


Hand in Hand Guide for Covenant Sponsors

Thank you! Your covenant commitment to sponsor an ELCA missionary makes a world of difference. Your generous support helps ELCA missionaries join hands with neighbors and companion churches around the world to teach, preach, heal, build, grow, give and receive.

This guide offers ideas, inspiration and information to help you grow your covenant relationship and keep your commitment to prayer, communication, and financial support. In this guide you will find:

- ELCA Missionary Sponsorship giving levels
- examples of the good your gifts can do
- remittance and contact information



*“Will you let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you?
Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant, too.”*

(Evangelical Lutheran Worship, 659)*

At age four, I sat on the floor of a North Dakota living room, clinging to each word as the Hilles, missionaries to Cameroon, spoke of how little boys and girls very far away loved and served Jesus. This missionary relationship planted the seeds for my missionary service 25 years later.

Indeed, a covenant sponsorship is a promise to be in relationship: to communicate with each other, pray for each other, to give generously and receive graciously.

On behalf of all missionaries, I thank you for covenanting to support an ELCA missionary. It is my prayer that this relationship will strengthen your congregation for service even as it is served by Christian neighbors around the world.

Hand in Hand!








*The Rev. Twila Schock, director
ELCA Global Mission Support*

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Missionary Sponsorship Giving Levels

In a covenant relationship, an ELCA missionary, the ELCA Global Mission Support team, and a sponsor (individual, congregation, congregational unit, or other group) commit to both give and receive through prayer, communication, and financial gifts. Whether or not a covenant is in place, gifts for ELCA Missionary Sponsorship—designated for a specific missionary or for “where needed most”—are gratefully received and make a world of difference. Contact the Global Mission Support team (see below) for more information.

 <p>Helping Hands Covenant commitments under \$2,000 in one year</p>	<p>Receive communication from the Global Mission Support office, updates from the sponsored missionary, and the <i>Global Mission Support and Service Annual Directory</i>.</p>
 <p>Friends Covenant commitments of \$2,000 or more in one year, or a commitment of \$1,000 or more for two or more consecutive years</p>	<p>In addition to the above: During home assignment (every two years), the sponsored missionary makes every effort to accept an invitation to visit.</p>
 <p>Neighbors Covenant commitments of \$10,000 or more in one year</p>	<p>In addition to the above: During home assignment (every two years), the sponsored missionary makes it a priority to accept an invitation to visit. <i>Neighbor, Companion, and Endowment Companion</i> sponsors are acknowledged in the <i>Annual Directory</i>.</p>
 <p>Companions Covenant commitments of \$75,000 or more for one year or after three consecutive annual gifts of at least \$25,000</p>	<p>In addition to the above: <i>Companion</i> sponsors are honored at a recognition event, often during the annual Summer Missionary Conference (SMC).</p>
 <p>Endowment Companions Covenant commitments to the <i>ELCA Global Mission endowment fund</i> of \$75,000 or more in one year or after three consecutive annual gifts of at least \$25,000</p>	<p>In addition to the above: <i>Endowment Companions</i> are invited to name their gift (e.g., the Jane Smith Memorial Missionary Sponsorship, Covenant Lutheran Church Missionary Sponsorship). The missionaries who receive proceeds from the endowed sponsorship will communicate with the donor or the donor's beneficiary.</p>

To learn more about including ELCA Missionary Sponsorship in your will and other planned-giving options, contact the Rev. Twila Schock at 800-638-3522, ext. 2641, or twila.schock@elca.org.



Global Mission Support
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

ELCA Global Mission Support
8765 W. Higgins Road, Chicago, IL 60631-4101
800-638-3522, ext. 2657
E-mail: globalmissionsupport@elca.org
Web site: www.elca.org/globalmission/support

Linked Hand in Hand

Missionary Visits

Every two years, missionaries return for a two-month home assignment. During this time they make an effort to accept invitations from their covenant sponsors to visit (see “Giving Levels”). Covenant sponsors who extend an invitation to visit are responsible for covering the missionaries’ U.S. travel and hospitality expenses. Hospitality expenses include lodging and meals. Travel costs may include U.S. airfare and mileage/rental car reimbursement.

Before a missionary begins a home assignment, covenant sponsors receive visit information from Global Mission Support. Your missionary will be in contact, too. Visit arrangements are made between

Please note:

- Expense reimbursements are in addition to—above and beyond—your covenant financial commitment.
- Money should not be sent directly to missionaries, except for home-visit expense reimbursements.
- Home-visit expense reimbursements are handled between the sponsor and the missionary.

the missionary and the covenant sponsor. Likewise, expense reimbursements are handled between the covenant sponsor and the missionary.

Remitting Missionary Sponsorship Contributions

Missionary Sponsorship contributions can be sent directly to

Global Mission Support
8765 W. Higgins Road
Chicago, IL 60631-4101

Make checks payable to “ELCA” or “Women of the ELCA” and clearly note “Missionary Sponsorship: [missionary name]” on the memo line.

Treasurers can remit ELCA congregation and congregational unit contributions through the synod or synodical women’s organization. They should use the standard form, making sure to note “ELCA Missionary Sponsorship” and the name of the missionary.

Individuals can contribute through their ELCA congregation or congregational unit, noting “Missionary Sponsorship: [missionary name]” on the memo line of the check. Credit card donations can be made online (www.elca.org/giving) or by calling **800-638-3522**.

Handy Helps

Handy Resources

For stories and updates about global mission, ministries, and missionaries, check out these two “handy” connections.

Hand in Hand newsletter **www.elca.org/handinhand**

The Global Mission Support quarterly newsletter offers a seasonal devotion, mission or missionary article, fun facts, and more. For multiple copies to distribute, contact Global Mission Support.



“Hand in Hand” blog digest **<http://blogs.elca.org/handinhand>**

The blog features pictures and stories gleaned from missionary updates, as well as devotions, reflections, and good-to-know info offered by Global Mission Support staff and friends. It’s easy to have new posts delivered automatically to your e-mail inbox; just follow the right-hand column link at <http://blogs.elca.org/handinhand>.

Useful URLs

Missionary Sponsorship and Global Gift Web pages	www.elca.org/globalmission/support
For companion church information and links to find up-to-date country information	www.elca.org/companionprofiles
<i>Hand in Hand</i> , the Global Mission Support quarterly newsletter	www.elca.org/handinhand
ELCA Missionary Sponsorship blog	http://blogs.elca.org/handinhand
To learn about accompaniment, how the ELCA and companion churches engage in global missions	www.elca.org/globalmission/how
To learn about short-term, long-term, and volunteer global service opportunities	www.elca.org/globalserve
To give online, including ELCA Good Gifts	www.elca.org/giving

Contact Global Mission Support

ELCA Global Mission Support

8765 W. Higgins Road
Chicago, IL 60631-4101

Contact the GMS team

E-mail: globalmissionsupport@elca.org
Phone: 800-638-3522

The Rev. Twila Schock, director, ext. 2641
Sue Edison-Swift, assistant director, ext. 2969
Kathleen West, coordinator, ext. 2657

Covenant Commitments

Financial Support

Congregations and other group sponsors meet their financial covenant commitment from the budget, with endowment funds, and/or with special offerings. Here are some ideas for special offerings.

- Include Missionary Sponsorship offering envelopes in offering boxes, tuck them in bulletins and mailings, and have a supply near your Missionary Sponsorship display or table.
- As is customary in many congregations in Africa, receive another (second) offering for a designated purpose, such as Missionary Sponsorship.
- Remember fundraising favorites: silent auction, bake sale, free-will offering at special events, garage or fellowship hall sale, and garden produce market.
- Encourage members to celebrate birthdays with gifts for ELCA Missionary Support.

Offering envelopes are available for congregations, organizations, and groups to gather gifts for a specific missionary or for *ELCA Missionary Sponsorship*—where needed most.

To order the envelopes, call 800-328-4648 and request ITEM000997 (Free; 1 pkg = 50 envelopes).



ELCA Missionary Sponsorship
www.elca.org/globalmission/support
Envelope No. _____
Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
E-Mail or Daytime Phone _____
Give through your ELCA congregation or send directly to:
ELCA Global Mission Support, 8765 West Higgins Road, Chicago, IL 60631-4101

Gifts for ELCA Missionary Support help make a world of difference. Here are examples of the good your gifts can do.

- \$10** pays for a month's supply of cooking kerosene.
- \$50** purchases a pass for public transportation.
- \$120** provides two- to 12-months of e-mail access, depending on the area.
- \$200** covers a month's rent in some areas or a month's security expense in others.
- \$1,000** pays for a short-term missionary's stipend and benefits for one month.
- \$2,000** helps provide one year of home-school curriculum for a missionary child.
- \$5,000** helps a missionary family fly to and from their country of service.
- \$10,000** covers the cost of health insurance for a missionary couple for one year.
- \$70,000** is the average, all-inclusive cost for a single missionary (e.g., training, salary, benefits, housing, in-country support) for one year.

Covenant Commitments

Prayer

Here are ways to hold your missionary, the companion church, and the country of service in prayer.

- Pray for missionaries by name each Sunday.
- Pray for churches around the world using the World Council of Churches Ecumenical Prayer Cycle (www.oikoumene.org/en/resources/prayer-cycle).

Communication

Many missionaries have good access to the Internet, readily communicate by e-mail, and post updates to a Web site or blog. Others have limited access to the Internet and rely on traditional mail. Sponsors and missionaries will learn each other's preferred communication methods. Sponsoring groups should identify at least one tech-savvy point person to send and receive e-mails and watch for Web site and blog updates.

Missionaries and sponsors alike appreciate the connections nurtured by regular communication. Missionaries aim to communicate with their covenant sponsors three times a year. Let special days prompt "we're thinking of you" and "we're praying for you" messages. Make a cheerful connection with Christmas, Easter, birthday, Valentines, and other special-day cards and greetings.

Congregation and organization sponsors have another communication opportunity: sharing information to engage and educate the group about their connections to the missionary, companion church, and country.

- Distribute the monthly editions of "Prayer Ventures" (www.elca.org/prayerventures); many of the daily petitions lift up missionaries and companion churches.
- Write prayer petitions based on missionary updates, the "Hand in Hand" blog and newsletter, and from the newspaper.

Here are some ideas to consider.

- Create a bulletin board or table display with photos, map, correspondence, and fabric or art from the area.
- Get the word out: include missionary updates, related URLs, and prayer petitions in church bulletins and newsletters.
- Involve children: highlight your missionary and the companion church and country in Sunday school; encourage students to make cards or pictures for the missionary; organize a children's offering for missionary sponsorship.
- Make connections in worship: incorporate hymns and music from the area, encourage missionary and companion church prayer petitions during the intercessory prayers.
- Many congregations focus on global mission during Epiphany. Build community and connections: hold a mission festival, host an international potluck, offer an intergenerational learning event.