

COMPANION CONGREGATION PARTNERSHIP COVENANT

What is a partnership?

The partnership is made by two churches, one church from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America in the United States and one church from the Iglesia Luterana Agustina de Guatemala. In this case, the Iglesia Luterana Agustina Mensajeros de Cristo of the ILAG is renewing a partnership with Grace Lutheran Church of the ELCA, St. Paul Area Synod.

The partnership is a relationship based in the love of Christ. Communication and understanding of each other are important parts of the relationship.

The most important part of the partnership between the two churches is Christ, who calls us into relationships of mutual love and respect. The members of the two churches must love each other. "For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' If, however, you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another." (Galatians 5:14-15)

This means that the members of the two churches should:

- *Have mutual respect: Grace Lutheran Church cannot ask or obligate the Iglesia Luterana Agustina Mensajeros de Cristo.
And the Iglesia Luterana Agustina Mensajeros de Cristo cannot ask or obligate Grace Lutheran Church to do something that the members of that church cannot do or do not wish to do.*
- *Strive for mutual understanding: The two congregations need to recognize that their partners are from different countries and have different cultures and customs.*
- *Communicate frequently: The two congregations should strive to get to know each other and develop a relationship based in God, sharing their joys, their sorrows, and the activities of each church.*
- *Be willing to understand one another in order to create a relationship of friendship in Christ that is long lasting.*

The partnership is a relationship of commitment that the two churches involved in the partnership make.

Grace Lutheran Church commits to:

- Accompany the Iglesia Luterana Agustina Mensajeros de Cristo in the walk of Christ. This means that:
 - ✘ The members of Grace Lutheran Church will pray for all the members of the ILA Mensajeros de Cristo every Sunday.
 - ✘ The members of Grace Lutheran Church will visit *every other year*, if possible, the members of the church in their community
 - ✘ The members of Grace Lutheran Church will support the members of the church and the church in a material way to the best of their ability, with the condition that the aid will be for the common benefit.
 - ✘ The members of Grace Lutheran Church will write to the members of the ILA Mensajeros de Cristo a letter at least every three months.
- This commitment of the partnership is realized for a period of three (3) years
 - ✘ The partnership can be renewed after three (3) years depending on the capability of Grace Lutheran Church of sending people in order to visit the members of the Iglesia Luterana Agustina Mensajeros de Cristo.
 - ✘ The partnership can be terminated before the three (3) years have been completed depending of the behavior of the members of the ILA Mensajeros de Cristo.
 - ✘ The partnership can be terminated by Grace Lutheran Church after the three years of commitment have been accomplished.

The Iglesia Luterana Agustina Mensajeros de Cristo commits to:

- Accompany Grace Lutheran Church in the walk of Christ. This means that:
 - ✘ They will pray for all the members of Grace Lutheran Church every Sunday.
 - ✘ They will attend to the members of Grace Lutheran Church to the best of their ability when they visit their community.
 - ✘ They will write to the members of Grace Lutheran Church at least one letter every three months.
 - ✘ They will not think of the members of Grace Lutheran Church or the churches themselves as a bank, a loan institution or a beneficiary institution because this is a partnership of relationship based in Christ.
- This commitment of partnership is made for a period of three (3) years:
 - ✘ The partnership can be renewed after three (3) years.
 - ✘ The partnership can be also terminated before the three years depending on the behavior of the members of Grace Lutheran Church.
 - ✘ The partnership can be terminated when the three-year commitment is ended at church's discretion.

The churches, Iglesia Luterana Agustina Mensajeros de Cristo, and Grace Lutheran Church commit to:

- ✘ Send their communications through the members of the Pastoral Team of the Iglesia Luterana Agustina Mensajeros de Cristo. This will ensure that

the communication and translation of the communication is delivered to both churches in an exact and clear way. This is also in order to keep a file of the communications and to have a history of the partnership from its beginning and a documentation of how the relationship has grown with the help of God.

- ✘ The members of these Lutheran Churches commit to treat the members of the Lutheran Churches as equals, as their brothers and sisters in Christ and to not denigrate them or treat them poorly.
- ✘ The members of Grace Lutheran Church cannot force the community in need to accept a project they do not need. Grace Lutheran Church need to respect the needs of the community. But if the community has a need for a project that Grace Lutheran Church support, can ask that the project is completed within a certain period of time.
- ✘ In the same way, if the Iglesia Luterana Agustina Mensajeros de Cristo takes on any project, it cannot obligate or demand more resources than what they have been given; instead, they have to respect and accept the help that is provided to them.
- ✘ In the management of funds, the Iglesia Luterana Agustina Mensajeros de Cristo commits to be transparent and to turn in a report of how funds have been managed and to use the provided resources correctly. They commit to use the funds for the purpose for which the funds have been designated.

WE SIGN THIS COVENANT AS A COMMITMENT TO THIS PARTNERSHIP,
TRUSTING THAT GOD WILL GUIDE US IN THIS MINISTRY AND THIS
JOURNEY IN CHRIST WHICH HE HAS COMMENDED INTO OUR HANDS.

SIGNATURES OF THE OFFICIAL REPRESENTATIVES OF EACH LUTHERAN
CHURCH (Iglesia Luterana Agustina Mensajeros de Cristo, and Grace Lutheran Church)
AND ANY OTHER MEMBERS WHO WISH TO SIGN.

Mr. Jacob Ritchie

Pr. Reed Fowler

Mark R. Sander

[Signature]
P. Santos Chun
Acuña

Guatemalan Partnership Covenant Renewal

"We sign this covenant as a commitment to this partnership, trusting that God will guide us in this ministry and this journey in Christ which he has commended into our hands."

Chuck Swann



Mike Sweeten



Wally Lind



Karen Anderson



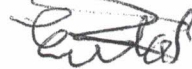
Marge Hoffmann



John Pearson



Martha Hiltner



Dawn Alet



Dill Morgan



Carla Sreedem



Don Watenkamp



Lee Nelson



Guatemalan Partnership Covenant Renewal

"We sign this covenant as a commitment to this partnership, trusting that God will guide us in this ministry and this journey in Christ which he has commended into our hands."

Jeff Sheblust



Shirley Hanson




Bob Wal



Ann Bark



Charlie B.



Linda Lichty







Patricia Wark

carmina

Muriel S. Lee

Dick Helmer

Anne Haasedelen

Jim Voelker

Guatemalan Partnership Covenant Renewal

"We sign this covenant as a commitment to this partnership, trusting that God will guide us in this ministry and this journey in Christ which he has commended into our hands."

Chet Cameron

Carol Mager

Jody S. Hanson

Paul B. Horne

James A. Smith

Kelli Lewis

Jeanne Jensen

Earl Jensen

Marilyn Afdahl

Ryan Fleser

Amy Fleser

Scott Martin

Guatemalan Partnership Covenant Renewal

"We sign this covenant as a commitment to this partnership, trusting that God will guide us in this ministry and this journey in Christ which he has commended into our hands."

Mark Brandell

Marlys Brandell

Andy Leithe

Elizabeth Lee

Catharine Peregrino

Paul J. Marti

Colleen Stone

Paul G. Stone

Janet Nelson

Or Skilling

Susan J. Swanson

Kitly

Guatemalan Partnership Covenant Renewal

"We sign this covenant as a commitment to this partnership, trusting that God will guide us in this ministry and this journey in Christ which he has commended into our hands."

Juan Esteban

Virginia Pomales

Nancy Hill

Debbie Lewis

Karen Walter

Barbara S. Huber

Patricia Will

Kathy Kuehn

Guatemalan Partnership Covenant Renewal

"We sign this covenant as a commitment to this partnership, trusting that God will guide us in this ministry and this journey in Christ which he has commended into our hands."

Lisa Wolf

Paula Injira

Solveig Pearson

Jisa Sampson

Dianna Austin

Sicke Hede

Scott Lehigh

Brian Lee

W. O. R. O. O.

Linda Judge

Steve Gump

Guatemalan Partnership Covenant Renewal

"We sign this covenant as a commitment to this partnership, trusting that God will guide us in this ministry and this journey in Christ which he has commended into our hands."

Diace Lind

Scott DeWitt

Lianne O'Kanski

Craig Tigerman

Sophie Shabky

Megan Suabsung

Lee Nelson

Eric Parsons

~~John~~
Sean Davis

Janell D Embretson

Kathryn Jenkins