

MAPPING ELCA GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT OUTSIDE OF COMPANION SYNOD PROGRAM

Current situation: ELCA Global Mission and many synod global mission and companion synod committees are looking for more congregational support for their companion synod relationships. It is well known that significant congregational global engagement is occurring but often without any connection to synods or others including ELCA companions in the same place. These independent actions could contribute to common shared synod and Global Mission goals if connections could be established.

The **objectives** of synod mapping of global engagement would be to:

- 1) Develop a clear picture of ELCA global engagement by ELCA congregations and individuals
- 2) Explore opportunities for accompaniment training to enable all ELCA global mission activity carried out by members and congregations in synods to be informed by this methodology.
- 3) Explore ways that the ELCA Global Mission unit and synods can maintain a continuing relationship with this global mission activity so that a) the true volume of global engagement can be named and claimed by the ELCA as a whole and b) reduce unhealthy activity and make an effort to channel it into healthy activity

Timetable:

2015 -16: Mapping process will begin in interested synods using a tool to identify congregational global engagement. A second piece could be additional listening sessions where congregations and individuals can talk to synod global leadership to describe their activity. Parochial reports can continue to focus on this with questions to tell us what and with whom so that we can follow up to get more information. At regional meetings, participants will share congregational and individual activity known to them.

Also regional meeting attendees could include key congregational leaders and individuals. Formation in accompaniment is already offered there. Other events such as larger consultations on healthy engagement could be offered to explore ways we in the ELCA as a whole can work together.

Synod step-by-step process:

- 1) Synod can form a small group to make contact with all synod congregations.
- 2) Timetable for contacts, script for calls and Excel spreadsheet can be agreed upon with consideration given to posting on the synod website. See the attached model from the NW Washington Synod.
- 3) Congregation surveys completed, either on the web or by telephone contact..
- 4) Results are tabulated and shared with synod global mission leadership, GM and the entire synod.
- 5) Follow-up actions are designed and implemented.

Copy of ELCA Congregational Global Mission Survey 2015 (2)

Congregation Name	City	State	Contact name	Phone number	E-mail	Cluster/District	Companion Synod Relationship (1 column per relationship)	Additional ELCA Global Initiatives	Other global ministries (please name organization, country, description of ministry)
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An excel spreadsheet can include the following: 1)Name of congregation, city, state 2) Phone number 3)Cluster/district 4)GM congregational contact and phone number 5)Companion synod involvement 6 Other ELCA initiatives – Global Ministry support, World Hunger, Missionary Sponsorship, etc. 7) Other global ministry – country, project. Please see the attached sample.

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Global Mission

The ELCA is part of the global “family” of 141 Lutheran churches that belong to the Lutheran World Federation. Within our global family, the ELCA has deeper, more intentional, bilateral “companion church” relationships with many of these national Lutheran church bodies. The ELCA’s global relationships are deepened by the ELCA Companion Synods Program, which pairs ELCA Synods with companion church bodies and dioceses around the world. This means that thousands of ELCA members are also engaged in global relationships through their congregations and synods, visiting one another, providing the roofs of new church buildings, inviting choirs to visit, making quilts, and more.

Global Mission Survey

11/3/2012 by Alan Rowberg

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The Northwest Washington Synod of the ELCA sponsored a survey of the Global Mission activities in its churches during the spring of 2012. This started with the following letter from the Bishop, which was mailed to all the congregations.

23 August 2011

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce you to Jean Wahlstrom and Marvin Kananen, retired ELCA missionaries who served as Christian Education Developers for twelve years in Tanzania, retiring in 2010. Jean was chaplain and bible teacher and Marvin was English teacher at the Maasae Girls Lutheran Secondary School in Tanzania, East Africa. They are members of Saint Andrew’s Lutheran Church in Bellevue.

I have asked them to contact all the churches in the Northwest Washington Synod and gather information about your international global mission work, a process similar to what Kim Unti and Pam Kluth did for us about our local outreach ministries in 2009. Jean and Marv will be contacting you in the next four months to inquire about your connections and commitments to projects overseas.

Their goal is to increase communication within the Synod and between churches in the Synod regarding our global mission. They intend to report this information in a database format for our use as well as listening to your unique stories of God’s work in the world. Please assist them.

Grace and peace,

Wm Chris Boerger
Bishop

Survey Results

[Click here](#) for an Adobe Acrobat (PDF) file of the survey results, one church per page. You can scroll through these pages quickly, or search for specific words.

[Click here](#) to get an Excel spreadsheet that includes all the survey results.

[Legend](#) for the spreadsheet, all the headings are explained here, in Adobe Acrobat (PDF) format.

If you do not have Excel on your computer, [click here](#) to download and install the free Excel Viewer from Microsoft.

[Click here](#) for the part of the survey about Mexico.

If you would like an extract of any other part of the survey, please send an email to arowberg@earthlink.net to get the information.

Survey Updates

To update any of the survey for your church, send an email to jeannmarvin@gmail.com to reach Jean and Marvin.