**Become a Local Mission Partner**

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Description automatically generated with low confidenceThe idea of partnership comes from a nautical term that refers to the timbers used to support the mast of a sailboat where it enters the deck. The partner must be secure for the boat to function properly. When winds pick up it is the partner that stabilizes the mast and makes sure the deck holds firm. In the Virginia Synod, mission partners exist for a very similar reason – to make one another stronger; true partnership blesses both ministries.

**Three Principles of Mission Partnership**

Local mission partnership encourages ministries to build relationships with each other around three principles:

* **Prayer**: Strengthen the bonds of partnership by regularly praying for one another.
* **Presence**: Bless each other with your ministry stories and walk together whenever possible.
* **Resources**: Discover how sharing resources, wisdom, and experience can unlock new ministry opportunities.

**Expand Your Ministry’s Impact**

Local mission partnership provides ways for your congregation to be “hands on” with the mission beyond your community. As a local ministry partner, you are making God’s love known beyond the walls of your congregation.

Your congregation can be a part of a rewarding partnership now! Send an email to the Rev. John Wertz, Jr. ([wertz@vasynod.org](mailto:wertz@vasynod.org)) to learn about possible partnerships or download the **Becoming a Local Mission Partner Toolkit** at:

<https://www.vasynod.org/ministries/mission-partners/>

**Mission Partner Highlight:**

**Micah Street Church**

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Micah Street Church is a partnership between the Virginia Synod, the ELCA Churchwide organization, and Micah Ecumenical Ministries in Fredericksburg ([www.dolovewalk.net](file:///C:\Users\johnw\Downloads\www.dolovewalk.net)) which is supported by nine different local congregations.

You can learn more about Micah Street Church on the Micah Ecumenical Ministries Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/micahfredericksburg>

For specific ways you can connect with Micah Street Church or to become a local mission partner, email Pastor John Wertz, Virginia Synod Director for Evangelical Mission: [wertz@vasynod.org](file:///C:\Users\johnw\Documents\DEM%20Files\VA%20Synod\Mission%20Table\Mission%20Partner%20Program\wertz@vasynod.org).

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