

Nine Things to Know About **GLOBAL ECUMENICAL LIAISONS (GELs)**



1

Global Ecumenical Liaisons Connect the World in Faith and Action

GELs are part of the Global Ecumenical Partnerships ministry in Presbyterian Life & Witness. They bridge communities across the United States and around the world, connecting people and strengthening our understanding of new ways to engage in God's mission.



2

Global Ecumenical Liaisons Serve a Wide Range of Constituencies:

- PC(USA) synods, presbyteries, networks and congregations
- New worshipping communities; intercultural and diaspora groups
- Mission and partnership networks; theological institutions
- Global, ecumenical and interreligious partners
- Civil society groups and community-based organizations
- PC(USA) agencies, entities, offices and ministries, strengthening efforts for global witness



3

Global Ecumenical Liaison Teams are Structured for Collaboration

- U.S. Global Ecumenical Liaisons are led by Cheryl Barnes. Intercultural congregational support is embedded in this new model of U.S.-facing work.
- International Global Ecumenical Liaisons are led by Ellen Sherby.

These teams work together to strengthen partner and church connections around the globe, including the United States. A third team, Presbyterian Hunger Program (led by Rebecca Barnes), is part of the Global Ecumenical Partnerships ministry.



4

Global Ecumenical Partnerships Emerged from a Long Discernment Process

The PC(USA) has been restructuring its global engagement to:

- Respond to global shifts in Christianity
- Reflect decentralized mission efforts
- Continue to promote the sharing of theologies and religious practices from around the world
- Adapt to new ways of participating in God's global mission
- Address declining membership and resources
- Reflect the specific needs of the Global South



5

Global Ecumenical Liaisons Build on a Legacy of Presbyterian Mission and Partner Consultation

- GELs build on the work of former PC(USA) mission models and policy statements and honor the faithful service of former mission workers.
- Prior consultations with global partners and PC(USA) constituencies have shaped the vision for Global Ecumenical Partnerships, including the Global Partners Roundtable and 2018–19 partner consultations.



Global Ecumenical Liaisons Maintain Core Commitments

- The statement on mission in the Book of Order, F-1.01, and the 2003 policy statement “Presbyterians Do Mission in Partnership” remain foundational.
- GELs continue accompaniment of global partners through collegial relationships, grants, mutual learning and networking.
- Staff are available to resource mid councils, congregations and networks.



Global Ecumenical Liaisons Lift Up New Models of Collaboration

- Expanded Young Adult Volunteer (YAV) program with reciprocal service models, starting in 2020. International YAV site coordinators also serve as global ecumenical liaisons.
- Broadened relationships with global communities and partners; expanded agency of Presbyterians and partners worldwide to shape our connections and partnerships



Global Ecumenical Liaisons Invite Mid Councils to Get Involved

- Pray for wisdom and discernment
- Stay informed via PC(USA) communications
- Support partner ministries through thoughtful ECO giving
- Engage in mutual relationships with partners in the U.S. and internationally, leveraging connections with the support of U.S. and international GELs
- Support GELs directly via E052199 to help this new model thrive
- GELs envision a more equitable and diverse mission community, centered on voices historically pushed to the margins.



Global Ecumenical Liaisons Envision Mission as a Shared Calling

Mission is communal and inclusive. God calls all to God’s mission, inviting mid councils, congregations, new worshipping communities, networks, diaspora communities, and global, ecumenical, interreligious and civil society partners.

Together, we respond to God’s one mission as one body with diverse gifts, meeting the challenges of the 21st century.

**For more information, contact GEPartnerships@pcusa.org
or visit pcusa.org/gep**



**Global Ecumenical
Partnerships**