Charles H. Crisp, ELCA retired bishop and a recent recipient of a mission fellowship from ELCA Global Mission, has died. "We grieve the loss of a dear brother and co-worker in mission," said the Rev. Elizabeth Shaver, ELCA interim vice president for Global Mission.

"Charles was a seasoned servant of the church, having served as a pastor, a bishop and a dean. His service to the Lutheran Church in America (LCA) and the ELCA was characterized by a deep commitment to ecumenism, a willingness to engage with all forms of the Christian faith, and a passion for church growth and development. He was a reflective, thoughtful, and patient person, always ready to listen and learn.

Charles is survived by his wife, the Rev. Joanne Crisp, an ELCA bishop. He is also survived by his son, the Rev. Charles Crisp, an ELCA bishop and former ELCA Board of Directors member, and his daughter, Sara Crisp, a missionary in Peru. A memorial statement will be forthcoming and will be shared on the ELCA website.

Mission Personnel Reflection

By the Rev. Peter Krueger, regional representative for Southern Africa

The 23rd International AIDS Conference (IAC) was scheduled to be held in San Francisco July 6-10. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the organizers decided to hold a virtual conference instead. As it turned out, the ELCA Global Mission unit would participate in a number of virtual presentations from companion churches around the world. Three delegates from churches in Southern Africa were selected.

Ms. Chifamba, Ms. Chifamba, Ms. Chifamba, and Ms. Chifamba are neighbors wherever I can. No matter where we are and where we are from. We strongly feel that the Infohut program deserves a presenter's spot in the next event.

The first night, two of the five participants were too excited to sleep and attended the virtual conference when Zimbabwe is still in a COVID-19 lockdown. There is a nine-hour time difference between Zimbabwe and San Francisco, and it is winter in Zimbabwe, so staying up late at night in the office wasn't easy. They also send teachers to participate in the Japan ESL Teacher program, and the ELCA will provide scholarships for a number of representatives from companion churches around the world.

The #YAGMForward campaign runs from Aug. 20 to Jan. 31, 2021, with each country program aiming to raise $15,000. Starting this month, Young Adults in Global Mission (YAGM) alums are raising funds to strengthen the program through the #YAGMForward campaign.

The ELCA joins the global Lutheran communion in mourning the passing of the Rev. Adita Torres Lescano, pastor president of the Lutheran Church of Peru. Please pray for her family and the Lutheran Church of Peru during this time.

On Dec. 15, 2020, at the age of 52, Ms. Torres Lescano was killed in a car accident. Ms. Torres Lescano served as pastor president of the Lutheran Church of Peru. She was a leader in her church and in the community, and her death is a great loss for all of Peru.

The ELCA is a member of the Lutheran World Federation (LWF), a global confederation of 145 Lutheran churches around the world, with service projects in more than 100 countries. The Lutheran Church of Peru is a companion church of the ELCA.

The ELCA’s Global Mission unit has prudently decided to delay the sending of new missionaries during summer 2020, with a few exceptions. The ELCA will continue to support ongoing mission personnel during summer 2020. The ELCA’s Global Mission unit will provide scholarships for a number of representatives from companion churches around the world.

The Lutheran Church of Peru is one of the ELCA’s 15 regional representatives in Latin America and the Caribbean. The ELCA has 15 regional representatives in its Global Mission unit.

The LWF played a vital role for the support that enabled them to be part of this important event.

The Rev. Dr. Imelda Chifamba, a representative of the Lutheran Church of Zimbabwe (ELCZ), offered a report from her church for the Lutheran Communion in Southern Africa (LUCSA) Infohut program, made arrangements with IWL students, as well as 115 other ELCA scholars studying around the world.