

Memorandum of Understanding between Mission One World (MOW)/the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Bavaria (ELCB) and the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Papua New Guinea (ELC-PNG)

Regarding the ethnographic objects currently held, stored and documented in Neuendettelsau Mission EineWelt, Centre Mission OneWorld

Introduction

1. The cultural ethnographic objects held, stored and documented in Mission EineWelt (MEW), the Centre Mission OneWorld, Neuendettelsau, could be classified in three categories: 1. Objects, originally collected to exemplify the joint mission undertaking between MOW/ELCB and ELC-PNG in the former "Mission-Museum". 2. Objects, which have been purchased by MissionOne World or its forerunner organizations as artifacts to illustrate a general appreciation of PNG culture and Christian art. 3. Objects, which have been donated in recent years to MEW through the Verein Kultur Neuguinea e.V.- the New-Guinea Culture Society in view of the proposals to exhibit and appreciate the mutual history of mission.

2. The commemorative museum, which was discussed and envisioned for in 1986 at the historic meeting between the Bishops Sir Zurewec Zurenuoc and Johannes Hanselmann, was to be a tribute to the common mission endeavor for the 100th anniversary celebrations. This commitment was publicly announced by the representative of ELCB at the official 100 year celebration in 1986, Oberkirchenrat Strauß, when he presented a traditional shield of the Neuendettelsau collection to the then Bishop Getake Gam, as a "firstfruit" of the commitment.

Due to political, legal and inner-church circumstances and considerations, this plan did not eventuate in PNG as envisioned, however discussions continued to seek ways, which would honor the original commitment.

3. The commitment of 1986 and subsequent inter-church discussions between ELCB and ELC-PNG constitute the mutual understanding with specific reference to the ethnographic objects, categorized under 1, originally collected for the former Mission Museum.

4. These ethnographic objects have been documented together with the available archival material as having an essential relevance for the history of ELC-PNG and MOW/ELCB and their congregations. For ELC-PNG they exemplify the story of congregations turning to the Gospel, of local and expatriate missionaries endeavoring to communicate and nurture an understanding of the Good News in the developing church life. For MOW/ELCB they illustrate the movement of *missio dei*, as it crosses national and cultural boundaries and comes to appreciate the intercultural significance of its mission activity.

Agreement

We therefore mutually agree:

1. The aforementioned objects, originally designated for the Mission Museum, now located in Neuendettelsau, remain in the legal ownership of MOW/ELCB with the stipulation, that ELC-PNG has a moral entitlement to these objects in accord with the original commitment of MOW/ELCB.¹

¹ **Legal ownership** – *rechtliches Eigentum*

Moral entitlement – *Anspruchsberechtigung / Anrecht*

An entitlement refers to a guarantee of access to benefits based on established rights or legislation. It is a provision made in accordance with legal framework of a society. A "right" is itself an entitlement associated with a moral or social

2. Should future legal, political, church and financial circumstances justify to exhibit, preserve and maintain a selection of the specified objects in PNG, the legal ownership will be transferred to ELC-PNG with the stipulation, that MOW/ELCB has a moral entitlement to these objects², with respect to our the common history.
3. MOW/ELCB is committed to safeguard, preserve and respect these ethnographic objects as custodian, with the firm intention of exhibiting them, promoting an understanding and appreciation for our common history of mission and partnership.
4. ELC-PNG explicitly welcomes such an objective, which gratefully acknowledges and appreciates a commemorative exhibit in public and among congregations of the partner church ELCB.

Neuendettelsau..... Date 05.12.2017

Signatures



Jack Urame, Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Papua New Guinea



Rev. Hanns Hoerschelmann
Director, Mission OneWorld, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Bavaria



principle.

²Just as ELCB is legally bound by this MoU not to give away or sell off any of the specified objects, this would conversely also apply to ELC-PNG.