

St. Christopher's Partners with Grace Church, Oak Park & St. Luke's, Renk, Sudan

Vestry of St. Christopher's Episcopal Church in Oak Park voted unanimously at its meeting on Tuesday, August 18, 2012 to partner with Grace Episcopal Church in Oak Park to support St. Luke's Episcopal Parish in Renk, Sudan. This partnership includes the following:

- † St. Christopher's will pray weekly for St. Luke's Church and the Diocese of Renk.
- † In partnership with Grace Church we will help raise funds for a minimum of one project a year as requested by the Bishop of Renk and the Rector of St. Luke's.
- † St. Christopher's will assist Grace Church with the \$3,400 salary of St. Luke's Rector though a combination of funds from our church's operating budget and outreach funds.
- † St. Christopher's will help raise awareness in our community of the hopes and dreams, needs and gifts of the people of Renk and embrace opportunities to get to know this diocese better.

This partnership grows out of companion relationships established at the 2001 Annual Convention of the Diocese of Chicago with the Episcopal Dioceses of Renk, Sudan and Southeast Mexico. The Commission on Global Ministry sponsored the companion diocese resolution and describes these partnerships as "mutual ventures in mission . . . that involve reciprocal visits, congregational links, language and cultural sharing, youth involvement, exchange of clergy and seminarians, and the exchange of spiritual and material resources.

Over two dozen Diocese of Chicago congregations have formed partnerships with congregations in either Southeast Mexico or Renk, and the hope is that ALL of our area churches will eventually join this group. St. Christopher's has made its first step toward such a partnership and invites participation in this exciting decision from our members.