

BRAINSTORMING IDEAS FOR BUILDING THE RELATIONSHIP OF THE GLACIAL
RIDGE CONFERENCE OF THE SOUTHWEST MINNESOTA SYNOD OF THE ELCA AND
THE ESHOWE CIRCUIT OF THE SOUTH EASTERN DIOCESE OF THE EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH OF SOUTH AFRICA

November 2012

Our SW MN Synod of the ELCA is a companion to the Southeastern Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of South African. Our Glacial Ridge Conference is paired with the Eshowe Circuit of the Southeastern Diocese. A circuit is comparable to our conference. In past meetings we discussed how we could develop our relationship. Following is a seedbed of ideas by the Glacial Ridge Conference Companion Steering Committee to develop that relationship. Our intent is to both celebrate the gospel we share as well as the special gifts we bring. These are not intended to be set in stone, only a springboard for your input and discussion:

Primary Work: (6 months to 1 year)

1. Continue to develop our Companion Committee – Find several more members, especially lay people from various regions of our conference
2. Develop several informational gatherings around the conference – Pastor Dell reports on trip
-Sunday morning or Otherwise ????
3. Communication Development:
–Exchange e-mails, phone numbers, and addresses of Dean, Pastors, and leaders of Circuit/
Conferences
-Facebook pages – Youth
-Online phone calls at ministerial meetings (It would be about 4:00pm their time)
-Web pages (Synod or churches) – Video tape services to be played on website
4. Develop a prayer chain where churches can pray for specific parishes and their pastors. This can be developed by getting a list of parishes and e-mailing the prayer directives out each month to be used on the first Sunday of the month and be printed in the bulletin or newsletter
5. Plan a partnership Sunday (Uhambisano Sunday – “Walking Together”)
6. Continue to support Lungilie Nyathikazi financially as HIV/AIDS educator

Secondary Work: (1 – 3 years)

1. Plan for a visit with representatives from our conference to travel to South Africa or host a group from the Eshowe Circuit.

(over)

2. Develop at least one or two projects that we can work toward. Following are possible projects. Some are projects that other conferences have pursued:

- Support specific children in paying for education
- Youth Event
- Youth Trip/Choir trip
- Partnering Congregations here with Parishes there
- Developing a garden or small animal project
- Develop a program to supplement Southeastern Diocese Dean's traveling expense
- other????

NOTE: The program established should meet these two basic standards:

- A.** Consider the 5 Values of Accompaniment set out by the ELCA Companion Synod Committee (mutuality, vulnerability, mutual empowerment, inclusivity, and sustainability)
1. Mutuality –
 - a. attending to structures and procedures
 2. Vulnerability –
 - a. as sinners we will make mistakes. We will be honest about errors and learn from them
 3. Inclusivity –
 - a. We will include a variety of people from our synods in our shared work
 4. Sustainability
 - a. we seek to develop plans and projects for the long haul, that will mutually benefit ministry for both companions
 5. Mutual Empowerment.
 - a. When we not only share our gifts but grow capacity with our partners the shared ministry will have greater impact
- B.** Must work with the leadership of the Eshowe Circuit so the project is by their direction and request. That would include working with Dean Mandla Ndawonde, the circuit companion committee, and/or the Eshowe Circuit Council (if there is no companion committee).

Glacial Ridge Conference Companion Synod Committee

Pastor Jackie Harvestine, Dave Taffe, Helen Ann Hoverud, Pastor Dell B. Sanderson

YOU MAY SEE MORE PICTURES OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN TRIP ON OUR GLACIAL RIDGE WEBSITE AT <http://glacialridgeconference.com/>