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*For more information*

The staff of the Anglican and Global Relations cluster at the Episcopal Church Center in New York City has the joyful task of helping to implement the mission goals of our church and others throughout the world. Please visit our pages on the Episcopal Church web site – [www.episcopalchurch.org/agr](http://www.episcopalchurch.org/agr) – or call us at 1-800-334-7626, ext. 6224.

**WORLD MISSION SUNDAY**

**Companionship**  
*in*  
**Mission**

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*A prayer for our  
partners in mission*

Lord of all the world,  
In Jesus you have joined together people of every nation,  
every culture, every language.  
Bless and guide our partners in your mission, (*especially...*).  
Be in their midst when their numbers are small.  
Strengthen them in times of trial.  
Declare your loving justice through their actions and words.  
And inspire us, through their witness, to seek your presence in  
our midst,  
and to act with courage and compassion.  
We ask this through Christ our Savior.

*Partners in Prayer, 2000-2001*  
The Anglican Board of Mission – Australia

**kameradschaft**

*la camaraderie*

társaság

a companhia

*Kufambapanive*

伴侶

**compañerismo**

Accompagnare

compañerismo

*Companheirismo*

**sodalitas**

**Pren bilong yu**

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## Principles of Partnership

The following list of 10 benchmarks for measuring the health of mission partnerships was accepted by the Anglican Consultative Council in 1993 from the Second Mission Issues and Strategy Advisory Group.

1. *Local initiative* – The responsibility for mission in any place belongs primarily to the church in that place.
2. *Mutuality* – Strive for open and joint accountability, respect, and shared power in decision-making.
3. *Responsible stewardship* – God’s gifts to any one part of the universal Church are given in trust for the mission of the whole church.
4. *Interdependence* – Everyone has needs that can only be met by others.
5. *Cross-fertilization* – Enrichment comes from being willing to learn from one another.
6. *Integrity* – Recognize that all partners are essentially equal; commit to being real and honest.
7. *Transparency* – Be open and honest; share information about all relationships.
8. *Solidarity* – We are part of each other, committed to one another in Christ’s body. What touches one member touches the others.
9. *Meeting together* – Personal encounters are essential for building and maintaining relationships; every church needs a forum for evaluation by partners as well as self-assessment.
10. *Ecumenical action* – Our Episcopal/Anglican mission relationships must be seen as part of the wider mission relationships of all Christians.

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## Reflection

Even though the word *partnership* has been used within the Anglican Communion and in the wider ecumenical community for twenty years or more, there is a growing feeling that a better way to describe an ideal relationship between churches is *companionship*. Why?

“The word speaks of those who are equals taking part in a journey together, relating, supporting, encouraging, communicating, breaking bread and being together. There cannot be a dominant companion, for if there is, the companionship breaks up. It also carries the connotation of solidarity: standing with each other in times of struggle and suffering.

“Companionship speaks of values, trust, listening, generosity, encouragement, support, and sharing; of journeying together in the movement of the Church. It provides a different and creative context in which to speak of programs and budgets. It is that quality of relationship among Christians that will encourage real witness of life and word, and enable Christians to push beyond what now exists.”

*Anglicans in Mission: A Transforming Journey* © 2000 Anglican Consultative Council (Report of MISSIO, the Mission Commission of the Anglican Communion, to the Anglican Consultative Council, Edinburgh, Scotland, 1999)

## Questions

More than 80 per cent of the dioceses in the Episcopal Church have companion links with other parts of the Anglican Communion. In addition, many parishes, individuals, and mission agencies have strong relationships of an ongoing, international nature. Chances are, you’re involved!

- Think about one or more relationships that your parish or diocese has had with churches elsewhere in the Anglican Communion. Would “partnership” or “companionship” describe these links? If yes, think about why. If no, try to pinpoint where the difficulty lies.
- Think about mission at the local level. Would “partnership” or “companionship” describe the outreach efforts of your parish or diocese? If so, who are the partners and/or companions?
- In your personal journey of faith, can you name companions who have sustained or stimulated you?

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