

Dear Rector and Vestry Wardens:

Since October 2004, the Diocese of Central Pennsylvania has enjoyed a supportive and enlightening companionship with the Diocese of Sao Paulo. As a result, many in our diocese who have made the effort to participate in this companionship have grown in their knowledge of the Church Universal and most especially of the Anglican Church in Brazil.

In October 2010, the resolution passed by our convention in 2004 to establish this companionship will expire.

Bishop Baxter and your diocesan Partners in Mission Commission wishes to survey all parishes in our diocese to determine whether you desire to continue this companionship. Some of our parishes have only recently begun to feel the fruits of this companionship. Is it premature to end it? Some wish to enter a companionship with a diocese in another region of the world in order to bridge gaps in knowledge and understanding that have become apparent since 2003. Is it better for us to initiate a companionship with a diocese there? Some have the energy and vision to continue in companionship with the Diocese of Sao Paulo AND enter a concurrent companionship with a new diocese, thereby expanding our spirituality even more.

Companionship is NOT mission. Companionship is a symbiotic relationship, where both partners grow in friendship with one another and support one another by exchanging creative ideas and sharing knowledge gained from experience. On the other hand, gifting can be an important part of companionship. Twenty of our parishes enjoy parochial companionships with parishes in Sao Paulo, and visits, photos and gifts flow back and forth on the parochial, as well as on the diocesan, level.

Please take a few minutes as we move into 2010 to complete the enclosed survey. One option for sending in the completed questionnaire is to save the survey, also attached to this email, complete it and return as an email attachment to me at djmyers1@comcast.net. The questionnaire also will be available on the diocesan website at www.diocesepa.org, which you can again save, complete and email back. Please return your survey by March 8, 2010.

Thank you. And best wishes for a happy and blessed year.

Very truly yours,

David

David J. Myers, Chairman
Partners in Mission Commission
Episcopal Diocese of Central Pennsylvania

SURVEY

Partners in Mission Commission: Episcopal Diocese of Central Pennsylvania

Re: Relationship with our Companion Diocese (Sao Paulo) following the expiration of our companionship agreement (October 15, 2010)

1) Name of Your Parish _____

2) Your position: Rector _____; Senior Warden _____; People's Warden _____; Other _____

3) Does your parish currently have a companion parish relationship with a parish in the Diocese of Sao Paulo? Yes _____ No _____

If you answered "Yes", please go to question #4; if you answered "No," please go to question # 10

4) Do you pray for your companion parish and its rector in the "Prayers of the People" during Sunday services? Yes _____ No _____

5) Have any members of your parish visited their companion parish in the Diocese of Sao Paulo? Yes _____ No _____

6) Have any members from your Sao Paulo companion parish visited your parish? Yes _____ No _____

7) Has your parish had any involvement in the social ministries of your Brazilian companion parish? Yes _____ No _____ . If "yes" please elaborate

8) On a scale of "1" (highly beneficial) to "5" (not at all beneficial) how would you rate the importance of your parish relationship with its Sao Paulo Diocese companion parish in strengthening the life of your parish as community of involved Christians? (circle your choice).

Highly beneficial 1-----2-----3-----4-----5 not beneficial

9) Which of the following best describes your assessment of what course of action the members of your parish would like to follow over the next several years in relationship to your companion parish in the Diocese of Sao Paulo? (circle your choice)

- a. Strengthen relations between the two parishes
- b. Maintain relations between the two parishes at their present level
- c. Continue parish to parish relations but at a reduced level
- d. End the companionship with our companion parish in the Diocese of Sao Paulo

Skip questions #10 and #11, and go directly to question #12

10) Between 2004 and the present has your parish attempted to obtain a companion parish from among the parishes of the Diocese of Sao Paulo? Yes ___ No ___

11) Would you be interested in entering into a companionship relationship with a parish of the Diocese of Sao Paulo?

- ___ Yes, but only if the relationship was between this parish and a Sao Paulo companion;
- ___ Yes, and we would be interested in partnering with another parish in the Diocese of Central Pennsylvania;
- ___ No

12) The following questions are to be answered by all respondents: To refresh your memory, the companionship agreement between the Episcopal Diocese of Central Pennsylvania and the Diocese of Sao Paulo entered into force on October 15, 2004 and will be up for renegotiation in 2010. Bishop Roger Bird of the Diocese of Sao Paulo has indicated to Bishop Baxter that the Diocese of Sao Paulo would like to renew the companionship with us for a period of four years.

12)cont. On a scale of "1" (highly beneficial) to "5" (not at all beneficial) how would you rate the impact of the companionship with the Diocese of Sao Paulo Diocese in contributing to the development of the Episcopal Diocese of Central Pennsylvania as a community of globally involved Christians? (circle your choice).

Highly beneficial 1-----2-----3-----4-----5 not beneficial

13) On a scale of "1" (highly beneficial) to "5" (not at all beneficial) how would you rate the impact of the companionship with the Diocese of Sao Paulo Diocese in sensitizing Central Pennsylvania Episcopalians to the global challenges faced by the Anglican Communion? (circle your choice).

Highly beneficial 1-----2-----3-----4-----5 not beneficial

14) What about the existing companionship between the Diocese of Central Pennsylvania and the Diocese of Sao Paulo do you find most positive?

15) What about the existing companionship between the Diocese of Central Pennsylvania and the Diocese of Sao Paulo do you find least positive?

16) Which of the following positions do you favor in regard to our relationship with the Diocese of Sao Paulo when the current companionship agreement expires on October 15, 2010.

Renew the companionship for four years and look for ways to strengthen it

Renew the companionship for four years as it is, but operate it more efficiently

Move to a lower level of companionship with the Diocese of Sao Paulo over the next four years

Terminate the diocesan level companionship with the Diocese of Sao Paulo but encourage individual Central Pennsylvania Episcopal parishes to retain relationships and involvement with Sao Paulo parishes for projects that have local support

17) If the companionship with the Diocese of Sao Paulo is allowed to expire on October 15, 2010 would you advise Bishop Baxter to enter into a companionship arrangement with an Anglican Diocese in another geographic region?

Yes, if financial commitments can be held at a level no greater than those entailed in the companionship with the Diocese of Sao Paulo

Yes, but the financial commitment should be lower than those associated with the Sao Paulo Companionship (2004 – 2010).

No

18) If you answered “yes” to question 17 in which geographic region would you like the Diocese of Central Pennsylvania to find a diocesan companion? (circle your choice)

a. Africa

b. Asia

c. Australia

d. Central America/Caribbean

e. Middle East

f. Russia-Eastern Europe

g. Western Europe

d.

19) What would you like to gain/give through a companionship (either with Sao Paulo or an African diocese)?

20) Other comments

Thank you for your time and care in filling out this questionnaire. Please complete questionnaire no later than March 8, 2010. Options for sending the completed questionnaire to the Partners in Mission Commission of the Episcopal Diocese of Central Pennsylvania are described in the cover letter.