

COMPANION+COMMUNITIES

THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF MISSOURI



“While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them.”

Luke 24:15a

+INTRODUCTION

The Diocese of Missouri embodies a variety of contexts, cultures, and communities that express the deep love of God found in Jesus Christ. From our deeply rooted rural communities to social justice-oriented urban parishes, we each offer gifts for the building up of God’s reign and opportunities for collaborative learning.

What is Companion Communities?

Companion Communities is a pairing of communities of faith that make up the Diocese of Missouri for mutual support, discipleship, and collaboration in ministry.

How long are communities paired?

Companion Communities journey with each other for two years beginning in January 2025.

Who participates in Companion Communities?

All worshipping communities, including parishes, missions, and campus ministries, are represented and invited to participate.



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The Church is in a time of transition and change. Over the last few years, we have seen the beginnings of what author and theologian Phyllis Tickle calls “the Great Emergence.” The Great Emergence envisions significant shifts in organizational structures, theological understandings, and a reorientation towards creative collaboration. In this time of transition and change in the Church and the world, being grounded in the collaborative call of Jesus to be companions one to another offers us hope and resilience for the future.

Companion+Communities is an opportunity for faith communities of all sizes within the Diocese of Missouri to learn from each other ways of discipleship, community engagement, and ministry outreach. This is not a program but a way of caring for and being companions with each other in the journey with Jesus. There is much we can learn together and much we can learn from each other.

Our companionship with one another must first and foremost be rooted in the transformative power of prayer. Jesus prayed for his disciples before sending them out, the apostles prayed before choosing one of their numbers, and we are called to pray for each other as we seek to go out into the world. The future of the Church lies not in silos or solos but in collaboration. As we strive to navigate a world in the throes of transition and change, we must walk together in the Way.



We are mindful that active participation will help weave and strengthen our relationship into a pattern of being and serving as Christ in the world where Love is the way.

+COMMITMENT

As communities of faith that comprise the Episcopal Diocese of Missouri, we recognize that companion relationship requires intentional communication and active participation by both companions regularly. We are mindful that active participation will help weave and strengthen our relationship into a pattern of being and serving as Christ in the world where Love is the way.

We therefore seek to commit to being in companionship with another community of faith within the Diocese of Missouri to deepen our connection, build bridges of understanding and learning, and seek the transformation of the Holy Spirit as we walk together.

+COVENANT

We covenant as companions along the journey with Jesus:

- To pray for each other by name each time we gather for worship.
- To discern at least one mutually agreed outreach project that allows both communities to love and serve others outside the church through the reconciling love of Jesus.
- To visit each other at least twice a year for worship and fellowship.
- To share a discipleship event (bible study, book read, formation program, etc.).
- To plan for a joint leadership retreat once a year.

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MEET OUR COMPANION COMMUNITIES!

Journey, Fulton	+	Calvary, Columbia
Grace ACC, St. Louis	+	Trinity, St. Charles
Faith CCI, Ballwin	+	St. John's, Tower Grove
All Saints & Ascension, Northwoods	+	St. Peter's, Ladue
Advent, Crestwood	+	St. Thomas, Crestwood
CSMSG, Clayton	+	St. Vincent, St. Genevieve
St. Mark's, Portland	+	Hope, Town & Country
St. Barnabas, Florissant	+	St. Timothy, Creve Coeur
St. Mark's, St. Louis	+	St. John & St. James, Sullivan
Trinity, St. James	+	Trinity, Central West End
Trinity, DeSoto	+	St. Francis, Eureka
Grace, Jeff City	+	Christ Church, Rolla
Christ Church Cathedral, St. Louis	+	Christ Church, Cape
Holy Communion, University City	+	St. Stephen's, Ferguson
Trinity, Kirksville	+	Trinity, Hannibal
Emmanuel, Webster Groves	+	St. Paul's, Carondelet
St. Martin's, Ellisville	+	Grace, Kirkwood
All Saints, Farmington	+	Holy Cross, Poplar Bluff
St. Paul's, Ironton	+	Transfiguration, Lake St. Louis
Calvary, Louisiana/St. John's, Eolia	+	St. Paul's, Sikeston
Rockwell House, St. Louis	+	ELCM, Columbia



Eternal God, your abiding Spirit has been a shepherd and a guide to your people throughout all ages. Be our companion on the road ahead. Inspire us to pray fervently, to labor diligently, and to act justly to make your love known in all the world; as your Son sent his disciples two by two as companions in the Way, send us now; that through us the world may be transformed in love and renewed in hope; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen