

**Report to the Partners in Mission Eco-Justice Committee
Program Committee for Mission in the World Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada
July 22, 2008**

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada formed the Program Committee for Mission in the World in 2007. Meetings are held in the Board Room at the National Church Office in Winnipeg, Manitoba. It is made up of six members including one ecumenical partner from the Anglican Church of Canada. One member represents each of the five Synods. The Program Committee for Mission in the World replaced the Mission Working Group.

The Rev. Paul Johnson, Assistant to the National Bishop, Ecumenical Relations and World Mission; Sr. Monica Denk, International Volunteer Coordinator; and Kelvin Krieger, Program Coordinator for Mission in the World, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, attend as members of staff.

Program Committee for Mission in the World meeting held on February 23-25, 2007

The first meeting of the committee was held on February 23, 2007 from 5.30 p.m. and ended at 12.00 noon on Sunday February 25, 2007. Members were asked to brainstorm on the direction of the committee, and work on the draft of the terms of reference for the Program Committee for Mission in the World. The National Church Council Strategic plan 2005-2009 was circulated for information.

Kelvin Krieger gave an overview on Mission by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada to inform committee members of what was taking place in the mission field.

Sr. Monica Denk, International Volunteer Coordinator, gave a presentation on the Volunteers in Mission program, and the Canadian Lutheran World Relief.

The budget was circulated, and questions were entertained.

Program Committee for Mission in the World meeting held on November 2-4, 2007

The meeting was held at the National Office of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, Winnipeg, Manitoba. It opened with supper at 5.30 p.m. and ended at 12.00 noon with lunch in an East Indian restaurant.

Reports:

A report regarding a visit from the British Columbia Synod to their Companion Synod in Peru following the earthquake of 2007 was received.

The committee was notified that the Alberta Synod has a World Mission Committee that meets twice a year.

Jack and Valarie Frederick from the Manitoba North Ontario Synod visited their Companion Synod in Cameroon during the spring of 2007.

Saskatchewan Synod planned a trip in February 2008 to their Companions Synod in Argentina.

The Eastern Synod plans to exchange theological seminary professors with their Companion Synod in Guyana.

Maweje reported on diocesan companionships between Anglican dioceses in Canada and Anglican dioceses in other parts of the world.

Kelvin Krieger gave an overview of his work in the office and in the field. Monica and Paul reported on their trips, and brought greetings from volunteers and partners with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada.

The greatest challenge for Volunteers in Mission is that people do not want to or are not able to make a commitment for six months or more. There are more offers from people who want to volunteer for a month or two.

Companion Synod Evaluation:

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada conducted a Companion Synod Evaluation in Winnipeg, September 2007. The results showed a need to change the Companion Synod program policies so that they reflect the existing reality in the synods. For example, the Eastern, Alberta and the Territories established their companion relationships independently from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada.

Budget:

The budget was presented and comments were entertained. The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada has funds in their budget for committee members to use for mission education.

Global Mission/ Global Formation Events:

The Program Committee for Mission in the World was asked to consider a possibility of hosting Global Mission/ Global Formation Events. Such events could be organized ecumenically with the Anglican Church of Canada.

The Program committee for Mission in the World discussed possibilities of engaging colleagues (pastors) from partner churches who are living in Canada, in World Mission.

Program Committee for Mission in the World meeting held on July 18-20, 2008

Discussions were made regarding a possibility for collaboration in mission between the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Global Mission and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada Mission in the World.

The Program Committee for Mission in the World Terms of Reference:

The National Church Council of the Evangelical Church in Canada approved the following terms of reference for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada.

The Program Committee for Mission in the World shall establish priorities, recommend policies, and develop resources for world mission. By communication and promotion of programs throughout the synods of this church, the committee shall provide opportunities to the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada to engage in Mission in the World. The committee shall be appointed by the National Bishop and shall be comprised of one person from each synod nominated by the synod bishop plus an Anglican partner appointed by the Anglican Church of Canada in consultation with the National Bishop.

Sr. Monica, International Volunteer coordinator, reported that the Mission in the World Program of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada provides opportunities for international service for long-term and short-term (6 months to 2 years) through Volunteers in Mission. Partner churches are asking for short-term volunteers (less than 6 months). To date, Sr. Monica has linked as many short-term volunteers as long-term volunteers (3 and 3). When people fail to find mission opportunities in their own church, they look elsewhere.

A recommendation to the National Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada:

The Program Committee for Mission in the World recommends that volunteer placements of less than 6 months that do not qualify as volunteer in Mission placements be recognized by the ELCIC as "Global Servants." These placements shall promote the mission and ministry of partner church or organization, companion synod, other Lutheran church bodies, or other organizations whose objectives and methods are consistent with those of the ELCIC.

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada recruits missionaries of all ages. Mission placements are made in collaboration with the Canadian Lutheran World Relief that coordinates its international volunteer placements with the Lutheran World Federation Department for World Service.

Short-term mission opportunities are available with a purpose to suit people who wish to be involved in mission but are unable to commit to long-term placements. Would the Anglican Church of Canada consider such an approach to mission with the hope that those interested persons might make long-term commitments?

I wonder if the time has come for the Anglican Church of Canada to adopt an approach to mission where the Partners in Mission & Ecojustice Committee collaborate with the Primate's World Relief & Development Fund in doing mission at home and in the world.

Date of next meeting

It was decided that the Program Committee for Mission in the World meet once during 2008 and 2009. The next meeting will take place March 2009.

Submitted by

Venerable Godfrey Mawejje
Ecumenical Partner, Program Committee for Mission in the World

