

Mission Partner Covenant

Mission Partners:

Mission Partners are ELCA congregations linked together in dynamic relationships to empower and expand both partners' mission outreach. Mission Partners utilize the Accompaniment Model, walking together in solidarity, practicing interdependence and mutuality. Gifts, resources, and experiences are shared with mutual advice and caution to deepen and expand all efforts within God's Mission.

Through supportive relationships—*Prayer, Presence, and Presents*—these congregations share in the excitement of proclaiming God's love. They understand that God has blessed them to be blessings for others, and to that end, they work together to:

- Share—and lift up in prayer—the joys and concerns of the other,
- Offer spiritual and emotional encouragement,
- Actively share the time and skills of their members for specific projects,
- Provide tangible items for ministry, in-kind gifts, such as Sunday school materials, office supplies and equipment, space, and donations.
- Give financial gifts that may help acquire musicians, office and worship space, signage, brochures, program materials, or land, staffing.

Church on the Street's Mission

Every human being, regardless of whether they are housed or un-housed, deserves the opportunity to worship. As a SAWC (Synodically Authorized Worshiping Community) of the ELCA, we, Church on the Street, will provide a ministry with folks struggling with homelessness and poverty in the community of Sioux Falls, SD.

As we build a faith community where God's people gather to seek healing, seek the Word, seek spiritual fulfillment and Christian community, we will build relationships as God did through listening, sitting in quiet, asking questions, being present and consistent, showing compassion, and living into the reality in which life is led. Through the good, the bad, the beautiful, and the ugly- we show up.

Church on the Street strives to build a Christ-Centered Community, meeting the spiritual needs of those we encounter. We will work alongside churches, congregations, and organizations. We will seek to provide connection, listening, consistency, and understanding that whatever has or will happen; we are whole and loved by God.

To participate in God's mission, Church on the Street will carry out Christ's Great Commission by reaching out to all people. Christ's body will be the walls of Church on the Street. As Church on the street is not a "housed" structure, it will move to suit people's needs. After all, the people are the Church. It will be subject to the discipline of the ELCA and will work side by side with ecumenical partners. It will serve in response to God's love to meet human needs, advocating dignity, standing with the poor and powerless while proclaiming the Word through God's love, prayer, witness, justice, and service.

As we sit with, listen, and form community among un-housed men and women on the streets, we will build relationships. We will direct people to local resources that can meet immediate needs, such as food and shelter. We will work closely with outreach organizations and local churches to meet people at their point of need, and attempt to love and serve as we do. We will lift up ministries that bubble up in a grassroots way that is meaningful and helpful. In doing so, share a powerful Gospel message. Through this, we will watch the healing, re-building, and transformation of God's work.

Please consider what this means as we venture into this covenant of ministry together.

Mission Partner Covenant Agreement:

(Name of Mission Partners offering support)

And

CHURCH ON THE STREET

We pledge to work together for God's Mission in the world and see God's work flourish in both of our communities. As the community of faith receiving support, we pledge to utilize the gifts that are offered in faithfulness to the mission of Christ and with good stewardship. We pledge to extend the hand of welcome to our mission partners and founders and to communicate regularly, informing them of the joys and sorrows of this new ministry. We pledge to pray for our partners and founders and to celebrate and acknowledge their gifts within and beyond our own faith community.

We Specifically pledge to:

Signed: _____ REBEL HURD, CHURCH ON THE STREET
(Signature and printed name of representative of community receiving support)

We pledge to work together for the sake of God's Mission in the world and to see God's work flourish in both of our communities.

As the community of faith offering support, we pledge to provide gifts with joy and celebrate what God is doing among our brothers and sisters at our partnership ministry. We will seek ways to deepen our relationship through worship and prayer and discover how our lives can be blessed by our partners in mission.

At this time, we plan to specifically offer the following gifts for (date/period) _____

Gifts of time or talent: _____

Gifts of space or equipment: _____

Financial gifts: _____

And most importantly, we pledge to offer the gifts of prayer and encouragement to our partners in ministry.

Signed: _____
(Signature and printed name of representative of community offering support)

(NOTE: Please make three Copies of this agreement: one for each of the two partner communities and one sent to the Director of Evangelical Mission for the South Dakota Synod, ELCA, 2001 S.Summit Ave., Sioux Falls, SD 57197 Questions? Rebel Hurd, COTS C/O First Lutheran Church, 327 S. Dakota Avenue, Sioux Falls, SD 57104. Call Rebel at 605-759-7869 with questions. Thank you!