

Tanzania

Tanzania, located on the eastern coast of Africa, is the largest country in East Africa. More than 120 distinct ethnic groups live in Tanzania, where the official language is Kiswahili.

Tanzania is one of the poorest countries in the world. Most Tanzanians live at a subsistence level. Only about 10 percent of the children go to middle school or higher, in part because of school fees. Sometimes these fees are more than a family makes in a year. Public school classrooms often have up to 120 students in a class.

Staggering numbers of Tanzanians are infected by HIV/AIDS. The U.S. Census Bureau estimates life expectancy in sub-Saharan Africa will fall to around age 30 within a



decade. The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania is a leader in developing responses to the AIDS crisis.

Forty-five percent of the people in Tanzania are Christian; thirty-five percent are Muslim; and the other 20 percent are other religions.

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania

With over three million members, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania (ELCT) is the largest Lutheran church body in Africa. It is led by a presiding bishop and twenty diocesan bishops.

Konde Diocese

The Konde Diocese has more than 90,000 members, six districts, 90 pastors, and over 60 congregations.

The gospel was brought to the area by German missionaries in 1891. The Konde Diocese, which was started in 1977, is headquartered in Tukuyu.

The Rev. Dr. Israel-Peter Mwakyolile is bishop of the Konde Diocese.



Companions in Christ



Konde Diocese
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania

Lower Susquehanna Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



Companion Synods Program



Companions in Christ — Who are we?

The Lower Susquehanna Synod and the Konde Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania entered into a companion relationship in 1990. We refer to each other as “Companions in Christ.”

The relationship began when the Lower Susquehanna Synod in assembly voted unanimously to enter into this companion relationship. Over the years this relationship has offered us the privilege of mutually participating in the life of another church through prayer, study, communication, and exchange of pastors, leaders, visitors, and resources. It has opened our eyes to the global challenge that Christ offers us today.

What specifically have we exchanged?

Pastors and other leaders — Our current and predecessor bishops have formed close, supportive working relationships and have made several inter-continental visits. Many of our pastors and lay leaders have represented our synod in visits to the diocese. Volunteers from our synod have served in Tanzania

as teachers, nurses, computer and business consultants, and educators of pastors.

Visitors — In addition to pastors and other leaders who have visited, our synod has hosted several camp counselors from the Konde Diocese; several women who have been guests of the Lower Susquehanna Synod Women of the ELCA; a teacher from Manow Lutheran Secondary School; and a pastor from the diocese who is studying to become the diocese treasurer. Annually pastors from the diocese are supported by our synod as they pursue graduate work at the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg.

Resources — Over the years our synod has sent to the diocese medical supplies, education and worship materials, theological books, and money for a variety of projects, such as the digging of wells and motorcycles for pastors to use in their ministry. We also have sent scholarship money for students at Manow Lutheran Secondary School, for

“I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now.”

– PHILIPPIANS 1:3-5 (NRSV)

“Namshukuru Mungu wangu kila niwakumbukapo, sikuzote kila niwaombeapo ninyi nyote...kwa scababu ya ushirika wenu katika kuieneza Injili...”

– WAFILIPHI 1:3-5

children of pastors and evangelists as well as money to support pastors’ salaries.

Most resources come directly from congregations and individuals and have not been part of our synod’s budget. Synodical visitors to the Konde Diocese personally pay for all their travel and visitor expenses.

How can my congregation be involved?

- † Pray for our companion diocese, its mission and ministry;
- † Learn about Tanzania and our companion relationship;
- † Invite a synod member who has visited in the Konde Diocese to participate in an event in your congregation;
- † Become a companion congregation;
- † Support a student at Manow Lutheran Secondary School by contributing to the Manow Scholarship Fund;
- † Observe an annual Companion Synod Sunday;
- † Contribute to the Konde Diocese Fund;
- † Make plans to be part of a delegation of our synod to the diocese;
- † Host a visitor from the diocese visiting in our synod.

For more information

The Rev. Thomas McKee
Office of the Secretary
Lower Susquehanna Synod, ELCA
900 S. Arlington Avenue, Suite 208
Harrisburg, PA 17109

(800) 692-7282

(717) 652-1852

On the Web: <http://www.lss-elca.org/Mission/>