

## A COMPANION RELATIONSHIP

**PREAMBLE** This relationship is about journeying together to develop a companionship to follow Christ in His Way.

**PARTIES** The parties in this partnership are:

- The Diocese of Quebec in Canada
- The Diocese of Bujumbura of Burundi in Africa
- The Diocese of Moray Ross and Caithness in Scotland

In each Diocese the responsibility for this relationship lies primarily with the Bishop in cooperation with Diocesan Synods and appropriate committees. The Diocese of Bujumbura and the Diocese of Moray Ross and Caithness and the Diocese of Quebec will enter into a companion relationship with the following agreed vision and aims.

**VISION** We will see the truth that we belong to one another, and we need each other, as one in the body of Christ we will relate together as we are called by God in solidarity with Christ.

**MISSION** In this mission we will embrace one another as brothers and sisters in Christ and develop a Companion Relationship that is mutually practical, interdependent, supportive and transparent.

**AIMS** In this shared mission we will strive together to:

- Strengthen our relationship in the Anglican Communion
- Stimulate and encourage mission & prayer
- Consult one another concerning our mission priorities and strategy
- Evaluate the companion relationship as we journey forward together
- Increase awareness of our solidarity together in Christ
- Respect and learn each other's cultural heritage
- Enable the companion diocese to see more clearly God's mission in the world

## AGREEMENT

In accordance with the above stated vision, mission and aims the Diocese of Bujumbura & the Diocese of Moray Ross and Caithness & the Diocese of Quebec will covenant to form a companion relationship with time frame of five years starting from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_.

We accept that:

- Our Diocese embrace a companion Relationship for an initial period of five years as suggested
- Complimentary supportive structures in the three Dioceses be set up to encourage the initiation of the companion relationship to realize the ideas as suggested below
- We will evaluate our relationship as we begin together.

## COMMUNICATION

- With consistent and prayerful discussion together, we will exchange information on a regular and informative basis

## EDUCATION AND YOUNG PEOPLE

- Encourage all youth participation leading to exchange visits in the three Dioceses.

## CHURCH GROUPS AND PARISHES

- To encourage parish and church group participation
- Links between Church groups and Parishes will be encouraged
- Individual and group visits in both directions to be commended
- Encourage individual and group visits throughout the three Diocese young and old

## CONCLUSION

If our recommendations are accepted, it will be the beginning of a journey of pilgrimage, shared by our three Dioceses. For the vision to become reality, ideas must be lived, touching people in parishes, church groups and communities. We believe that the proposed Companion Relationship is an invitation to begin a journey of faith together as brothers and sisters in Christ.

**A Prayer:** Most gracious God, bless and guide Your holy church on earth; strengthen its fellowship; increase its stewardship and sustain it in mission. May the Holy Spirit govern and kindle the hearts of the people of the Anglican Communion, that in all things said and done, we may serve only Christ, crucified, risen and glorified; Christ alive and present in our day in His body the Church. May our unity come from the living out of lives, strengthened by word and sacrament, and our love for Christ that we see in each other. This we ask in Jesus' name. Amen