

**March 12, 2026**

**Ohio Mission Region - NALC**

Dear Congregation Members of the Ohio Mission Region,

We are reaching out to you to make you aware of a serious need pertaining to the Oromo Evangelical (Lutheran) Church of Columbus in Baltimore, Ohio.

Many of you may still remember the great success story of 2018 when many of the Ohio Mission Region Congregations came together with a significant monetary gift that made it possible for Oromo to deliver a downpayment, secure a mortgage and make some urgent repairs on the building they moved into and currently call home.

Since that blessed event, the Oromo Congregation has continued to grow in membership, maintain their property and reduce their initial mortgage of a million plus to now under \$600,000.

Now, Oromo seeks to refinance their mortgage to lower costs and continue supporting Ethiopian family members facing hardship from civil war and Christian persecution. The staff salary has been cut in half and benefits have been eliminated. Oromo's goal is to reduce their monthly mortgage payments by \$2,000.00. Without assistance, they are at risk of losing their building.

Because time is of the essence, Upper Arlington Lutheran Church in Columbus has stepped up to pay Oromo's mortgage for the next two months to provide some immediate relief.

Recently a team of people from Upper Arlington Lutheran Church, the Ohio Mission Region Executive Council, along with Prator Jeff Morlock, Director of Vocational Discernment – NALC, and a team from the Impact Foundation met virtually to explore a means by which to generate sufficient capital to fund an affordable mortgage with the Impact Foundation for Oromo, that would meet their objective.

The Impact Foundation is a 501(c) (3) public Charity founded in 2015, that allows families to recommend custom investments in their Impact Accounts (a donor advised fund). As of July 2025, their Donor/Investors have deployed more than \$700 Million for impact. You can find additional information about Impact Foundation at: **<https://www.impactfoundation.org/about>**.

A primary thought is to seek and encourage OMR Congregations to consider participating by making an investment (not a gift) whereby their invested dollars from Endowment Funds, Bequest Funds, Congregation Excess Available Cash or Individuals Funds would earn a return (interest/dividends) comparable to what they are currently earning at other financial banks and investment institutions. **Your invested funds would provide the collateral dollars to secure the mortgage loan from the Impact Foundation to Oromo Evangelical (Lutheran) Church and yield a return on your investment to you.**

We further hope that our congregational and individual investments in Impact could help fund new ministries and churches in the Ohio Mission Region.

We pray that all who consider this concern would be quided by the question; **“Are we called to help one neighbor?”** Once all the details are formulated, a brief and concise presentation will be provided during the Ohio Mission Region Annual Convocation May1st & May 2<sup>nd</sup>. Should you have any thoughts, suggestions, concerns or questions regarding any of the above, please contact your Ohio Mission Dean.

Peace and Grace!

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