

Facts about the Florida-Bahamas Synod Global Mission Table and Program

The Global Mission Table (GMT) and is a rich and diverse group of people dedicated to sharing the love of Christ throughout the world. The table includes up to 18 people and is currently comprised of former missionaries, clergy and lay people; individuals that have participated in a short-term mission trip overseas; and people that have been inspired by the mission of the GMT and want to share their gifts and learn from our five companion relationships. In addition to the Global Mission Table, each companion relationship has a dedicated team of volunteers and there is no limit to involvement on a team. In a phrase, there are lots of ways to participate and lots of ways to serve!

Throughout the ELCA, Companion Synods are called upon to develop relationships with their Companion Churches embodying “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 to 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. Indeed, today there are more Christians in the global South than the global North. 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 Synod program.

The Florida Bahamas Synod is in relationship with 4 Companion Churches and a seminary. They are:

- The IEUC-SL –Iglesia Evangélica Unido en Cuba – Sínodo Luterano centered in Santiago, Cuba. (Cuba Team Leader: Rev. Russell Meyer)
- The ELH – Eglise Lutherienne d’Haiti (Haiti Team Leader: Alonzo Batson)
- The ELCG – Evangelical Lutheran Church of Guyana (Guyana/Suriname Team Leader: Marcee Wilkes)
- The ELKS – Evangelical Lutheran Kierk in Suriname (Guyana/Suriname Team Leader: Marcee Wilkes)

- United Theological College of the West Indies (UTCWI) - the seminary in Kingston, Jamaica (UTCWI Team Leader: Judith Olsen)

If you would like more information and/or want to join the work of Global Mission, please contact Rev. Kathryn Carroll (“Katie”) at revkhc@gmail.com. You are also invited to consult the Global Mission Table roster (also a link on the Global Mission page) to learn if there’s a member that lives in your area. You are invited to be part of this exciting ministry!