Muster für einen Partnerschaftsvertrag

**Partnership Agreement** between

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

and the church circuit of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Hanover.

This agreement serves to confirm that the two circuits \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ are committed to maintain a partnership relationship with each other and to develop this relationship further.

### Foundation

Our partnership expresses the fact that as Christians we belong to one body. Furthermore, it shall bear testimony to the fact that we belong together in the “Communion of Saints” as expressed in the Apostles’ Creed.

For the members of the Body of Christ it is true that

* we are equal and interdependent;
* we are responsible for each other;
* we are called and commissioned to serve each other according to the gift he or she has received as stewards of the grace of God (1 Peter 4, 10),
* we live by our calling to be one in Christ for the sake for the world, following Jesus’ example to be one with God (John 17,21-23).
* It is the foundation of our partnership that we are equal and belong together as Christians.

## Objectives

Our partnership shall make the “Communion of Saints” visible. Therefore, we   
want to:

* know from each other so that we take part in the life of our sisters and brothers,
* pray for each other; continuous intercessions for each other shall be the foundation of our partnership,
* meet each other and come to know each other better through mutual visitations,
* learn from each other; our partnership shall serve to widen our horizon and to learn to see the world as well and the church with the eyes of the partner,
* serve each other; we shall take responsibility for each other and share our resources and our gifts,
* grow together in the knowledge of God and of each other.

The partnership shall give new ideas and open new ways to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ. We want to be an authentic witness to God’s love and win people for God.

## Steps of implementation

The objectives of our partnership shall be implemented especially by

* exchange of information
* worship services
* partnership Sundays
* mutual visits and exchange of delegations (in a two-year period)
* exchange programmes
* public relations work for partnership

## Organisation

The church circuits define the place and importance of partnership according to their own congregational and circuit structures.

Both partners convene partnership committees according to the structures of the church.

* Every committee has at least three elected officers: a chairperson, a   
  treasurer and a secretary.
* The committees work closely together with the leadership of the circuit to organize, finance and to provide the vision for the daily work of the   
  partnership.
* The committees will inform one another in writing at least once every six months about developments within their partnership work. They will also include the respective church circuits in the communication about their work.

## Termination of Partnership

This partnership agreement is intended to serve for an unlimited time period.

In the knowledge that a partnership is continuously growing and changing this agreement shall be revised and if necessary, altered at least every six years.

If a partner decides to terminate this agreement, notice shall be given six months prior in advance.

Signed by:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ on the :\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ at:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

On behalf of: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Witnessed by: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ on the: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ at: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Signed by:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ on the :\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ at:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

On behalf of: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Witnessed by: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ on the: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ at: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_