



Evangelical Lutheran
Church in Canada

302-393 Portage Avenue
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3B 3H6

June 2009

Launching...

ELCIC Global Mission

In Partnership with Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) Global Mission

A New Approach to World Mission

With the mandate of the ELCIC National Church Council (NCC) and the five pillars established by NCC through prayer, conversation and much deliberation in March 2008, the National Bishop, working closely with Mission in the World (MW) staff, has developed a new model to address the way the ELCIC carries out its mission in the world, not whether it will be done! Two of the five pillars in particular, *Effective Partnerships*, and *Focused Framework*, undergirded the development of this new model for fulfilling our call as ELCIC to participate in God's mission in the world.

Through *Effective Partnerships*, our work *In Mission for Others* is multiplied when we work together with our partners. In the ELCIC we strive to be good stewards of the resources we have been given by working closely with our partners and rejoicing in the gifts we can share together.

A *Focused Framework* empowers us to be effective as a church body which is responsive to our mission, vision and goals. In the ELCIC, we work to build community within the church and among our partners – in this instance the ELCA – through a strong administrative structure, open lines of communication, fostering relationships among all expressions of the church, and by having the courage to face the challenges of new realities that come before us.

For many years, ELCIC MW and ELCA Global Mission (GM) have collaborated on programs for mission personnel placements and global events. On December 17, 2008 the ELCIC announced that an agreement in principal with the ELCA was in place to work towards a global mission partnership and the integration of ELCIC MW and ELCIC GM across all program areas. The staff of ELCIC MW and ELCA GM worked together on a transition plan for this new approach to global mission which was ratified by the national councils of both churches in May 2009. This partnership will help the ELCIC to address the projected shortfall in the national budget and provide new avenues for ELCIC members to engage in global mission.

Frequently Asked Questions

When will *Mission in the World* end and ELCIC Global Mission begin?

ELCIC Global Mission (GM) will be launched at the National Convention in Vancouver, June 25-28, 2009. A gradual transition will occur in world mission program areas before and after the name of the program is changed.

What will happen to the ELCIC long-term missionaries?

The three current ELCIC long-term missionary positions (Brian Rude, El Salvador; Fran Schmidt, Peru; Lori Endress, Thailand) are continuing entirely under the administration, supervision and financial support of the ELCIC. Any new ELCIC candidates for long-term missionary service will be considered only for joint ELCA/ELCIC placements supervised by ELCA GM and funded by the ELCA and ELCIC missionary sponsorship programs.

What will happen to the Volunteers in Mission (VIM) program?

The ELCIC VIM program will end when the three current VIM placements (Jack and Valerie Frederick, Guyana; Christine Mattimoe, Niger; Carol Martin, Cameroon) are completed later this year. Any new ELCIC candidates for volunteer missionary service will be considered for the ELCA GM volunteer programs. Canadian Lutheran World Relief (CLWR) will continue to offer the International Volunteer Service (IVS) program and ELCIC members interested in the IVS program should contact CLWR directly.

How will I apply for global service with ELCIC Global Mission?

ELCIC members interested in global service can contact the ELCA GM office in Chicago directly where the global service staff team will respond to inquiries, receive applications and conduct interviews. ELCA GM has opportunities for volunteers in the Global Mission Volunteers and Young Adults in Global Mission programs. There are also opportunities for salaried mission personnel including long-term positions and two or three-year contracts. ELCIC members who are approved for salaried positions will be joint placements employed by the ELCIC and supervised by ELCA GM. While volunteers will not be official joint placements, all

ELCIC members assigned to global service by ELCA GM will be included on the mission personnel poster on the ELCIC GM web site.

What about Patagonia Mission in Argentina and Amazon Mission in Peru?

Patagonia Mission is a shared mission with the United Evangelical Lutheran Church (IELU) in which two IELU mission pastors provide ministry in the southern Patagonia region of Argentina where Canadian missionaries, the Niebergalls and Kiels, had served. Amazon Mission is a shared mission with the Peruvian Evangelical Lutheran Church (ILEP) in which the ELCIC supports an ILEP mission pastor to carry on the work that ELCIC missionary Katharine Bergbusch began in the Iquitos area of Peru for three years prior to her retirement. Patagonia Mission and Amazon Mission are continuing entirely under the administration, supervision and financial support of the ELCIC. These two program areas are funded only by mission sponsorships from the ELCIC!

How will we sponsor an ELCIC mission or missionary?

ELCIC GM will continue the Mission & Missionary Sponsorship program in its present format. Sponsorship donations and contributions to the world mission general fund provide the financial support needed for the three existing ELCIC long-term missionaries as well as Patagonia Mission and Amazon Mission. New ELCIC salaried missionaries in joint placements with ELCA GM will also be included in the ELCIC sponsorship program to provide funding for these placements. All donations for ELCIC Mission & Missionary Sponsorship and world mission in general will continue to be made in Canada and receive Canadian charitable donation receipts.

What will happen with the ELCIC's world mission partner churches?

The ELCIC has world mission partnerships with the Lutheran churches in Peru, Argentina, Colombia, Guyana, El Salvador, Jordan & the Holy Land, Cameroon and Papua New Guinea*. ELCA GM has bilateral relationships with all of these same Lutheran churches plus many more. The ELCIC will continue to relate directly to IELU in Argentina and ILEP in Peru as well as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan & the Holy Land. ELCA GM staff will represent the ELCIC when they relate to the other partner churches.

*NOTE: The partnership with the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Papua New Guinea will draw to a close at the end of 2009 as directed by the ELCIC National Church Council (NCC: March 2009).

Will my synod still have a companion church in the Companion Synod Program?

The relationships between ELCIC synods and overseas companion churches (BC-Peru; ABT-Colombia; SK-Argentina; MNO-Cameroon; Eastern-Guyana) will continue. Financial support from ELCIC synods for companion churches will continue to flow through the ELCIC national office. Finance staff in the

synod and national offices will work together directly on fund transfers. ELCIC synods interested in a second relationship could be twinned with a companion on the "waiting list" of synods, districts and churches that have expressed a desire to participate in the ELCA Companion Synod Program. Also, ELCA GM has full-time companion synod facilitators on staff who will eventually work directly with companion synod contacts in ELCIC synods.

Will ELCIC Global Mission have any staff?

As a result of the projected shortfall in the ELCIC national budget, the position of MW Coordinator (Kelvin Krieger) will end on June 30, 2009. The International Volunteer Coordinator position (Monica Denk – shared staff with CLWR) will also end on June 30, 2009. Rev Paul Johnson, the ELCIC Assistant to the Bishop responsible for world mission will be the principal staff and primary contact for ELCIC GM. Other staff in the ELCIC national office will look after many of the global mission program functions.

How will the ELCIC's voice be heard in this global mission partnership with the ELCA?

A representative of ELCIC GM will participate in the ELCA GM Program Committee meetings. Also, Rev Paul Johnson, Assistant to the Bishop responsible for ELCIC GM, will be invited to the "in-house weeks" for ELCA GM staff.

When is the next ELCA Global Mission Event?

The ELCIC endorses and participates in ELCA global events. The next big ELCA Global Mission Event will occur in 2010. ELCA GM now also offers the regional Global Formation Event (GFE) and a few GFEs are planned for the fall of 2009 including October 2-3 in Katy, Texas, October 30-31 in Lincoln, Nebraska and November 13-14 in Olympia, Washington. You can register as a congregational team for a GFE, build skills together and return energized to help your congregation be effective in God's mission locally and in the global Lutheran community. ELCA GM will assist with planning a regional GFE in Canada whenever there is interest in the ELCIC to host one.

Where will I get information about global mission?

The ELCIC GM web site will include information about the programs areas that are being administered in Canada and provide links to the ELCA GM web pages which have details about program areas available to ELCIC members. Also, ELCA GM print resources which are relevant to the ELCIC will be branded accordingly and distributed in the ELCIC.

Other questions? Contact:

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