

## Key Questions in a Partner Church Relationship

We will work toward partnerships in which we can answer "Yes!" to the following questions:

### Mission

1. Are we centered in Christ?
2. Are we united in friendship, prayer, and relationship?
3. Are we doing work together that leads to mutual transformation?

### Accompaniment Values

1. Do we understand and respect each other's ministries?
2. Do we trust one another?
3. Are we preventing the relationship from creating unhealthy dependencies?
4. Does the relationship depend on teams on both ends of the partnership? (Are we leading mutually?)
5. Are we supportive of the responsibilities of local authority?
6. Are we considering local protocol and customs?

### Communication

1. Do we have good and frequent communication about ministry and current realities
  - between our churches?
  - between our pastors?
  - among our congregational/community members?
2. Do we share our experiences with our synod(s)?
3. Are we responsible and respectful with social media?

### Support

1. Do we have the support of the leadership in our synod(s)?
2. Are we upholding the Accompaniment Principles of the ELCA?
3. Is our partnership sustainable?

### Visits

1. Are we planning visits mutually?
2. Do we host and do we visit each other?
3. Are we being thoughtful and responsible as visitors and as hosts?

### Projects

1. Does the project fulfill a need expressed by both the recipient church?
2. Is the project sustainable?
3. Do we have mutual accountability and transparency regarding financial matters?
4. Does the project support or grow the local economy?
5. Do we keep ourselves from imposing *our* solutions on what we identify as "problems" in our partner's setting?

### Advocacy

1. Are we telling our partner's story in our home church?
2. Are we striving toward lifestyle changes that are consistent with lessons learned from one another?
3. Are we promoting justice through political and social change? (locally, nationally, globally)