**Litany of Companionship**

**Between the Cape Orange Diocese of the ELCSA in South Africa**

**and the Montana Synod of the ELCA in the United States of America**

From the Kalahari Desert in the northwest to the coastlands in the south, from the grasslands in the east to the mountains in the west, we are the people of the Cape Orange Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Southern Africa and the Montana Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America in companionship together.

**Come to us now, O God and unite us.**

We of the Cape Orange Diocese are a gifted people, a joyful people, a hopeful people who raise our voices in songs of praise.

We of the Montana Synod are a gifted people, a joyful people, a hopeful people who gather to worship and are sent to serve our neighbors.

**Come to us now, O God and unite us.**

The Montana Synod is home to seven Native American reservations and we in the Montana Synod confess the racism and structures of injustice in our land

The Cape Orange Diocese is home to people from various tribes and peoples and we continue to live with the structures of racism and poverty that have been a part of this land for generations

The Cape Orange Diocese, is separated by great distances, but is united in one hope through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

The Montana Synod is also separated by great distances but also united in one hope that is ours through our risen Savior.

**Come to us now, O God and unite us.**

In the spirit of companionship, we acknowledge the gifts and strengths that we all have and are grateful for the generosity from God that empowers each of our congregations, parishes, pastors and leaders to work to strengthen each of us in lives of love, forgiveness and hope

We are all gifted people, and we have each received gifts for ministry in our own places. We lift up the ministries of the children, youth and young adults, the women’s and men’s leagues in the COD and the youth groups, and men’s and women’s organizations and the lay pastoral associates in the MT Synod, giving thanks for their leadership and discipleship

**Come to us now, O God and unite us.**

We give thanks for Bishop William Bowles and Bishop Jessica Crist, for the members of the Diocesan Council and the Synod Council, for the Deans of the circuits in the Cape Orange Diocese and for the Deans and leaders of the clusters in the Montana Synod

We pray for the congregations and parishes and the pastors and lay leaders who serve them. We pray for the Lutheran Theological Institute in South Africa and those involved in educating and training a new generation of pastors and leaders. We pray too for the Seminaries of the ELCA, and those involved in faith formation in a new time.

We pray for the ministries of healing and hope across the COD and the MT Synod.

We pray for a continued deepening relationship between the MT Synod and the COD

**Come to us now, O God and unite us.**

We lift to you, holy and gracious God our sisters and brothers in companionship across your church, and we commend them to your love, mercy and care, through our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.