



Report of Global Mission

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25 YEARS TOGETHER IN CHRIST

The Global Mission (GM) unit is responsible for the ELCA's mission outside the territorial United States and serves as the channel through which churches in other countries engage in mission to this church. This engagement occurs through the theology and practice of mission known as "accompaniment," a journey with many companions that shows us the unexpected and sometimes unrecognized Christ who walks with us. In this journey, as we break bread together, God invites us through Christ and the Spirit to participate in God's mission of reconciliation and restoration of community; in Christ we are empowered to touch people's lives through ministries in health care, education, formation of leaders, sustainable development, disaster prevention and mitigation, peace and reconciliation, and the proclamation of Gospel through Word and Sacrament, reaching those that have not fully heard the good news of Jesus Christ. The governing description of GM appears in continuing resolution 16.12.B10, printed in Section XII of the e-binder and the *Pre-Assembly Report*.

Mission Summaries: Companion Church Relationships

East Africa—Building relationships with emerging churches and expanding existing partnerships were the foci for these countries. The South Sudanese community of the ELCA and the Episcopal Church of Sudan have begun coordination of evangelical witness in the new nation of South Sudan. Several ELCA congregations have already established relationships with communities in South Sudan. The Kenya Evangelical Lutheran Church built upon its 2009 Ecumenical Peace Summit by conducting a series of workshops aimed at minimizing post-election violence in preparation for the 2013 presidential elections in Kenya. The Malagasy (Madagascar) Lutheran Church developed its Companion Synod Network, introduced the Young Adults in Global Mission (YAGM) program, and supported self-reliance projects focused on pharmaceutical distribution. The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania (ELCT), through the Lutheran Mission Cooperation, has undergone an evaluation to optimize the equitable and collaborative sharing of mutual resources, including theological exchange. In conjunction with the ELCT Planning and Development Department and the ELCA synods relating to various dioceses, various water and food security projects were identified and funded by ELCA World Hunger.

Unfortunately, after three years of conversation, at its 2013 assembly the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus voted to sever its relationship with the ELCA and Church of Sweden.

West Africa—Leadership development, new relationships, and challenges were instruments of change in these countries. In 2012, the first ordinations of women took place in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Cameroon. Former ELCA staff member and ELCA scholarship recipient, the Rev. D. Jensen Seyenkulo, was elected bishop of the Lutheran Church in Liberia. GM and the Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana Synod accompanied the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Sierra Leone through a pastor-in-residence program served by an ELCA pastor. This position is being regularized as a long-term mission personnel assignment in Summer 2013. The Lutheran Church in Senegal has been in conversation with Lutherans in the Gambia on a potential relationship. ELCA mission personnel in the Central African Republic (CAR) were evacuated to Cameroon on Christmas Eve 2012 and, shortly after returning to their homes and work in the CAR, were evacuated again on Palm Sunday 2013. Professional services were engaged to provide for their counseling and support.

Southern Africa—Response to medical needs, domestic violence, and poverty is the focus in these countries. In partnership with the Lutheran Communion in Southern Africa (LUCSA), the ELCA malaria awareness and prevention program continues to make positive impact in Angola, Malawi, Mozambique, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. LUCSA hopes to expand the program to the northern part of Namibia where malaria prevalence is very high. ELCA continues to support HIV and AIDS awareness and prevention program in Swaziland, in the Eastern Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Southern Africa. Diakonia AIDS Ministry of the Central Diocese offers an after-school program

in Alexandra Township in South Africa to address the spread of HIV and AIDS. Other social issues, such as alcohol and drug abuse, domestic violence and poverty, have also left many children orphaned and vulnerable. The ELCA is closely accompanying ecumenical church leaders to address the economic, social, and political crises that have caused major conflict and instability in Zimbabwe; their focus is on conflict prevention, conflict management and resolution, and community transformation.

Currently, there are 52 ELCA synods with companion relationships in Lutheran churches in Africa; some relate to a church body as a whole, while other synods relate to synods or dioceses within a church body. Companion Synod Networks have been developed in instances where more than one ELCA synod relates to a church body, such as Tanzania and Madagascar in East Africa, the Central African Republic in West Africa, and Namibia and South Africa in Southern Africa. These networks allow for communication among synods doing ministry in the same region and collaboration with GM. Companion synod consultations and visits are scheduled on varying time lines. Networks are currently being developed for South Africa, Rwanda, and Liberia.

Middle East and North Africa—In the two years since the 2011 Churchwide Assembly, companions throughout the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region have been navigating the unpredictable realities of the “Arab Spring.” Despite the regional upheaval, companions there have continued to move forward, and the ELCA is engaged in developing their capacities to respond to the challenges and opportunities. In the coming years, MENA will concentrate on leadership development involving Protestant seminaries in the region. The ELCA has been working with several Syrian Christian companions and The Lutheran World Federation (LWF) to aid the tremendous numbers of refugees and internally displaced persons. Growing cooperation with ecumenical companions in Syria helps us provide relief to the growing population of internally displaced persons. In many ways, Egypt remains the epicenter of the Arab Spring, and Egyptian Protestant companions are working to shape the future of the country. Through Egyptian companions and St. Andrew’s Refugee Services, the ELCA builds the capacities of refugees, those living in poverty, and future church leaders. Future plans for Egypt include working with South Sudanese Christian communities in Egypt to support the development of a unified Lutheran church in South Sudan. MENA retains a sharp focus on the ELCA’s primary companion in Palestine, Israel, and Jordan, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land (ELCJHL), and on the *Peace Not Walls* campaign advocating for a just peace. The MENA desk has worked with the ELCA Mission Investment Fund to secure loans for the ELCJHL for the completion of Dar al-Kalima College in Bethlehem and ELCJHL construction of a Lutheran church building and retreat center at the Baptismal Site of Jesus on the Jordanian side of the River Jordan.

In 2012, the MENA desk cooperated with the Southeast Michigan Synod and the *Peace Not Walls* campaign to bring Palestinian and American youth to the ELCA Youth Gathering to host a large, interactive exhibit on “The Wall.” Future planned activities include the first interfaith “Glocal” event in the fall of 2013 to be held at an Arabic-speaking congregation in Dearborn, Mich., and consultations with *Peace Not Walls* advocates, former missionaries, and others within the broader context of ELCA involvement in the Middle East.

Asia—Lutheran presence is strong in Asia. Indonesia has 6 million Lutherans and India more than 2 million. The newest Lutheran church bodies are in Asia. Amid the challenges of modernity and interfaith and ecumenical relations, Lutherans in Asia are shaping an identity that is strongly visible and committed to the transformation of church and society. In 2011 and 2012, ELCA work in Asia included: participation in workshops on Lutheran identity formation in Myanmar, Indonesia, Malaysia, and India; workshops in Lutheran understandings of worship in Malaysia, Singapore, India, and Indonesia; support for church leaders’ workshops in Indonesia; and support for Lutheran identity publications in Indonesia. Throughout, the ELCA has encouraged and supported Asian churches’ own evangelism and outreach efforts within and beyond their own contexts. These include supporting 1) ethnic minority ministries in China, 2) Lutheran Church in Malaysia (LCM) outreach among the indigenous Orang Asli peoples, 3) the Lutheran Church in Singapore’s outreach in Cambodia (in cooperation with LCM), 4) the Basel Christian Church of Malaysia’s mission among the Chinese in Madagascar, and 5) linkages between the Taiwan Lutheran Church and the Protestant churches in China. During the next three-year period, the ELCA will reflect with its Asian companions on what it means to be “church” in the emerging global economic and political realities that are being shaped by Asia. The Asia Pacific desk currently facilitates 16 companion relationships between ELCA synods and companion churches throughout eight Asian countries. These long-standing relationships continue to strengthen partnerships and enable cultural immersions as the members visit each other in their home contexts. Upcoming plans include consultations for synods that relate to

Malaysia, as well as for synods that relate to India. Participants in these consultations will be GM staff, representatives from the ELCA synods, and church leaders from Malaysia and India.

Europe—GM’s emphasis in Europe concentrates on three strategies: support for and engagement with minority churches, support for and engagement with minority populations, and leadership training and education. The ELCA gives particular attention to relationships with minority churches in Central and Eastern Europe, such as Russia, Slovakia, Hungary, and the Balkans. Three self-supporting English-language congregations in Europe, served by ELCA pastors, reflect a rich inter-cultural and ethnic diversity with members representing up to 30 home countries. Going forward, GM will strengthen its engagement with the marginalized Roma people through YAGM volunteers who work with Roma communities and in collaborative projects with the church in Hungary and directly with Roma organizations. GM supports leadership training and evangelism in Russia, provides English teachers for church high schools in Slovakia and Poland, and scholarships for LWF seminar participants in Wittenberg, Germany. In addition, the ELCA Wittenberg Center seeks to be a “meeting point at the crossroads of the Reformation,” welcoming ELCA members and Lutherans from around the globe to explore Lutheran identity and what it means to be part of an ongoing Reformation. There are 45 mission personnel serving in Europe as young adult volunteers, as English teachers, and as pastors.

The ELCA has 25 companion church relationships in Europe. The Silesian Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession severed its companion synod relationship with the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod after the 2009 Churchwide Assembly decisions regarding human sexuality. The Northeastern Iowa Synod has entered into a new companion synod relationship with the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Hungary, traveling there this past May to explore how the synod might engage with GM’s Roma focus and other church initiatives.

Latin America and the Caribbean—In response to companion churches’ requests, the Latin American and Caribbean (LAC) desk brought together a coordinating team of three women to help build the capacity of church leaders in the region by producing materials for Christian education. The resulting Spanish-language educational materials will be a resource for companions and for Latino congregations of the ELCA. A consultation on theological formation held in August 2012, in Bogotá, Colombia, responded to the desire that ELCA companion churches in Latin America and the Caribbean expressed for new models of leadership development to shape the kinds of lay and ordained leaders who carry the mission and ministry of the church forward into the new times of the 21st century. Follow-up actions include companions, the ELCA, and the LWF.

The Costa Rican Lutheran Church went through a participatory strategic planning process that included all its communities of faith, members, and staff. From 2010 to 2013, the ELCA accompanied the Lutheran Church in Haiti through an emergency project following the earthquake. More details are shared below in the Diakonia report. The major foci for LAC in the next triennium will be church sustainability for mission and ministry, theological formation for the new contextual challenges in the region, and Christian education in context.

The LAC desk facilitates a total of 30 companion synod relationships. In the past two years, one companion synod relationship ended and two new relationships began. A highlight was the first Latino Pastoral Ministry conference sponsored by the Iglesia Luterana Salvadoreña and the Southwest California Synod, bringing the Salvadoran church together with its three ELCA companion synods to produce a joint initiative for pastoral ministry with immigrants in both El Salvador and the United States. Recently, the desk co-sponsored, with ELCA World Hunger, a food security immersion experience with the Mexican Association for Urban and Rural Transformation (AMEXTRA) which culminated in a workshop at Ecumenical Advocacy Days on food security in Mexico. A consultation focusing on sustainability for mission and ministry is planned for November 2013 in Bogotá, Colombia.

Diakonia

Four goals guide GM’s utilization of ELCA World Hunger funds and shape the work of the Diakonia section in international development and international disaster response. The goals and progress since the last Churchwide Assembly follow:

- 1) Communities escape poverty and improve their quality of life through rights-based and asset-based sustainable development engagement. To better accompany companion church development and disaster work, GM Diakonia recruited a new director and three technical staff dealing with healthcare, sustainable development, and international disaster response.

- 2) Communities experience increased justice and security in their daily lives through their strengthened capacity to claim their human or legal rights, to resolve conflicts, and to build peace. Peace with justice and development with justice are priority areas. LWF Department for World Service uses a strong rights-based approach toward humanitarian crises and conflicts.
- 3) Households and communities rebuild just and dignified livelihoods following humanitarian crises. Priorities concentrate on effective emergency response and linking disaster response to sustainable development (see Lutheran Disaster Response, below).
- 4) GM and all ELCA expressions, together with global companions, engage in diakonia with increased knowledge and competence because a shared culture of mutual learning is fostered through GM. Efforts in this area concentrate on outcome-focused decision-making, knowledge-based program and project planning, mutual learning with global companions, information sharing, formation, and joint learning with ELCA synods, congregations, and ecumenical partners. GM supports more than 50 companion churches with ELCA World Hunger funds.

Lutheran Disaster Response—International in FY2012

Haiti: *ELCA Concludes Earthquake Response Efforts (total \$13.376 million):* ELCA relief and recovery response to the January 2010 earthquake in Haiti concluded as of March 31, 2013. Lutheran Disaster Response (LDR) received and disbursed more than \$13 million to the Lutheran Church of Haiti and LWF. Funds supported the construction of a vocational training center and a Montessori-based primary school, as well as income-generating projects for the Lutheran Church of Haiti. Funds to LWF constructed 150 homes and a community center—earthquake and hurricane resistant—in Gressier (LWF Model Village).

Africa: *Drought, Rains, and Refugees:* The ELCA has responded across Africa to drought, flooding, and refugee issues in Kenya, Sudan and South Sudan, Ivory Coast, and the Congo. We also work with companions in South Sudan and Tanzania with emergency preparedness and disaster management training.

Asia: *Earthquakes, Floods, Cyclones, and Risk Management:* The ELCA is engaged in immediate relief, long-term recovery, and disaster preparedness across Asia. We continue to walk with companions in Japan recovering from the March 2011 earthquake and tsunami. In 2013, LDR responded to disasters in China, the Philippines, India, and Pakistan while supporting disaster risk management in Indonesia and community recovery in India.

Central America and Caribbean: *Tropical Storms, Hurricanes, and Flood Relief:* Tropical storms and hurricanes often bring devastating effects to the Caribbean and Central America. The Lutheran Church of Haiti's community-based cholera prevention and treatment efforts reached 500,000 people in 2011. The ELCA continues to help address 2011 flooding in Central America, focusing on advocacy, flood mitigation, and disaster preparedness. LDR International responded in Cuba and Haiti to Hurricane Sandy in 2012. The Lutheran Church of Haiti's cholera prevention efforts in 2013 are addressing the underlying sanitation and clean water issues.

Middle East: *Internal Conflict and Refugees:* LDR International works with partners to help meet the needs of internally displaced Syrians and Syrian refugees in Jordan (winterizing and creating child-friendly spaces in the Za'atari refugee camp in northern Jordan).

LWF Emergency Response Hubs: *(2012–2014 committed \$750,000):* In 2012, the ELCA supported LWF's creation of three regional Emergency Response Hubs in Nepal, El Salvador, and Kenya. A training workshop was held in May 2012. The hubs pre-position human and material resources to build capacity for disaster preparedness and for rapid response to disasters. A fourth hub will be established in Zambia in 2013.

International Leadership Development

The ELCA provides financial awards to support the short-term and long-term academic training of established and emerging leaders in companion churches and institutions. The primary purpose of the program is to enhance the partners' capacity for mission and ministry. Since the late 1980s, nearly 800 individuals have received scholarship support and completed programs of study. Scholarship recipients sign covenants committing them to return to their home churches and institutions after completion of their academic training. During the 2011–2013 biennium, the ELCA provided funding for a total of 85 scholarship awards to individuals who were endorsed by their home churches for education and training opportunities. The ELCA funds support the goals of established and emerging leaders and, more importantly, the leadership development priorities of companion churches and institutions.

Global Service

Safety and security continue to be major concerns in supporting ELCA mission personnel. This church's coworkers face a variety of challenges, including unstable socio-political situations, regional health threats, personal health challenges, and living in areas prone to natural disasters. Mission personnel in the Central African Republic were evacuated to Cameroon on two separate occasions in 2012 and 2013.

Lutheran Global Health Volunteers, with a special focus on Africa and Asia, was launched in February 2013. The Rev. John S. Lunn, an ELCA missionary who is also a registered nurse, is working with partner institutions to identify service opportunities. The program will match the skills and interests of ELCA members within the health care field relative to the requests received from companion churches and institutions.

The number of ELCA missionaries increased slightly during the past biennium from 214 to 235. Most of this growth was in the YAGM program which increased from 44 to 56. (Beginning in August 2013 there will be 64 young adults in service.)

The ELCA had 235 mission personnel in service as of February 27, 2013, in these categories of service:

- 96 Long-Term and Contract;
- 12 Two-Year;
- 24 Associates;
- 3 Seminary Interns;
- 56 YAGM;
- 4 Co-Workers (non-U.S. personnel);
- 3 Global Sabbatical Professors; and
- 37 Volunteers (including eight who are Shared Personnel Placements with ELCA synods).

Young Adults in Global Mission

The YAGM program welcomed 106 volunteers into service between 2011 and 2013, 50 for the 2011–2012 program year and 56 in 2012–2013. YAGM volunteers serve in health and development, education, congregational ministry, and social ministry projects across eight country programs: Argentina/Uruguay, Central Europe (Hungary), Jerusalem/West Bank, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mexico, South Africa, and the United Kingdom. Madagascar is a new addition to the YAGM country program list. The first group of YAGM—Madagascar volunteers arrived in that country in August 2012 and has been accompanying the Malagasy Lutheran Church in life and ministry. In 2012, the YAGM program added a staff member. Stephanie Berkas began serving as the Chicago-based YAGM network and program specialist. The YAGM program is currently adopting strategies for stable and sustained growth that will allow for the addition of three new country programs and at least 200 additional volunteers by 2017. Anticipated new funding streams through Global Church/Missionary Sponsorship and the 25th Anniversary Campaign will support this growth.

Mission Formation

The Mission Formation team works with synods and congregations to engage in re-formation of the understanding and engagement of mission, through the praxis of accompanying relationships, in light of new “glocal” realities. Glocal Mission Gatherings and resources offer an opportunity for participants to discover and explore accompaniment in-depth through a variety of topics—especially worship, radical hospitality, cross-generational engagement, immigration, and migration—in the context of global and local mission. When doing this work, the ELCA is looking for dissonances with the status quo. This church wants to dislodge unhelpful practices and then create a desire to learn more and be curious about how to more fully live into God's mission for us here. Eleven Global and Glocal events are presently scheduled with others in 2013 and 2014 to be announced. Several resources are made available through the Mission Formation team to assist ELCA members and congregations to deepen and expand their understanding of accompaniment in mission.

The Rev. Rafael Malpica Padilla, *executive director*



Lutheran World Relief
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. LASTING PROMISE.

Partners in Ending Hunger and Human Suffering

Year in and year out, the largest single supporter of our ministry serving poor and marginalized communities around the world is the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). Yet, it is for much more than the ELCA's monetary generosity that we are grateful. We are partners joined by more than a Memorandum of Relationship. We are inspired by your prayers. We are enriched by your advisor to the LWR board, the Rev. Rafael Malpica-Padilla. We are your coworkers, and together "we are God's coworkers" (1 Corinthians 3:9). With humility, we work to extend tangibly God's all-excelling love for all people, especially those living in excruciating poverty and extreme marginalization. Since the 2011 Churchwide Assembly, we have received a total of \$4,175,648 from the ELCA for this work.

Material Resources

LWR sent 412,710 quilts to those in need last year along with 191,415 school kits and 216,854 personal care kits. 2013 is the year of the LWR Quilt Campaign, an effort to collect 500,000 Mission Quilts—an increase of 25 percent over average—to distribute around the world. LWR is thankful for our ongoing and strong relationship with Women of the ELCA.

In addition to quilts, personal care kits are the most requested items, particularly critical following an emergency or displacement. These, and indeed all of LWR's Quilts and Kits, meet physical needs while also serving as tangible reminders of God's grace and love.

Alongside our emergency work, we also invest significantly in the sustainable development of communities working their way out of crises. For example, LWR manages a large scale multi-country response to the humanitarian crisis in the Sahel. LWR and our partners are providing direct assistance to more than 450,000 people caught up in the conflict in Mali and the broader regional food crisis. Efforts range from survival to recovery, meeting both emergency needs of people who need food today, as well as programs to build more resilient and sustainable agricultural production for tomorrow. We focus on Burkina Faso (where climate-smart agricultural techniques are giving farmers skills to fight changing environments), Mali (where fighting has displaced more than 400,000 people), Mauritania (where we work with the LWF to provide water and shelter for refugees fleeing violence and repression in Mali), and Niger. This approach, "Resilience Plus," blends our Lutheran values to reach out to brothers and sisters in need with a firm commitment to the principles of sustainable development and self-led poverty reduction.

ELCA/LWR Malaria Partnership in Tanzania

Since 2011, the ELCA has provided additional support for LWR's malaria work with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania (ELCT). We thank the ELCA for the support, totaling \$750,000, and rejoice in the impact those funds have had. More than 3,500 pastors, Sunday school teachers, and lay leaders have been trained in malaria prevention and treatment, and hundreds of ELCT health professionals have been trained in malaria diagnosis and treatment. All told, over the past four years the program has reached more than 3.5 million people covering more than half of Tanzania.