



Congregational
Partnerships

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Some ways Mennonite Church Canada congregations nourish their relationship with a chosen Witness worker or ministry partner:

Prayer

- Pray regularly for your partner: individually, in small groups, and in your worship service. Some congregations set aside a particular Sunday of the month to share news and pray, and signal this Sunday with a symbol (tropical flower, peace lamp, banner). In some cases the international partner also commits to praying for the congregation on this day.
- Ask for prayer from your partner; raise issues that your congregation is struggling with or is especially grateful for.

Communication

- Designate a contact person to receive correspondence and information from the workers or partner ministry and to share it with the congregation.
- Highlight your partner's news on your church bulletin board, in your church's newsletter or e-mail list, or make copies for church members.
- Encourage letter or e-mail writing to the partner individually or during a church activity. Make occasional phone or skype contact.
- Consider a live phone or skype link with your partner during a worship service or smaller group activity
- Send cards or notes to the partners on birthdays, anniversaries, holidays, times of illness.
- Send photos of your congregation's life, of times that you celebrate your partnership. Send your congregation's pictorial directory if you have one.
- Check your partner's blog, website, or facebook page if these are available.

Learning

"For no one can lay any foundation other than the one that has been laid; that foundation is Jesus Christ." 1 Cor. 3:11

Plan special educational/inspirational events in the congregation or beyond focusing on the country and ministry context with which you are partnered. This can be modest or wide in scope:

- A combined adult Christian education class
- Children's activities or club time
- Children's story in the worship service
- A festival or "Taste of _____" event to highlight the culture, ministry context, and the workers in the chosen ministry. This may work especially well when if a Witness worker or partnership guest can be present, or when several partner congregations can plan together. Invite other nearby congregations to the event.
- Engage Witness workers or other partners in correspondence and dialogue about some of the key issues that they face in their ministry. Discuss these issues in a small group or Sunday school. Share feedback with your partner.
- Study the same book as your partner; exchange learnings
- Advocate with the Canadian government on behalf of concerns raised by your partner ministry.

Gifts

- Send small gifts for birthdays or Christmas.
- Send symbolic gifts such as: banners, quilted wall hangings, children's pictures, homemade cards, postcards of your area with prayers written on the back. Display anything they send prominently.
- Sponsor your partner's attendance at an important international or regional church gathering.
- Facilitate your partners' ministry with needed books or AV resources
- In addition to regular support for MC Canada, make an annual pledge designated for the ongoing core support of the chosen ministry.

Face to Face Visits

- Send a group of representatives from your church to visit the ministry to establish personal relationships, get to know the context and issues of the ministry, and then report back to the congregation.
- In appropriate contexts, consider sending a young adult for an MC Canada short-term internship
- In consultation with Witness workers or international staff, arrange to host a guest(s) from the national church where you are partnered.

It's now up to you to make this list longer and even more creative!