



Mission in the World

Companion Diocese relationships are about building mutually transformative, long-lasting friendships through the sharing of faith, prayers and resources.

We are all missionaries of the Diocese of Texas, and are committed to being united together in proclaiming the Good News of God in Christ.

Will you join us as we enter into mission with our sisters and brothers across the Anglican Communion?

A Call to Partnership!

Calling all big parishes, small missions and everyone in between:

You are invited to begin a mutual discernment process with a partner parish in another part of the globe!

Partnerships engage parishes in

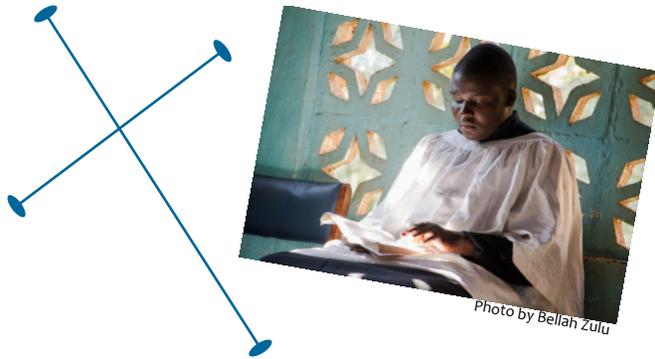
- Praying for one another
- Joining one another in mission and ministry projects
- Providing mutual opportunities for learning a new culture and language
- Joint pilgrimages

Ready to explore?

Contact:

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To Find Out More:

Visit the World Mission Board Online:

www.epicenter.org/get-involved/world-mission/

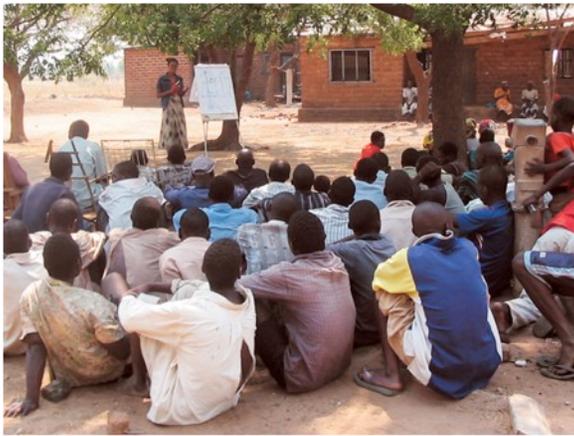
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DIOCESE OF TEXAS COMPANION DIOCESES: Southern Malawi Costa Rica North Dakota





Southern Malawi

Our relationship with Malawi extends back to the 1960s, when motorbikes were provided for priests to travel to worship centers in rural areas. Today, our partnership is based upon a 2010 companion diocese agreement with the Anglican Diocese of Southern Malawi. We have partnered with the Malawian church to increase its capacity for governance and sustainability. Their diocese now has a professional administrator, a laity-directed Development Board to oversee and administer projects and a Development Officer to direct projects. Individual parishes from Texas have contributed to the construction of water wells and to feeding programs for orphans and seniors, as well as providing medical supplies, children's clothing, books for libraries and other items. Warm Heart International, Inc., a 501(c)(3) charity at St. David's Austin, conducts pilgrimages to Malawi and supports feeding programs and a water well ministry.

Malawi is one of the three poorest countries in Africa, and is among the world's most densely populated and least developed countries. Malawi suffers from food, water and fuel shortages. HIV/AIDS is prevalent. Medical care is substandard, and there are more Malawian-trained physicians in the UK than in Malawi. We are invited to partner with the people of Malawi to change their situation and to see Christ in action.

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Costa Rica

La Iglesia Episcopal Costarricense of the Anglican Church of Central America is home to seventeen congregations scattered mainly in the central valley and Caribbean coast. The Caribbean coast, which has been largely English-speaking and Afro-Caribbean in culture and ethnicity is fast giving way to a continuing influx of migrating Costa Ricans and immigrant Nicaraguans who are more ethnically Spanish and mestizo in lineage, culture and language. The diocese is planting churches, opening whole-child learning and wellness centers in impoverished communities, expanding an HIV/AIDS women's co-op, partnering with coffee producers, and much more. The Diocese House in San Jose is home to 30-bed guest accommodations, a full-time American Companion Officer and is close to language schools.

The Diocese of Costa Rica understands itself to be a missionary church and lays hands on big ideas, expecting the Spirit to join in miraculous ways. The diocese focuses primarily in three areas: 1) expansion of the church, 2) Christian education and theological reflection, and 3) Christian testimony through service. This is an exciting time of growth and new fellowships; the diocese looks to partner with parishes around the Diocese of Texas.

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North Dakota

In the state of North Dakota, there are six Native American reservations, each with a sizable Episcopal population. Standing Rock, the largest reservation, is comprised primarily of Dakota and Lakota Sioux people, and is home to Camp Gabriel, an Episcopal youth camp. There are also several majority Anglo congregations in North Dakota, with members from a wide range of socioeconomic backgrounds, as well as a vibrant Sudanese-American community.

While parts of the state are thriving under the current economic boom, many North Dakotans live far below the poverty line, and in some of the poorest counties in the United States. The North Dakotan Episcopalians who met with representatives of the Diocese of Texas expressed a strong desire to partner in ministry with our diocese to form deep relationships and lasting partnerships. Many spoke of the potential for transformative experiences awaiting Texan visitors to the reservations of North Dakota, and many hoped also to come to the Diocese of Texas to share in our ministries. We hope that the people of our two dioceses can learn from one another, and work alongside each other to do the work of Christ's Gospel.

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