

Mission Partner / Mission Founder Covenant

Mission Partners: Mission Partners are ELCA congregations linked together in dynamic relationships to empower and expand the mission outreach of both partners. Mission Partners utilize the [Accompaniment Model](#), walking together in solidarity, practicing interdependence and mutuality. Gifts, resources, and experiences are shared with mutual advice and admonition to deepen and expand all efforts within God's mission. Through supportive relationships—*Prayer, Presence, and Presents*—these congregations share in the excitement of proclaiming God's love. They understand that God has blessed them to be blessings for other and so they work together to...

- Share—and lift up in prayer—the joys and concerns of the other,
- Offer spiritual and emotional encouragement,
- Actively share the time and skills of their members for specific projects,
- Provide tangible items for ministry such as Sunday school materials, office equipment, or musical instruments, and
- Give financial gifts that may help acquire musicians, office and worship space, signage, brochures, program materials, or land.

Mission Founders: Mission Founders are individuals, congregations, small groups of neighboring congregations, organizations, or synods that partner to *make Christ known* by funding and encouraging a mission developer at a new mission site in the United States. Mission Founders nurture the growth of new congregations in the ELCA.

- *Pledge* a significant financial gift toward the compensation package of a mission developer at a new U.S. mission site. (The average total cost is about \$65,000 each year). The amount of your commitment is negotiable.
- *Select* a site to support from a packet of New Ministry Profiles. It may be within your own synod, or it may be in one of the fast-growing areas of the country. Several models are available.
- *Promise* to uphold the new ministry with prayer, encouragement, and volunteers, as practical, and maintain regular contact; and
- *Participate*, if possible, in the new congregation's landmark occasions – first worship service, charter Sunday, organization Sunday, dedication of first facility, etc.

This is to form a covenant of partnership relationship between

(Name of Mission Partners or Founder offering support)

And

(Name of Partnership Ministry receiving support)

We pledge to work together for the sake of God’s Mission in the world and to see God’s work flourish in both of our communities. *As the community of faith receiving support*, we pledge to utilize the gifts that are offered in faithfulness to the mission of Christ and with good stewardship. We pledge to extend the hand of welcome to our mission partners and founders and to communicate with them on a regular basis informing them of the joys and sorrows of this new ministry. We pledge to pray for our partners and founders and to celebrate and acknowledge their gifts within and beyond our own faith community.

Signed:

(Signature and printed name of representative of community receiving support)

We pledge to work together We pledge to work together for the sake of God’s Mission in the world and to see God’s work flourish in both of our communities. *As the community of faith offering support*, we pledge to offer gifts with joy and to celebrate what God is doing in the midst or our brothers and sisters at our partnership ministry. We will seek ways to deepen our relationship through worship and prayer and to discover how our own lives can be blessed by our partners in mission.

At this time we plan to specifically offer the following gifts for (date/period) _____

Gifts of time or talent: _____

Gifts of instruments or equipment: _____

Financial gifts: _____

And most importantly, we pledge to offer the gifts of prayer and encouragement to our partners in ministry.

Signed:

(Signature and printed name of representative of community offering support)

(NOTE: Please make three Copies of this agreement: one for each of the two partner communities and one sent the Director of Evangelical Mission for the South Dakota Synod, ELCA, 2001 S. Summit Ave., Sioux Falls, SD 57197 questions? Call Rev Bill Tesch at 605-274-4026) Thank you!)