

Global Mission in the 21st Century

Goals and Directions for Global Mission

To participate in the life-giving mission of the Triune God and to be in mission shaped by the cross, ELCA Global Mission will do the following:



1. Proclaim

Share the good news of Jesus Christ with those who acknowledge no faith, people of living faiths, adherents of various ideologies, and those who have become inactive or have abandoned their Christian faith.

- a. Nurture the birth and growth of new Christian communities and equip their leaders.
- b. Build relationships of respect and witness with Muslims, Hindus, Buddhists, Confucianists, people of other living faiths, and modern secularists.
- c. Support efforts for evangelization and renewal in areas where commitment to the gospel has declined or disappeared.
- d. Accompany and support the ministry of international congregations in major urban centers.
- e. Cooperate with the ELCA and Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC) in receiving the witness of global companions in mission in North America.

2. Serve

Be in solidarity with and advocate for people who are oppressed, poor and suffering, and share our resources to meet human need.

- a. Develop and support health care ministries for the most vulnerable.
- b. Support integrated community development programs.
- c. Facilitate education programs with churches in countries with special educational needs.
- d. Inspire ELCA members to participate in public and prophetic advocacy in cooperation with the Division for Church in Society.
- e. Support ministries of reconciliation emphasizing peace and justice.

Engage ELCA members and cooperate with ecumenical companions in response to international disasters.

3. Accompany

Accompany churches around the world and invite them to accompany this church in expressing the unity of the Body of Christ and in cooperating in the mission of the Triune God.

- a. Assist with leadership development within churches and especially among women.
- b. Facilitate South-South exchanges of personnel, mutual consultation and sharing.
- c. Develop mechanisms for participating in ELCA Global Mission decision-making by those affected by those decisions.
- d. Give priority to ecumenical avenues of cooperating in mission.

Engage ELCA members who are African Americans, Asian, Latino/a, American Indian-Alaska Native, Arabic-Middle Eastern in international relationships and mission service.



4. Receive

Work with the ELCA in developing our gifts as a church and embracing the gifts of others as we walk together in global mission.



- a. Provide education for mission that inspires and motivates ELCA members to receive the witness of the global mission community.
- b. Foster relationships and encounters between global companions and ELCA synods, congregations and members.
- c. Build a vision of stewardship that enables ELCA members to generously share their resources for God's mission and to receive the gifts of global companions.
- d. Inspire ELCA members to a renewed and active prayer life for God's mission in today's world.

Walking Together in the Manner of Christ

As it participates in the mission of the Triune God, ELCA Global Mission commits itself to walk in mission in a manner that points to God as the Giver of Life and is in harmony with Jesus' servanthood. The four characteristics of this manner are:

1. Life-giving

In the mission of the Triune God, the powers of sin and sickness, alienation and death are overcome by God's gracious and life-giving power through Jesus Christ and in the power of the Holy Spirit.

We are committed to participating in God's life-giving mission of restoring the dignity of humanity and all of creation.

We are committed to proclaiming Jesus Christ, through whom God gives life, and who embodies the life God intends for all creation. We rejoice in the coming salvation and liberation of humanity and all creation from the powers of sin, sickness, alienation and death.

We are open to the movement of the Holy Spirit in our lives and in the world, and honor the new community the Spirit creates and endows with a wide diversity of gifts. We are workers whose mission vocations in the world point to God as the Giver of Life.



2. Shaped by the Cross

“Let this mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who ... did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave,...humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death -- even death on a cross” (Philippians 2:5-8 - NRSV).

Mission in the mind of Christ Jesus is a journey into costly discipleship, formed by the way of the cross and transformed by the risen crucified Christ.

We pray that the Holy Spirit empty us of cultural arrogance, political domination, and economic exploitation. We walk in a spirit of respect and vulnerability among our companions.

As Christian disciples we take up our cross and follow Jesus in solidarity with those who are broken and oppressed, participating in God's movement for life and justice for all people.

3. Witnessing in Relationships

Christians around the world live in daily contact with people of many faiths. Among these neighbors, we commit ourselves to develop relationships of mutual respect and common action for the good of the whole human community and all creation.

We enter these relationships seeking to engage in conversations about each of our faiths. We recognize God's presence and wisdom as it is expressed in our neighbor's faith. We are open to understanding and respecting the faith of our neighbor, even as we witness to salvation in Jesus Christ.

We enter these relationships not knowing where they will go but sustained by the hope that, in the end, by the power of Holy Spirit "every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father" (Philippians 2:11 - NRSV).

4. Embracing the Gifts of All

The global Christian family includes a wide variety of persons with marvelous gifts and talents. We recognize that prejudices of race, class and gender have limited the effectiveness of God's mission by excluding countless persons from full participation in life and mission together.



We are committed to overcoming attitudes, behaviors and systems that exclude or marginalize women and persons of certain cultural and ethnic backgrounds.

We are committed to justice in all relationships and programs, assisting women and other excluded persons to develop their gifts and leadership skills.

We are open to receiving the gifts of all members of the Body of Christ, gifts for the building up of the whole Body and for God's mission in the world.