

**Upendo Gospel Community  
Church (UGCC): Ministry  
Update January to April 2025**

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ (Ephesians 1:2).

We bring you this ministry update from Upendo Gospel Community Church (UGCC), Kenya, with great joy and thanksgivings.

**1. The Current State of the Church**

*a) Growth in Membership*

When we relaunched UGCC in September 2024 as a fresh church plant sent out from Trinity Baptist Church, Nairobi, we began with 22 covenant members.

By the grace of God, we have since grown to 28 members. This increase includes individuals who have recently come to saving faith and have been baptized at the church. Church attendance is now at about 40 people every Sunday.

*b) Leadership and Governance*

UGCC currently has two elders: Pastor Joe Thwagi, and Pastor Kevin Nyagaka, who co-labours in the shepherding and oversight of the flock. We continue to pray for the raising up and recognition of faithful men who meet the Biblical qualifications. We have two men (Innocent Mithika and Kevin Waithaka) assisting the elders in various diaconate responsibilities. They were formally set apart as our deacons on February 23<sup>rd</sup> at UGCC.

**2. Regular Ministries:**

*a) Lord's Day Worship*

Each Sunday, we gather to hear the reading and preaching of Scripture, to sing psalms and hymns, to offer prayers, to observe the ordinances, and to fellowship as the body of Christ. Communion is observed monthly, and the order of service is thoughtfully

crafted to follow a biblical order—adoration, confession, assurance, thanksgiving, instruction, and response.

The expository preaching of God's Word continues to be central. Pastor Joe recently concluded a series in Haggai and is now continue the series in Ezra. Pastor Kevin continues with the Epistle of James.

*b) Midweek Meetings and Prayer*

Each week, we gather on Thursday evenings for a corporate prayer meeting. We continue our journey through the book of Ezekiel, drawing our Adoration, Confession, Intercession, and Supplication items directly from the text of Scripture.

We also have Wednesday and Friday Bible studies. At present they are both doing the book of Ephesians. We also have men's and women's fellowships, which meet monthly. In addition, we have family fellowships and tea plots happening every month.

*c) Children Ministry*

We are a church of young families, and single young people. The church has 18 children – about 10 are 2-5 years old! We have made strides in developing our own Sunday School ministry material for children aged 2–5 years. It includes biblical storytelling, memory verses, activities, and songs, all pointing to the glories of Christ.

**3. Evangelism and Outreach**

The following are our key outreach avenues:

*a) Community Witness*

We engage in street evangelism, literature distribution, and house visitation within Rungiri area.

*b) Digital Discipleship*

UGCC maintains a growing online presence via our UGCC website, social media and a modest YouTube channel where sermon audio is uploaded weekly. Plans are underway to host audio devotionals and

publish gospel tracts and theological articles. These efforts aim to reach both Nairobi's urban population and Kenyans in the diaspora with Reformed, Christ-centred teaching.

#### **4. Church Facilities & Infrastructure**

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Trinity Baptist Church (TBC), Grace Reformed Baptist Church (GRBC), and North Point Baptist Church (NPBC) for their generosity in supporting our construction developments:

- **Church Hall:** The construction of our church hall is continuing. We now have three walls in place. The fourth side is meant to have doors and windows and it remains unfinished and largely exposed. Our floor is also not done and is earthen, which poses a number of problems, chief of which is dust. Inside the church hall, we are praying for resources to build a platform at the front, set up a baptistery, and level the floor to improve the environment for our members. There is yet a lot of work left to make it more child-friendly. We are also trusting the Lord to provide for the installation of doors and windows.
- **Toilet Block:** The ladies' toilet block has been fully completed, including piping for water in the kitchen tent. The men's toilet is not yet complete and cannot still be used.

#### **5. The Need for a Permanent Church Property**

One of the greatest temporal needs before us is the purchase of a larger, permanent church property. Currently, we meet in a rented space that, while sufficient for now, limits

our ability to expand ministries or develop midweek programming. The property is:

- Located in a central, accessible place.
- Sizable enough to host a hall.
- Secure, quiet, and conducive for ministry to children and families.

We hope to purchase this land in due time. The full cost of land purchase alone is approximately Ksh. 20 million (USD \$150,000), not including development and legal fees. We are trusting God to provide through the generosity of churches and gospel partners who are burdened to see a doctrinally sound church established with permanence and stability in this part of Nairobi.

We ask for your prayers and ask that you consider making a gift toward this endeavour. We will soon provide details for a dedicated giving account, with necessary instructions.

#### **6. Thanksgiving and Prayer Requests**

*Praise the Lord with us for:*

- The gift of 28 covenant members walking in unity and love.
- Conversions, restored marriages, and strengthened family devotions.
- The joy and reverence of Lord's Day worship and regular discipleship.
- The fruit from outreach and the hunger for doctrinal teaching.
- The open door to possibly purchase permanent property for ministry.

*Pray with us for:*

- Provision of funds to purchase the identified church property and complete construction of our meeting hall.
- Spiritual growth and perseverance of new believers and members.

- Strengthening of our elders, their households, and their work in shepherding His flock.
- Holiness in the church through Biblical discipline.
- Protection against discouragement, division, or drifting away.
- Wisdom in structuring our ministries Biblically.

Dear gospel friends, we remain committed to the preaching of the word, the administration of the ordinances, the purity of the church, and the exaltation of Christ in all things. May the Lord continue to make UGCC a gospel light in Nairobi and beyond.

With love in Christ and for His Church,  
The Elders, Upendo Gospel Community  
Church (UGCC),  
Nairobi, Kenya.

Email: [ugccelders@gmail.com](mailto:ugccelders@gmail.com);

[jthwagi@gmail.com](mailto:jthwagi@gmail.com)

Phone: +254 714463606

*“Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to Him be glory in the Church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.”*

— Ephesians 3:20–21.



2: Baptism of a recent convert named Annvicky



3: The Current UGCC Church Hall – still under construction



1: UGCC Children in Sunday school class



4: The UGCC Deacons being set apart in February 2025