

# Global Mission Commission: Annual Report 2022

## **Mission Statement**

The Global Mission Commission serves compassionately as we encourage, resource, and support global mission partnerships. We strive to inspire collaboration, encourage best practices in mission, and provide mission education. Our current practices/offerings include:

- +hosting the EDOA's annual global mission conference, the 'Go Summit'
- +connecting congregations to the resources of The Episcopal Church's Global Episcopal Mission Network, the Office of Global Partnerships, and Episcopal Relief & Development
- +curating and maintaining a list of EDOA's global mission parish partnerships
- +offering funding for initiatives in our companion and partner dioceses and parish partnerships in global mission
- +providing representation on the Ministry Innovations Task Force, overseeing administration of international innovations grants

## **Active Members**

Adelia Benjamin, Ramon Betances, Grace Burton-Edwards, LaCretia Burton, Vicky Cork, Ann Fowler, Omalara Fyle-Thorpe, LaFawn Gilliam, Harry Groce, Sue Hannon, Janet Livingston, Suzanne Minarcine, Lucy Perry, Caleb Pilgrim, Deborah Silver, Lever Stewart, David Stooksbury, John Thompson-Quartey, Sally Ulrey, and Florence Wakoko.

## **Continuing Partnerships**

The Global Mission Commission continues to enjoy fruitful partnerships with Episcopal Relief and Development, the Global Episcopal Mission Network, and our companion and partner dioceses in Haiti, Cuba, and Ghana. The COVID-19 pandemic has proved to be a formidable challenge these past few years, but 2022 has seen the lifting of many restrictions on international travel and within our partner countries. We anticipate that 2023 will see a return to pre-pandemic levels of involvement and a deepening engagement with our partners as we work to meet the increased needs brought about by three years of a global public health crisis. Our partnership with the Diocese of Cape Coast, Ghana is flourishing, and we look forward to the next pilgrimage from the Diocese of Atlanta to Ghana in April, 2023. As our relationship with the Diocese of Cape Coast solidifies itself, the Global Mission Commission intends to redirect some of our focus in 2023 to the Dioceses of Haiti and Cuba, where economic turmoil and political unrest have created dire circumstances and increased need for partnership and assistance.

## **2022 Go! Summit: All Health is Global**

In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, our 2022 Go! Summit focused on the global nature of public health, its importance in development, and why what happens over there matters over here (and vice-versa). Hosted virtually in January, we had several wonderful speakers. Our keynote speaker was Dr. Carlos del Rio, an infectious disease specialist at Emory University, who spoke about the nature of global public health policy and his experiences of working with several governments and international organizations over his career. Dr. Susan Smith of the Georgia Mountain Health System spoke to us about her work as a surgeon and HIV educator in Tanzania on behalf of the Southern Baptist Convention. Our third speaker was Sean McConnell, Director of Engagement with Episcopal Relief and Development, who spoke about asset-based community development and the role health plays in the process. Overall, it was a great success,

and could not have been timelier. Our next Go! Summit will be in 2024, and planning is beginning apace.

### **Preparing For a New Future**

2022 has been a year of change for the Global Mission Commission. Vicky Cork completed her term as Chair, and Harry Groce succeeded her at the beginning of the year. The Commission thanks Vicky for her years of service in that capacity and acknowledges her continual, tireless commitment to global mission.

The Commission has taken this time of leadership change as an opportunity to look toward the future. We have spent this year focusing on strategic goals for what we can and should accomplish over the next few years. Among these goals is to expand our work within the Diocese of Atlanta itself, working with Congregational Vitality and individual parishes to help our churches make connections abroad and inspire a passion for global mission at home. We will update our webpage on the Diocesan website in order to make it a one-stop shop for information about who we are, what we do, what our partnerships look like, and how to get involved in global missions. We will also revise our committee structure in order to better involve our members, improve our responsiveness, and incorporate environmental justice and sustainable development into our practices.

Ultimately, our long-term goal is to restructure ourselves as a communications and networking hub for global mission, connecting local parishes and ministries with our companion and partner dioceses. Such a change in approach to our traditional model of direct support would leverage our finite resources to maximize the efficiency and impact of both existing and future partnerships and programs. Our aim is to establish strong, normalized relationships between parishes in the Diocese of Atlanta and our companion and partner dioceses in Haiti, Cuba, and Ghana.

Respectfully submitted,



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