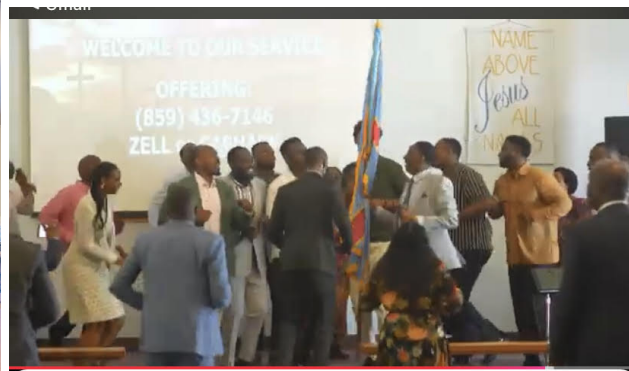


REPORT

ANNUAL CONFERENCE: DR CONGO BENEFIT SERVICE

June 27 -28, 2026



June 28th Church service

Church members at the annual conference, June 27, 2026

This year's conference took place on June 27, 2026 at Bangor First Church of the Nazarene located in the city of Bangor, state of Maine.

The conference was organized by the Africa Nazarene Ministry and AAHEAD.ORG in partnership with Nazarene church of Bangor ME.

The purpose of this event was to worship and raise awareness about the trials facing the population group of the Tutsi-Banyamulenge living in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

Tutsi-Banyamulenge populations in DRC have been facing persecution since 2017 because of their ethnic background. Thousands of people have lost their lives and their villages have burned down.

The event brought together members of different congregations, located in the State of Maine. The service included:

- ★ Worship
- ★ A brief presentation on the partnership between Africa Nazarene Ministries and Bangor Nazarene Church
- ★ A presentation about Banyamulenge in Eastern of Congo
- ★ Fundraising to help needy population groups

Expected results included:

- ★ Increased communion and Faith
- ★ Increased Allies towards never again Genocide
- ★ Humanitarian aid available

The opening remarks highlighted key elements from last year's conference's outcomes and the support that was provided to the needy population in the eastern part of DR Congo. Concerning current situation it was mentioned that:

- ★ The Banyamulenge have experienced repeated persecution throughout modern Congolese history.
- ★ They have been the targets of repeated attacks by both states and non-state militia groups.
- ★ Significant episodes of violence occurred in 1964, 1996, 1998. Notably in 2004 during the Gatumba massacre in Burundi: 166 civilians of Banyamulenge were cruelly killed, some burned

alive.

- ★ Despite all advocacy messages, lobbying sessions - killings are still going on!
- ★ On the day of the conference, unfortunately the situation was getting worse. Today, reiterated Mr Ruturwa, we are making a request to the one who controls the Universe to bring peace back to D.R. Congo.

The service of June 28 intensified prayer for peace globally and DR Congo in particular.



The conference made a call for immediate humanitarian assistance that include:

- ★ Shelter: For those whose homes have been destroyed.
- ★ Food and Nutrition: Emergency food aid and sustainable food security solutions.
- ★ Healthcare: Medical support for physical and psychological trauma,
- ★ Education: Access to learning opportunities for displaced children, youth and adults literacy.
- ★ Security: Protection from ongoing violence and restoration of

peace.

From both services of Saturday and Sunday a total of \$10,000 was collected. Initially organizers had planned for an estimate of 25,000\$ to serve primarily in the health area by purchasing drugs, education through school rebuilding, learning materials and providing school fees for orphans. This number shows that the conference was able to raise about 40% of the expected amount. The conference recommended among others:

- ★ Continue advocacy through different potential donors, church partners and humanitarian organizations
 - ★ Explore possibility for extending the activity of advocacy and prayer for peace in different cities and/or states,
 - ★ Next annual conference to be organized in April 2027
 - ★ Establish committee for conference preparation by October 2026
 - ★ Identify strategies to engage media, preferably during working days, though press conferences.
 - ★ Strengthen missionary work through partnership with Nazarene compassion ministry,
 - ★ Plan for missionary trip in Minembwe in the near future,
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