**Sister Church Guiding Principles**

Sister Church Ministry is a relationship of mission among one or more sister churches, the church planter, and the emerging church in its geographical and cultural context.

**This covenant is based in a relationship that:**

* Focuses on ministry rather than producing results.
* Promotes and inspires proper connections to build relationships among the sister churches, WDC and the emerging congregation.
* Accompanies and nurtures the ministry of the church planter and the emerging congregation.
* Builds intercultural and missional bridges.
* Acknowledges, embraces, learns about, and promotes cultural diversity and its dynamics as a gift.
* Lives in a covenant relationship.
* Discerns together God’s work and mission in the community.
* Cultivates holistic relationships between sister churches and the emerging congregation to learn from each other as equals.
* Shares information of what God is doing in the cities and other places where new church planting initiatives exist.
* Promotes a Christian Anabaptist Mennonite identity.

**Relationships are fostered by:**

* Exchanging visits where worship happens in the context of cultural diversity.
* Sharing information about congregational life.
* Keeping each congregation visible through different media.
* Cultivating hospitality.
* Generating spaces for cooperation.
* Praying for the emerging church, the church planter, and the sister congregations.
* Understanding that all parties involved will benefit equally from the relationship.

Church Planting Commission

5/3/2017