

Expectations:

Flexibility, teamwork, good health, strong faith, sense of humor, sensitivity to cross-cultural differences, and willingness to represent your synod, conference, and congregation.

Receive an invitation from your Companion Parish and Circuit

Commit to “accompaniment” and building relationships! There ought to be no discussion of projects or money until both sides have visited each other.

Complete application by Oct. 1 to clarify your role in representing your congregation, Conference, and Synod.

Attend orientation sessions:

1. Initial Information
2. Cross-cultural 1
3. Cross-cultural 2
4. Companion Relationships
5. Pre-trip Planning

Each congregation is expected to support their representative in prayer and are encouraged to pay for the orientation time in South Africa.

Each traveler is expected to cover the cost of their airfare and to personally pay for all additional expenses, e.g. safari, and food during travel.

Secure a valid passport with necessary vaccinations, health & travel insurance, spending money, and miscellaneous expenses.



Timeline:

Sept. 2012

- Receive Letter from matched Parish
- Submit Applications
- Down payment for flight & safari
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Oct, 2012 **First Information Meeting**

- Invitation & objectives with Companions
- Goals & Expectations for trip
- Orientation w Dr. Knutson
- Review meetings with Circuit & Diocese
- Congregation's support
- Safari & personal options
- Arrangement procedure, amounts & dates

Nov, 2012 Finalize Tickets for flight

Jan, 2013 Passports & Vaccinations

Feb, 2013 Cross-cultural Orientation 1

Mar, 2013 Cross-cultural Orientation 2

Apr, 2013 Companion Relationships Orientn

May, 2013 Final Pre-trip Planning
Commission at Synod Assembly

June 16, 2013 Commission in Worship

PLUS:

- Meet with Conference leaders
- Meet with Synod Companion Task Force

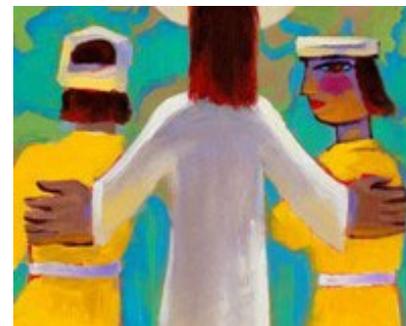
Planned Itinerary:

June 18—July 10, 2013

Depart	June 18
Johannesburg	June 19-20 (orientation)
In your Parish	June 21-July 7
Review w Bishop	July 8
Arrive home	July 10

(a safari may also be possible, e.g. July 3-5)

East Central Synod of Wisconsin 2013 TRIP to South Africa



Companion Relationship

*Walking together in
solidarity that
practices
interdependence
and mutuality.*

Companions

Being a companion:

The following are on the Application and necessary for this trip:

1. Describe your reasons for wanting to be a member of this delegation to your companion parish.
2. Our Companion relationship is grounded in “accompaniment,” i.e. walking together in solidarity that practices mutuality and interdependence. Share your ideas about examples of how this accompaniment might be expressed with your companion parish.
3. List your experience in or with other cultures, your travels outside of the United States, and your desires of how this will inform your life.
4. Are you willing to be an advocate for accompaniment & companion relationships? Suggest ways you will share this experience with others once you are home, e.g. church or community groups.
5. Provide a profile of your hobbies, skills and abilities, church involvement, and schooling and career.

Goal

This will be an interactive experience in relationships and being church in the 21st Century. This trip will draw on many resources in order to guide you and your congregation. But the outcome will be you relating and living in your matched companion parish in South Africa. Plus, different from other “mission trips” this will be a significant step to an ongoing, mutual relationship that is directly connected with our ELCA, and Synod and with your Conference.

Guide

The Wisconsin River Valley Conference has a very active relationship with the Madikwe Circuit. That relationship has opened the door and created a model for the relationship of our Synod with the Western Diocese.

Details

Synod website:

www.ecsw.org

To learn about the ELCA Companion Synod Program: www.elca.org
search: companion synod

See: Companion Synod Handbook
Companion Synod Profiles

Synod's Procedure

Receiving an invitation:

Those going on this trip must be invited and the details of the trip clarified with their companion Parish:

- Purpose of the trip.
- Goals or objectives you hope to meet
- Goals or objectives your companions hope to meet
- How these goals will be achieved
- Details on accommodations, food, lodging, and financial arrangements
- How the trip will develop your companion relationship.

Clarify expectations:

Before securing your flight, determine the following with your companion parish:

- How many people can participate?
- How long a visit is welcome?
- When is a good time of year to visit?
- Is the companion parish able to provide accommodations, food, and transportation during the visit?
- Has the Circuit Dean and Chair and the Diocesan Bishop been informed and will they be able to be included in the visit?

Inform all levels:

Throughout the process inform the following and copy them on all correspondence:

- Conference & Circuit Deans
- Bishops
- ELCA & ELCSA leaders