

## Facts about FB Synod Global Mission Committee and Program

The Global Mission Committee is composed of many former missionary clergy and lay people, those who have been inspired by hearing the stories of the work of the church in other countries and cultures or may have participated in a short-term mission trip overseas, and those who are just curious and wanting to share their gifts and learn from our Companion Churches. Clearly, being a member of the GMC, or one of its sub-committees or Task Forces, means being part of a rich and diverse group of disciples!

An important part of the Global Mission Committee is [ELCA World Hunger](#).

Companion Synods are called upon to develop relationships with their Companion Churches that embody “accompaniment” as the model for mission – the vision of the ELCA Global Mission. “Accompaniment” – literally, *walking side by side*, is a mutual relationship between churches who walk together in service in God’s mission. This model is the result of the changing paradigm of mission. Whereas, previously, the European and North American churches were the churches with all the resources and sent out the missionaries, today, churches throughout the world are made up of people who have been Christians for many years, even generations. Rather than taking the lead on mission projects, we listen to what the priorities are of the Companion Church and interact with them as fellow workers, sharing strengths and gifts, and learning from one another in mutual respect.

In the accompaniment model, receiving is as important as sending or giving. Companions who walk together in accompaniment emphasize recognizing and embracing one another’s gifts. Being open to, and appreciative of, the gifts of companions is a hallmark of accompaniment, and the Companion Synods program.

The Florida Bahamas Synod is in relationship with 4 Companion Churches, and supports the work of the Union Theological College and Seminary in Jamaica. Our 4 Companion Churches are:

- The IECLC – **Iglesia Evangelica De Confessio Luterana en Cuba**. *(For more information about our relationship with Cuba or to be a part of this Global Mission Team -please contact: The Rev. Dr. Russell Meyer, [rmeyer@floridachurches.org](mailto:rmeyer@floridachurches.org), or Tonya LaBarbera, [tonya.labarbera@gmail.com](mailto:tonya.labarbera@gmail.com).)*
- The ELH – [Eglise Luthérienne d’Haiti](#)
- The ELCG – [Evangelical Lutheran Church of Guyana](#)
- The ELKS – [Evangelical Lutheran Kierke in Suriname](#)

If you would like more information about this committee, please contact PJ May at [pjnrusty@yahoo.com](mailto:pjnrusty@yahoo.com) for more information.