

APPENDIX

Objectives

1. Deepen mutual engagement, advocacy, and public witness of The United Church with partners;
2. Invite and involve the whole church in justice-living and justice-seeking in the midst of empire, and challenge intersecting systems of oppression through differentiated and coordinated activities with partners (including through critical self-reflection, shared contextual analyses, and advocacy); and
3. Facilitate mutually accountable, decolonizing spaces for ongoing collaboration with global partners that honour diverse partner voices, center global partner experiences, and de-centre decision-making.

Components:

- a) Radical Accompaniment through participation in United Church of Canada governance bodies
Partner Council participation in the meetings of the Executive of the General Council (2 appointed members of Partner Council per triennium) as corresponding members with no vote. The Partner Council's role relates directly to the Partner Council mandate to help decision-making bodies of The United Church listen to the global voice: to inform, help discern, and advise the Executive particularly concerning decisions that have implications for global partners.
- b) Radical Accompaniment through financial resource-sharing (See Appendix 4):
 - i. A 25% reduction in Mission & Service resources to Global Partner grants;
 - ii. Application of principle-based criteria and guidelines (See Appendix 5) to implement a decrease in bilateral partnerships by ~16% (from 81 partners in 2023 to 68 in 2024). In addition to guidelines of flexibility and strategic ecumenical collaboration, the principle-based criteria will continue to shape a contextual Framework of Radical Accompaniment that reflects critical presence; vibrant, actively-engaged relationships; unique window into a context or an issue; alignment of partner and United Church staff context; sources of funding; sharing of vision and goals.
 - iii. An integrated global program of relationships of Ecumenical Partners (~77%) and Civil Society and Social Change Partners (~23%), shifting from the current program of separate global regions.

Relates to Strategic Plan Activities: S1.05.001

- c) Radical Accompaniment through response in times of crisis (See Appendix 6):
In collaboration with ecumenical and civil society partners in humanitarian response and sustainable development initiatives.

Relates to Strategic Plan Activities: S1.05.001 S4.04.001

d) Radical Accompaniment through solidarity, advocacy, public engagement, and people-to-people connections (See Appendix 7) that:

- i. Deepen mutually accountable and solidarity relationships of The United Church and global partners;
- ii. Challenge intersecting forms and systems of oppression and injustice through critical self-reflection, shared contextual analyses, and advocacy, and networking; and
- iii. Enliven whole church engagement, through the inspired theological reflection, bold discipleship and daring justice of global partners, and their invitation to join them.

Relates to Strategic Plan Activities: S1.02.010, S1.03.002 S1.04.001 S1.04.002 S1.04.003

S1.05.001 S2.01.003 S4.02.001 S4.02.002 S4.02.003 S4.02.004 S4.04.001 S5.02.001

S5.02.007

e) Radical Accompaniment through global partner roundtables as mechanisms for intentional partner engagement with Strategic Plan activities (See Appendix 8) with dedicated staff, budget (beginning in 2024 with a total of \$100,000 funding external to the Mission & Service budget), and annual work plans as follows:

- i. Facilitate and support Partner Council in its role to provide ongoing direction and advice on the implementation of the Strategic Plan, the global partnership program, and as a mutual discernment space of the whole church seeking to do this transformative work. *(Relates to Strategic Plan Activities: S5.02.001, S5.02.007);*
- ii. “Mending the World” Roundtable of mutual engagement to address the global climate crisis and its many associated impacts on vulnerable population groups on different fronts, including economic justice, food security/sovereignty, militarism and violence, water rights, refugees and migration, and other interconnected issues. *(Relates to Strategic Plan Activities: S1.05.001, S1.02.010, S4.02.001, S4.02.003, S4.02.004, S4.04.001);*
- iii. Global LGBT+ Rights and Dignity Roundtable on mutual engagement to live out commitments to protect and promote gender and sexual identity as gifts of God, including through advocacy and networking. *(Relates to Strategic Plan Activities: S1.03.002, S1.03.005)*

Partner roundtables would be based on the following:

- a) Theological understanding: a methodology of mission engagement that comes from a commitment to mutuality among all mission partners. “Mutuality” here means the pursuit of goal-oriented relationships, strategic in outlook, that share a vision of God’s Mission and God’s Beloved Community among all people and creation; and
- b) Process: that calls on the engaged partners to join in seeking God’s interests for all by each rising above self-concerns in crossing humanly constructed boundaries. Mutual relationships are understood as a network of interdependent ideas, concerns, interests, groups, and individuals seeking the broader and larger goal of God’s Mission. For more detail, see Appendix 8.

- c) Objective: to deepen mutually-accountable, decolonizing engagement with partners to develop innovative practical ways of doing mission together, following Jesus's call to transform the world to manifest life in its fullness.
- d) Terms of Reference:
 - i. Timeframe: Roundtable processes to be implemented within the current Strategic Plan timeframe and through the following Strategic Planning cycle;
 - ii. Partner Council participates in oversight and design of Roundtable processes;
 - iii. Participation of all global partners, particularly partners engaged in the specific Roundtable priority;
 - iv. Full Roundtables to meet online a minimum of two times a year, with flexible, issue-specific working groups meeting more frequently as required by the task of each working group and the Roundtable work plans;
 - v. Are convened and staffed by Church in Mission staff with facilitation of Roundtable meetings to be assigned as determined by participants of each Roundtable;
 - vi. Relate directly with priorities in The United Church Strategic Plan that link with partner priorities;
 - vii. Share resources and participate in joint decision-making to advise and give direction on the allocation of shared resources;
 - viii. Recommendations and decisions of the Roundtables and their implementation are mutually accountable to United Church and partner reporting structures, as well as to the next Roundtable process.

Living into Radical Accompaniment and The United Church of Canada Strategic Plan

Radical accompaniment is also about mutual accompaniment. Ecumenical collaboration with global partners brings the possibility of shared learnings that deepen our own engagement in the strategic objectives the United Church has named for itself in its Strategic Plan 2022-25.