

GLOBAL MISSION COMMISSION ANNUAL REPORT

Companion Relationships and Mission Circles - The Global Mission Commission continues its discernment regarding whether the Diocese should enter into new companion relationships with other dioceses. Many of our parishes and other worshipping communities are engaged in deep relationships with parishes outside the United States in many different countries, including Haiti, Nicaragua, Honduras, Cuba, Tanzania, and elsewhere. Many of these relationships have been nurtured for years through prayer, visits, and mutual support; others are in their infancy. The Commission is exploring the idea of Mission Circles to help solidify these relationships, to communicate their work throughout the Diocese, and to encourage others to join or form new relationships. We encourage you to reach out to the Commission and tell the story of your relationship. You may contact Chair, Terry Franzén at terryfranzen@gmail.com.

Global Episcopal Mission Network (“GEMN”) - The Diocese continues to be an active member of GEMN, with Gini Peterson from St. Mathew’s, Snellville, serving on the GEMN Board and participating with her husband Reid in the annual conference in Puerto Rico. We hope others in the Diocese will attend the 2017 conference scheduled for May 10-12, at Camp McDowell, Alabama. Check the GEMN website for registration and more information. www.gemn.org

Annual Conference - The Commission held one of its most successful annual conferences in April, 2016, at St. Luke’s. Bishop Rob opened the conference by sharing his perspective on the importance of global mission in our Diocese. Diverse speakers from around the country presented workshops throughout the day regarding Asset Building, the Sustainable Development Goals, planning a short term mission trip, and sharing relationships in particular countries, among other topics. The conference celebrated the ministry of Sandra and Martin McCann from St. Thomas, Columbus, by hearing more about their work in Central Tanganyika and closing with a reception in their honor. Stay tuned for news of the 2017 conference.

Reading Camp - Finally, the Commission continues to support the work of the Reading Camp at St. Mathew’s, Snellville, and the efforts to expand the summer reading camps to other locations throughout the Diocese. The goal of the camp is to increase the reading skills of students who are below grade level. The camp has been very successful in raising reading levels in one short week of reading and fun. For more information about starting a camp at your parish, or sending kids to St. Mathew’s, contact Gini Peterson at ginireid@bellsouth.net.

Increased Mission Communication - The Commission seeks to increase communication about the global work and relationships of our communities throughout the Diocese in order to celebrate those relationships and encourage others to join or start new relationships. The Commission started a separate FaceBook page in 2016 and anticipates major revisions to its webpages in 2017. Please send news and photos of your global relationships to Janet Livingston at janet@thelivingstongroup.com and “like us” on FaceBook.