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## **MISSION PARTNERS**

Mission Partners are congregations which are new mission starts, developing worshipping communities, or congregation is some renewal process with the synod and the ELCA where they need support. Existing congregations can partner with these new or renewing mission congregations to lend their support. Mission Partner congregations primarily show support by giving one time, or monthly financial gifts (many use noisy offerings). In addition, mission partners show support by:

- Exchanging visits and or the pastors exchanging pulpits
- Doing acts of service together
- Sending letters and prayers of support

There could be other creative ways that congregations are Mission Partners. They can be creative and innovative.

## **Story**

Christ the King in Gladwin started as a "50 More in '84" mission congregation. Many congregations in the Bay Conference agreed to be Mission Partners. That included regular financial support, plus a major gift from Trinity, Midland to purchase the parsonage for the mission developer pastor Roger Hardy. Mission Partner congregations also did the neighborhood canvassing through Gladwin County as the mission got started. Mission Partners helped the congregation purchase an old building and renovate it in 1985. The church treasured in those early days said, "Some days we did not know where the money was going to come from to pay our pastor that week, and I would go to the mail box and there would be a check from one of our Mission Partners, and it made all the difference."

In 1986 the congregation became an official congregation of the church. In 1990 they built their current facility, and in 1994 they became totally self-sustaining as a congregation. The congregation affirms that partnerships with the synod, the ELCA, and Mission Partners, along with many prayers, were what helped the congregation grow. They have made it a permanent policy of the congregation to always be Mission Partners to pass on the goodness and generosity that helped them get started. Since 1994 the congregation has been partners with 5 mission congregations, and was the first to support the North Ottawa (Grand Haven – Spring Lake) Worshipping Community, our newest Mission Partner.