

Companion Dioceses of Ecuador Central and Ecuador Litoral
Report to the 235th Diocesan Convention

Be it resolved, That having enjoyed a 10-year companion relationship with the Diocese of Ecuador Central, we hereby conclude that relationship with gratitude to God for the ministry we have shared; and be it Further resolved, That we express our deep appreciation to The Rt. Rev. Victor Scantlebury, Acting Bishop, and all the clergy and people of Ecuador Central for their true companionship through the years, pledging our continued friendship with prayers for the important and challenging ministry which is their call in that place; and be it Further resolved, That we renew our relationship with the Diocese of Ecuador Litoral as a full companion relationship for the next three years.

SUBMITTED BY: The Rev. Pedro Guzman, chair of the Companion Diocese Committee on behalf of its full membership.

Statement in Support of Resolution by Proposers:

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven (Ecclesiastes 3:1). For the past 10 years we have shared a companion relationship with the Diocese of Ecuador Central that has spanned the succession of three bishops and included numerous meaningful projects and pilgrimages that have enriched the lives of clergy and people of all ages within both our dioceses. Recognizing that we have now been engaged in this relationship a full year longer than the one we previously enjoyed in El Salvador, we feel the time has come to further focus our work. This sense is only heightened as we acknowledge that we are now working with a budget that has been reduced by 60% from the time our relationship began.

In 2009 we also began a prayer partnership with the Diocese of Ecuador Litoral. In September of 2012 we began visits and projects reflective of a full companion relationship. For the last 6 years this relationship has borne much fruit. We continue to visit with regularity and are currently engaged in a number of projects, including a new ministry to provide housing and spiritual support to the growing numbers of Venezuelan refugees seeking asylum in Ecuador. In addition to helping establish these critical efforts on firmer ground, 3 more years of relationship will allow us to be a positive presence as our companions experience the important transition of consecrating a new bishop: their current Diocesan Chancellor and Bishop-Elect, The Rev. Cristobal Leon Lozano, a friend and close companion since our work began.