



Honduras Partner Church Covenant

The Covenant - Description & Pledge

The purpose of a church to church In Mission Together (IMT) partnership is to develop a **healthy relationship** between brothers and sisters in Christ across cultures through God's grace that is **transformative and inspirational** to all.

The role of the Center for Missional Outreach of the North Texas Conference is to equip, facilitate and support you and your church in developing a **collaborative partnership** which **builds strong relationships** over the long term and enables you to share in the mission and development of the United Methodist Church in Honduras (UMMH).

The goal of the Mission in Honduras is the establishment of a **self-sustaining Methodist Conference** with holistic ministries **empowering people** in their context, community and country.

The message of **1 Corinthians 12:12-31** undergirds church to church IMT partnerships. **These partnerships...**

- Represent a **sacred covenant** between two churches to support one another and participate in a spirit of **mutuality**. As with any relationship, **each participant brings God-given gifts** – whether spiritual, physical, intellectual, or material – which will be **honored and appreciated** in the covenant agreement.
- Create space for **honest and open interaction** with your partner, **carefully listening to one another** as equal parts of the Body of Christ.
- Call partners to **set aside their own agendas** and create a **shared vision** for the ministry or project together. If anything, the **ownership of the ministry or project** rests not with the North Texas church, but the Honduran church. They are the leaders called by God to nurture the church in their community. We in North Texas **are “working ourselves out of a job,” seeking neither credit nor control**, and all partners are sharing in the blessing of a job well done together!
- Invite partners to focus not simply on the task at hand, but on the more significant impact of building strong relationships and **empowering local people** to improve their lives and develop their church.
- Follow the iron rule: **never do for others what they can do for themselves**. We gladly **serve each other** as Christ has served us, with **humility, love and encouragement**, building a strong foundation for the ministry together.
- Require **mutual accountability and transparency** through **patiently engaging with one another**. This process enables the partners to span language and culture **through God's guidance**.
- Focus on **Asset-Based Community Development (ABCD)**, which emphasizes the assets of a community and builds upon them. Rather than seeing our churches and communities for what they are lacking, we open our eyes to **the ways God has blessed each place and each people** with goodness, vitality and fruitfulness. It may be in the place itself, in the stories that it contains, in the webs of relationships that knit it together, or in areas yet to be discovered.

Partners

_____ United Methodist Church	_____ United Methodist Church
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in _____ town, _____ state, USA	in _____ town, of Honduras
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Communication

Name of persons with main responsibility for communication and contact information

United States

Honduras

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Communication Covenant

1. Quarterly Update: Each partner church will prepare a paragraph describing how God is moving in their congregation, district, conference, and/or **Mission**. For example, share about baptisms, a new children's program or outreach success. This is an opportunity to **share inspiring stories of ministry with one another**. Send your quarterly update to Rev. Andy Lewis, UMMH IMT Coordinator, at lewis@ntcumc.org. He will translate it and forward it to your partner in Honduras. In return, you will receive a quarterly update from your partner via the UMMH IMT Coordinator.

2. Technology: During each quarter, connect at least once with your partner church via Facebook or WhatsApp. Use the "In Mission Together" group page on FB or download the WhatsApp app on your phone and video chat. Most of the church leaders in Honduras are able to use WhatsApp. Video chat is a great way to connect and even welcome folks from your partner church into a Bible study or worship service.

3. Travel to Honduras: It is not required, but please consider sending a team during the covenant agreement time period to pray with your partner, learn about their culture and do ministry together. You will have the opportunity to **build relationships and trust with one another**, experiencing a transformational experience in which you walk in each other's shoes for a few days and are in solidarity with one another.

Celebration

When we communicate and possibly meet we covenant to celebrate...

- what God has done and is doing in each other's church and community life
- each other's gifts, insights and faith stories
- each other's cultural and spiritual heritage
- hospitality, mutual trust and friendship

Prayer

We covenant to be in prayer for one another...

- in worship services, especially after each quarterly update (see above)
- in one or more small groups in each church as often as they meet
- for upcoming events and projects
- for joys and concerns we share with one another

Learning Opportunities

We covenant to listen to one another and learn from one another as we...

- share cultural heritage and historical development
- share faith stories
- study the Bible and worship
- take time for fun, play, recreation and personal conversations

- participate in practical work and ministry with others.

Finances

We covenant to make the following financial commitment...

US Based Partner Church(s)	Honduras Partner Church
\$ _____ per year towards the church partnership** Important: choose ¼ support @ \$900 per year, ½ support @ \$1800 per year, or full support @ \$3600 per year.	_____ per month towards the pastor's stipend and church programs. Also, list all contributions – food, clothing or otherwise – which are non-monetary and are gifts from the heart.

***Please note that 25% of this will go to the local church in consultation with the Mission, 50% will go to UMMH pastor stipends, and 25% will go to benefit the Mission as a whole in the area of programming.*

Financial Accountability

To make our church to church partnership function in the best way we covenant to...

U.S. Partner Church	Honduras Partner Church
Pay support through official channels using the Advance number. The UMMH IMT Coordinator should be kept informed of your plans for dispersals.	Submit a full report to the Mission Superintendent of the church's finances every quarter. Do not expect funds from the U.S. partner until a full report of the church's finances for the previous year has been received by the Mission Superintendent.
Wait to disperse funds until a covenant has been signed by both partners.	Funds will not be dispersed to the local church until they have agreed with the Country Director or Mission Superintendent on the programming and project priorities to which the funds will be designated.
Refrain from giving any other type of financial gifts above and beyond the covenant partnership to local church leaders without first consulting with the UMMH IMT Coordinator.	All financial gifts should be given through official United Methodist Church channels and designated for the Honduras Mission. Local churches should not receive any financial gifts directly from the U.S. Partner Church.
Be supportive and in harmony with the overall vision of the Mission in Honduras, not limiting your focus to a single church or individual.	Work to implement the vision for the whole Mission and share any additional resources with less fortunate churches in our connection.
Pray for the visioning and planning of common projects and special programs.	Participate in planning and setting of goals for common projects and special programs.
Consider additional financial support for common projects and special programs that will strengthen the Mission in Honduras.	Develop and Present a budget for common projects and special programs with a clear statement of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ costs both specified and in total ✓ local contributions ✓ support from the partner church(es) ✓ support from other sources

Time and Binding

The commitments in this covenant are made for a 3-year time period (unless otherwise specified), beginning on the following date: _____. This covenant is not a legally binding document and can, if necessary, be dissolved by any of the partners at any time. After the first two years, the UMMH IMT Coordinator and the Honduras Country Director will perform an evaluation to inform potential discussions of continuing.

Funds Transmittal Process

In order to properly transmit funds to the United Methodist Mission in Honduras, please indicate the total amount of your partnership support on a yearly basis:

- 1/4 Support = \$900 annually** (\$75 per month)
 1/2 Support = \$1800 annually (\$150 per month)
 Full Support = \$3600 annually (\$300 per month)
 Other amount = _____

Please make your check payable to: **ADVANCE GCFA**. You must write the following on the check: **Advance # 12928A Honduras Mission, IMT Partnership with _____** (name of your partner church). Your church and Conference will be credited for these gifts.

Mail check to:

The Advance
 458 Ponce De Leon Ave., NE
 Atlanta, GA 30308

Please indicate how frequently you will submit your support: monthly quarterly biannually annually

U.S. Partner Information

U.S. Partner Church _____
 Address (Street or P. O. Box) _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Telephone: _____ E-Mail: _____

Signing

We thank God for one another and are "confident of this, that the one who began a good work among [us] will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ." Phil 1:6

U.S. Church	Honduran Church
Senior Pastor	Senior Pastor
Mission Committee (equiv.) Chairperson	Lay Leader

IMPORTANT: Please send a copy of this signed covenant by email or by post to the
 UMMH IMT Coordinator, Rev. Andy Lewis, as follows:
 500 Maplelawn Dr., Plano, Texas 75075; lewis@ntcumc.org; 972-526-5112