



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

December 18, 2014

Statement on Cuba

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America welcomes with gratitude the White House's announcement this week that the U.S. will soon re-establish diplomatic relations with Cuba as well as take steps toward lifting the long-standing trade embargo against that nation. We celebrate what this means for the reunification of families and for the two nations.

For more than twenty-five years, our church has supported steps such as these toward normalization of relations with Cuba and urged our members to support interdependent efforts and relationships among the churches and peoples in the Caribbean region. In that spirit, the ELCA has had on-going contacts with the Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Lutheran Confession in Cuba, the Evangelical Theological Seminary in Matanzas, and the Ecumenical Council of Cuba to promote dialogue and exchange with the churches in Cuba as well as provide humanitarian assistance.

Earlier this year, Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton joined 15 other faith leaders in a letter to President Obama that urged him to open a high-level dialogue between the U.S. and Cuba, permit people-to-people travel more generally, remove Cuba from the list of state sponsors of terrorism and provide opportunities for U.S. citizens to support emerging small businesses and cooperatives in Cuba.

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