center of multicultural exchange where community members feel a sense of belonging and actively contribute to an active society.

### **Profile:**

The Community Evangelical Pentecostal Church in Cedar Rapids was formed by African refugees and immigrants resettled from different states of USA . They have come from a broad range of tribal and national origins .

### **What we value:**

- We value the richness of community by celebrating all cultures, religions, ethnicities, languages, genders and beliefs.
- We value the process of leaning together as this will enhance the critical knowledge and skills we need to adjust in this new society
- We value our hospitality. Anyone who comes through our door will be offered something. Real welcoming is not just by words, it is by action.

### **Church activities :**

Our church is faced with several problems in which we have made our goal to attempt and solve. We as a church will do what we can on our part to get these problems solved but we are in need of other resources to help make our goals possible.

Problems needing to be addressed are involving Transportation, Social Services for our members, Trainings and Housing. These problems needed to be answered are a result of our church consisting of immigrants from Africa that are in need of these issues to be solved.

**One Lord, One Faith, One Baptism, One Spirit**



716 8<sup>th</sup> Ave SW

Cedar Rapids, IA, 52404

319-202-0069

Website: [www.comepc.org](http://www.comepc.org) email: [cepc@comepc.org](mailto:cepc@comepc.org)

## Community Evangelical Pentecostal Church

### Problems and Specifications Targets:

#### 1) Transportation

Transportation is a great problem in our church in terms of members needing rides to different appointments around Iowa.

Many appointments like immunization shots are scheduled for many of our members who don't have cars or drivers licenses. A **church van** would be greatly needed to transport the members to Des Moines and other places where they are scheduled to go.

Other than appointments members are also in need of transportation to church on Sundays as we find that some members reside in Iowa City because of their work locations. Even to big events that our church may hold outside of Cedar Rapids some members would like to join but a vehicle is needed to transport more than 16 to 20 members that are without transportation at once.

#### Request:

We are requesting for a **van** that would help make it easier for the church to be able to have a vehicle of its own to transport members around to appointments and requests.

#### 2) Temporary Housing

As new members move to Cedar Rapids they find that they have no place to go so they seek refuge to the church to find them a temporary housing unit, the adults of the family find a job that would financially secure them to rent an apartment or house.

In the recent years we have been taking the new members under the roof of other members of the family.

In some cases we find that the families have to live in an already packed housing unit where there is only one room available and that could often be stressful for a new family in town as well as for the family hosting them.

#### Request:

We are requesting a **place/facility** that we could place new coming families temporarily until they find a place to move to.

#### 3) Social Service Resources:

Most families are in need of help with getting enrolled in social service program.



716 8<sup>th</sup> Ave SW

Cedar Rapids, IA, 52404

319-202-0069

Website: [www.comepc.org](http://www.comepc.org) email: [cepc@comepc.org](mailto:cepc@comepc.org)

## Community Evangelical Pentecostal Church

- Food Stamps: this program would help the family get food .
- Work force: we need resources that would help find these new members jobs in Cedar Rapids and other locations within Iowa so that they can get housing and food.
- Health Care: getting health insurance is needed for most of the families to help them.
- Day Care

### Request:

We are requesting to know the charitable/humanitarian organizations and government offices in charge of refugee assistance and resettlement in the areas where the refugees are living.

### 4) Resources and Training Opportunities

We are touching on key issues like filing taxes, American Law, child support, medical exemptions, applying for USCIS fee waivers and computer training .

### 5) To have our own property

Church property at Cedar Rapids ( we need to own a church building in Cedar Rapids).

We are really looking forward to what the Lord has planned for this right time and we need your support to help us fully carry out this responsibility that we have been given and called for .

You can play a vital part in our ministry through your support.

### ***The Services:***

#### ***1) The following are services offered to the new arrivals in Cedar Rapids:***

- *Temporary housing*
- *Offer translation and support to African families on a case-by-case basis and depending on the language capacity .*
- *Transportation/Rides to different appointments such as: jobs ,hospital ,driving test ,school ,human services, Bureau of refugee service, immigration office,....*

#### ***2) Services envisioned to be offered in the future :***

**One Lord, One Faith, One Baptism, One Spirit**



716 8<sup>th</sup> Ave SW

Cedar Rapids, IA, 52404

319-202-0069

Website: [www.comepc.org](http://www.comepc.org) email: [cepc@comepc.org](mailto:cepc@comepc.org)

## Community Evangelical Pentecostal Church

- Information and referrals for crisis intervention. We seek to empower African immigrants and refugees to make informed decisions and choose appropriate courses of action for particular concerns.
- Legal consultations on marriage, VAW and immigration issues. All consultations will be free and conducted by lawyers who will donate their time.
- Information and referrals for jobs, training programs, resume-writing, and English tutoring.
- Court-accompaniments and translation assistance. We will provide court-accompaniments on a case-by-case basis depending on resources available. We will be available to advocate on behalf of victims/survivors of violence who need assistance with the courts.
- Information and referrals for access to shelters and housing.
- Orientation to existing US social services, health care, and legal systems
- Referrals for services to appropriate agencies that are cultural competent
- Advocacy and community organizing for African family needs, specifically around day to day basic needs that can help them become self-sufficient
- Help African families access adequate health care information and access doctors that are culturally open-minded
- Help African families access information about low income housing and subsidized housing
- Help African families access information about programs that promote self-sufficiency of low income families especially refugees.
- Advocate for and accompany African families at different service providers.

I believe that by God's grace and your prayer support, our ministry will be successful for His glory.

Thanks in advance for your good consideration on all our requests .

**One Lord, One Faith, One Baptism, One Spirit**



716 8<sup>th</sup> Ave SW

Cedar Rapids, IA, 52404

319-202-0069

Website: [www.comepc.org](http://www.comepc.org) email: [cepc@comepc.org](mailto:cepc@comepc.org)

## Community Evangelical Pentecostal Church

Date : June 20 th , 2012

Rev. Peter MAHOYE SHANDAKWA  
Senior Pastor

One Lord, One Faith, One Baptism, One Spirit