



**Anglican Global Mission Partners**  
**North America**  
The Anglican Mission-Mobilizing Network

### **Short Term Mission Partnership Example**

A mission partnership is a kind of covenant whereby two Christian bodies recognize kindred spirits in one another and desire to assist one another in their respective mission emphases.

The focus is first on relationships -- recognizing that we are brothers and sisters in Christ, praying for one another, hearing one another's hearts about our visions for ministry and the things that make us cry, etc. Out of that grows a sense of where God is calling the other to join in advancing the mission.

#### **The Ugandan Hierarchical Model**

The Church of Uganda has many gifts to offer American congregations, and an American congregation has a lot to offer the Church of Uganda. We usually encourage an American congregation and a Ugandan diocese to "meet" and explore the potential for a partnership.

#### **Friendship Mission**

Typically, this would involve the rector and/or other clergy and several key lay leaders from the American congregation making a trip to Uganda for a Friendship Mission. The Ugandan bishop and other diocesan leaders would host the team and share their lives and how God is working in their diocese. It is a program that introduces the Americans to the key leadership of the diocese and the breadth of ministry in the diocese. The purpose of the visit is primarily to build relationships – friendships that are rooted in Christ and a common commitment to the Great Commission of Jesus. At the end of the trip, the American team and the Bishop and staff members of his choosing will 'debrief' together and begin discerning how the partnership might develop in the future.

Here is a sampling of some of the kinds of things a visiting team from the US might do in a Ugandan diocese on a Friendship Mission:

- Share with them how the diocese does evangelism, and if there is a short evangelistic outreach planned during the time they are with you, then let them attend the outreach. Even something as simple as an afternoon of preaching at a well would be very meaningful for them. If you are using the Jesus Film, let them go out with the group who is using the Jesus Film.
- Let them meet with some key pastors in your diocese and hear stories about how they go about their pastoral ministry, including the challenges and opportunities they face in their ministry.
- Let them visit a school the diocese runs and meet some of the students, as well as the Head Teacher, teachers, and administration. Assume the visitors know nothing about how education works in Uganda. Introduce them to UPE, school fees, boarding and day schools, exam systems, etc., etc.
- Do you have a diocesan training centre for lay readers and/or clergy? Let them visit the centre and meet the students and teachers.
- Do you have medical clinics? Or, is there a district hospital the diocese works with? Let them see how the diocese is engaged in health ministry. Let them tour the facilities and talk with the clinic administrator.
- What kinds of development and economic empowerment projects is the diocese involved in? Let them visit some of those projects and hear from participants and project managers.
- Are you involved in orphan or HIV/AIDS ministry? Introduce them to what you are doing in this area.
- What kinds of things are Mother's Union and the Women's Worker in the diocese doing? Let them see some adult literacy projects, vocational training projects, etc.
- What about youth ministry? If there is a way to share with them about youth ministry in the diocese, that would be very good.

And, of course, include them in worship on Sunday. You can have them all worship together at the same church, or divide them up in groups of two or three and go to several different churches in the diocese. Some visitors may even feel comfortable preaching.

### **Preaching Mission**

What typically happens next is that the American congregation invites the bishop and one or two other people of his choosing to come to the US for one to two weeks for a Preaching Mission. The Ugandan team would minister the Word of God in the congregation in a variety of ways:

- large, plenary Bible studies (daytime for those who can make it) and evening for those who work during the day (these should be several times a week, if possible)
- visit small group Bible studies/fellowships
- visit men's groups and women's groups
- an overnight with the youth
- visit Sunday school classes, etc.

It is a saturation of the American parish with the Ugandan team, giving them an opportunity to share their testimonies, their lives, and the Word of God. The aim is that at the end of their visit, they would know people in the American congregation by name and something about their lives, and the Americans in the church would know three Ugandans by name and something about their lives. The Americans would have more than a distant relationship with a public figure -- they would actually know them....such that when they hear the occasional piece of news about Uganda, they perk up inside and follow the story with interest because it may affect someone they know!

By the end of these two kinds of visits, both partners will have a strong sense from the Lord about the next steps in mission together. The idea is that because you have a compatibility with one another in the Lord that as you visit one another you will automatically assist and strengthen the other in their mission.

### **Recommended Steps: Developing a Mission Partnership**

Correspond with one another via e-mail and share some of the vital statistics about your church/diocese – church or diocese's vision and mission, number of people, number of clergy/staff, program areas of ministry, current and future goals and plans, etc.

The Ugandan Diocese should invite the rector and/or other clergy staff at the church to bring a team of 3–7 people from the US to the diocese on a "Friendship Mission." This could include the Diocesan Synod meeting, but doesn't have to.

The American church invites the Bishop and one or two other members of the diocese of his choosing to come to the US and visit the church for a ten- to fourteen-day Preaching Mission.

After these first two visits, both partners sit down together and discuss how they will mutually assist the other in the advancement of their local mission. In other words, mission planning that includes the participation of the partner is done together. The discussion of money and financial support should be saved until after the completion of the Friendship Mission and the Preaching Mission.

The Archbishop's Office for International Relations is available for consultation and logistical planning.

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