



COMPANION CONGREGATION PARTNERSHIP COVENANT

What is a partnership?

The partnership is made by two churches, one church from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America in the United States and one church from the Iglesia Luterana Agustina de Guatemala. In this case, ILA Milagro de Dios, are starting a partnership with “Peace Lutheran Church” of the ELCA.

The partnership is a relationship based in the love of Christ. Communication and understanding of each other are important parts of the relationship.

The most important part of the partnership between the two churches, is Christ, who calls us into relationships of mutual love and respect. The members of the two churches must love each other. “For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ If, however, you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another.” (Galatians 5:14-15)

This means that the members of the two churches, should:

- *Have mutual respect: Peace Lutheran Church cannot ask or obligate the ILA Milagro de Dios, to do something that the members cannot do or do not wish to do. And the ILA Milagro de Dios, cannot ask or obligate Peace Lutheran Church to do something that the members of those churches cannot do or do not wish to do.*
- *Strive for mutual understanding: All the congregations need to recognize that their partners are from different countries and have different cultures and customs.*
- *Communicate frequently: All the parts should strive to get to know each other and develop a relationship based in God, sharing their joys, their sorrows, and the activities of each church.*
- *Be willing to understand one another in order to create a relationship of friendship in Christ that is long lasting.*

The partnership is a relationship of commitment that all two churches/ministries, involved in the partnership make.

The Peace Lutheran Church commit to:

- Accompany the ILA Milagro de Dios, in the walk of Christ. This means that:
 - ✘ The members of Peace Lutheran Church will pray for all the members of ILA Milagro de Dios.
 - ✘ The members of Peace Lutheran Church will visit every year or every other year, if possible, the members of ILA Milagro de Dios.
 - ✘ The members of Peace Lutheran Church will support the members of the ILA Milagro de Dios in a material way to the best of their ability, with the condition that the aid will be for the common benefit.
 - ✘ The members of Peace Lutheran Church will write to members of the ILA Milagro de Dios a letter at least every three months.

- This commitment of the partnership is realized for a period of three (3) years
 - ✘ The partnership can be renewed after three (3) years depending on the capability of Peace Lutheran Church of sending people in order to visit the members of the ILA Milagro de Dios.
 - ✘ The partnership can be terminated before the three (3) years have been completed depending of the circumstances arise between Peace and Milagro de Dios.
 - ✘ The partnership can be terminated by Peace Lutheran Church after the three years of commitment have been accomplished.

The ILA Milagro de Dios:

- Accompany Peace Lutheran Church in the walk of Christ. This means that:
 - ✘ They will pray for all the members of Peace Lutheran Church every Sunday.
 - ✘ They will attend to the members of Peace Lutheran Church of the to the best of their ability when they visit their community.
 - ✘ They will write to the members of Peace Lutheran Church at least one letter every three months.
 - ✘ They will not think of the members of Peace Lutheran Church as a bank, a loan institution or a beneficiary institution because this is a partnership of relationship based in Christ.

- This commitment of partnership is made for a period of three (3) years
 - ✘ The partnership can be renewed after three (3) years.
 - ✘ The partnership can be also terminated before the three years depending on the circumstances of the members of Peace Lutheran Church.
 - ✘ The partnership can be terminated when the three-year commitment is ended at church's discretion.

The two churches, ILA Milagro de Dios as part of ILAG, and Peace Lutheran Church commit to:

- ✘ Send their communications through the members of the Pastoral Team of the Iglesia Luterana Agustina de Guatemala. This will ensure that the communication and translation of the communication is delivered to both

churches in an exact and clear way. This is also in order to keep a file of the communications and to have a history of the partnership from its beginning and a documentation of how the relationship has grown with the help of God.

- ✘ The members of these Lutheran Churches commit to treat the members of the Lutheran Churches as equals, as their brothers and sisters in Christ and to not denigrate them or treat them poorly.
- ✘ The members of Peace Lutheran Church cannot force the community in need to accept a project they do not need. Peace Lutheran Church will respect the needs of the community. But if the community has a need for a project that Peace Lutheran Church support, Peace Lutheran Church can ask that the project is completed within a certain period of time.
- ✘ In the same way, if the ILA Milagro de Dios, takes on any project, it cannot obligate or demand more resources than what they have been given; instead they have to respect and accept the help that is provided to them.
- ✘ In the management of funds, the ILA Milagro de Dios, commits to be transparent and to turn in a report of how funds have been managed and to use the provided resources correctly. They commit to use the funds for the purpose for which the funds have been designated.

WE SIGN THIS COVENANT AS A COMMITMENT TO THIS PARTNERSHIP,
TRUSTING THAT GOD WILL GUIDE US IN THIS MINISTRY AND THIS
JOURNEY IN CHRIST WHICH HE HAS COMMENDED INTO OUR HANDS.
July/2025

SIGNATURES OF THE OFFICIAL REPRESENTATIVES OF EACH LUTHERAN
CHURCH/MINISTRY (ILA Milagro de Dios, and Peace Lutheran Church) AND ANY
OTHER MEMBERS WHO WISH TO SIGN.