



*Louis C. Cornish “Living the Mission” Award—2015*  
*for Outstanding Contributions to International Partnership*

PRESENTED BY THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST PARTNER CHURCH COUNCIL TO

*Dr. Richard Ford*

*Dick Ford's contributions to the partner church movement* are vast and extraordinary.

Always assured that the people know best, Dick's articulation and advocacy of Community Capacity Building has moved our partnerships from charity to justice. In a radical departure from typical donor-dominated models of development with expertise from afar, Dick is a self-effacing evangelist for democratic participatory engagement wherein all voices are heard and none are excluded. Ever aware of those most marginalized, especially women, youth and the elderly, Dick's approach affirms, clarifies, mobilizes, and empowers the “ordinary” wisdom of common people.

Inspired by Dick's vision, U/U's have brought clean drinking water to their communities, cleaned rivers, established health centers, built roads and latrines, expanded schools and, in manifold diverse ways, made real the hopes and dreams of the people.

Working throughout Africa, the Philippines, Transylvania, India and elsewhere, Dick goes everywhere (traveling by dump-truck, raft and by all imaginable transports), sleeps anywhere, and eats anything. Always kind, good-humored, attentive, and reasonable, Dick is a be-sweatered Mr. Rogers of internationalism, a soft-spoken, calm, humble and unflappable peace-maker, even when confronted by disputatious and even gun-wielding adversaries.

Never an ivory tower academic, Dick is ever eager only to advance the will and wisdom of the people.

He is a consummate servant-leader.

Dick Ford is a systemic thinker, a scholar, a compassionate companion, a good friend, and an exemplar of the best qualities of partnership. At the end of the day, we savor a wee toast to Dick!

We are grateful for his work and inspired by his example.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Gary E. Smith". The signature is fluid and cursive.