COVENANT IN PARTNERSHIP
BETWEEN
THE MISSOURI MID SOUTH CONFERENCE OF THE
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST (USA)
AND
THE NORTH-EASTERN REGIONAL MISSION COUNCIL
OF THE
UNITED CHURCH IN JAMAICA AND THE CAYMAN ISLANDS

We, the representatives of the Missouri Mid South Conference, United Church of Christ (USA), and The North-Eastern Regional Mission Council and the Discovery Bay and St. Andrew Charges of the United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands, agree to celebrate the following Covenant of Partnership in Mission which originally commenced June 1992 and remained in effect until June 1995. Following an evaluation of the partnership in 1995, all partners had the opportunity to negotiate and extend the covenant. In February 1995, all partners evaluated and renegotiated this covenant partnership through June 1998. Once again, on June 4, 1998, all partners evaluated and renegotiated the covenant partnership to continue through June, 2001. A further evaluation was done and the covenant partnership renegotiated in October 2008 to continue through October 2011.

We continue to seek a partnership that will offer diverse opportunities for the participation of the members of our respective denominations. We seek a mission that involves trust and respect born of mutual knowing. Our partnership in mission will be a relationship building process to establish global friendships in Christ. We will strive to learn of one another's spiritual gifts. We will witness and give voice to our ministry through Jesus Christ.

We commit ourselves to this global partnership in mission which will be carried out through the following programme categories:

1. MISSION MINISTRY/FRIENDSHIP BUILDING: We commit ourselves to a model of ministry based upon the teaching of Jesus Christ. Our collaboration in mission shall involve common work conducted among friends and partners. All partners shall offer a spirit of ministry that:

    a. Is based upon our understanding that we are a part of the body of Jesus Christ, called to share the Gospel, to offer hope and goodwill, and to seek justice and peace in our world.
    b. Calls us to be spiritual friends who share joys and struggles, who know one another's spiritual gifts, and who witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ in ways that empower each other's denominations.
    c. Calls us to share faith with one another through prayer, sacrament and service so that we are a united people being guided by the grace of God and not merely our own intentions.
    d. Calls us to be attentive to one another's hopes, dreams and expectations so that each denomination is prepared to serve in a spirit of grace and truth.

2. MUTUAL REPRESENTATIONS: Mutual collaboration in ministry depends upon our knowledge of one another's communities of faith. As an on-going part of our witness and work, each denomination will extend to the other regular opportunities to attend significant meetings. Possibilities include: Synod/Council/Conference Meetings, pastors' retreats, youth gatherings, women's meetings, intergenerational gatherings or other events that allow the members of both partner denominations to grow in mutual trust and understanding. Attendance at appropriate meetings shall be negotiated through dialogue by officials of both denominations. Financial arrangements shall be determined through dialogue between both partners.

3. EDUCATIONAL INTERCHANGES: A regular process of education shall be offered for members of both churches. All educational ministries shall be developed mutually. Interchanges of persons and groups will be promoted as mentioned above, as well as written and visual exchanges, in order to educate the members of our churches as well as to deepen and enrich their faith and broaden their perspectives and global understandings. Educational ministries in addition to mutual representations may include, but not be limited to: shared Bible studies, shared audio and video taking of worship services and special music, written communication including pen pal programmes, clergy exchanges, exchanges of delegations, institutional relationship exchanges, liturgical renewal and work camps.

4. WORK TEAMS: In order to share personal skills and build faith and friendship relationships, work camps will be sponsored by both partners. Work camps would undertake such projects as new construction, maintenance or other projects of mutual learning. Participants to these work camps will negotiate their financial arrangements with the host church or organization. Materials needed for the project should be provided by the host partner unless otherwise previously arranged.

Witnessed in celebration, this covenant of partnership is unanimously approved for a three-year period beginning November 4, 2012, by the covenant partners, whose names are affixed below this Fourth Day of October, 2012.

Missouri Mid-South Conference

Chair, Jamaica Missouri Partnership Group

Representative of North-Eastern Mission Council

Chair, North-Eastern Partnership Group