

Guidelines for the Companion Synod Relationship NWO Synod Global Mission Board

Regarding the Covenant

- We encourage congregations to be in consultation with the Global Mission Board regarding all plans, arrangements and decisions involving the companion synod relationship. We discourage individual congregations from acting independently.

Regarding Projects

- We encourage projects that assist in building faith in Christ crucified;. We discourage any projects that entice people with a counterfeit gospel of goods and glory. (See attached article, “When Two Bikes Split a Church.”)
- We encourage projects that are sustainable. We discourage projects that promote dependency or cause damage to the environment, the culture or the church.
- We encourage support of current Global Mission Board projects which are consistent with the Companion Synod Covenant and our Core Values. (See attached Covenant).
- We encourage our congregations to be involved in projects that directly support evangelism, health, and education. We discourage projects that focus primarily on development.

Regarding Money

- We support funding of congregational/diocesan/ELCT projects. We discourage the funding of requests by individuals.
- We encourage giving help through a cooperative process of funding and labor. We discourage outright and/or complete funding for projects.
- We encourage sending funds through the Synod Office for the sake of accountability, safe transmittal, favorable exchange rate, and Synod-wide celebration. (Designate when giving for a specific project and send a letter of notification to the intended recipient and the companion diocese office.) We discourage sending funds directly.
- We suggest congregations consider sending relief funds through Lutheran World Relief and World Hunger Appeal, designating funds for the companion diocese. We discourage congregations from initiating their own relief projects.

Regarding Travel

- We encourage congregations to see trips to the diocese Companion Synod as educational and/or work-project opportunities. We discourage trips that are basically sightseeing tours.
- We encourage congregations who want to be involved in travel to our Companion Synod to be in consultation with the Travel Sub-committee of the Global Mission Board. We discourage trips to the Companion Synod which are independently planned.