

Partnership Agreement

between

- The Ev. Luth. Parishes in the Region of Arushachini and Chemchem, District Kilimanjaro Central, Northern Diocese, Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanzania,
- The Ev. - luth. Parish of Hanover - Marienwerder, District Hanover, Ev. - Luth. Church of Hanover
- The Ev.- Luth. Parish of St. Mary's, Leipzig - Stötteritz, District Leipzig, Ev. - Luth. Church in Saxony

Introduction

This partnership was founded in 1971 and agreed upon on July 14th, 1973, by handshake. Since then the partnership is living without any written document. It is based on love and mutual understanding. Enlarging and subsequent divisions of parishes, changes in generations and in living conditions however require a written document in which the spirit and the aims of the partnerships are described together - to be remembered in the future. Thus the partnership shall be protected and the expansion of the Kingdom of God in our parishes shall be promoted.

1. The Partners

Ev. - luth. Kirchengemeinde Hannover – Marienwerder

Augustiner Weg 21, 30419 Hannover – Marienwerder

Tel. +49(0)511/792083; Fax +49(0)511/7920830

www.marienwerder.de; kirchengemeinde@marienwerder.de

Ev. - luth. Marien - Kirchengemeinde Leipzig – Stötteritz

Dorstigstrasse 5, D 04299 Leipzig.

+49(0)341 / 8621646

Region of Arushachini and Chemchem:

There are five Parishes in the partnership area, to each of them belong several places of worship (Oct., 2007):

Ev. - luth. Parish of T.P.C., P.O.B. 47, Langasani via Moshi, Tanzania

With the villages resp. places of worship TPC, Masaini, Mserekia, Namba nane

Ev. - luth. Parish of Kiyungi, P.O.B. 8565, Langasani via Moshi, Tanzania

With the villages resp. places of worship Kiyungi, Weruweru, Marigatembo

Ev. - luth. Parish of Chekereni, P.O.B. 8593, Langasani via Moshi, Tanzania

With the villages resp. places of worship Chekereni, Newland, Rau River, Josho, Uarushani

Ev. - luth. Parish of Msitu wa Tembo, P.O.B. 12, Langasani via Moshi, Tanzania

With the villages resp. places of worship Kiwoi, Kiwoi Massaini, Mbuyuni, Kiruani, Londoto A und B, Israeli, Serengeti, Mikochehi: M. mkubwa, M. ndogo, M. Massaini, Kirungu, Mashambani

Ev. - luth. Parish of Magadini, P.O.B. 91, Langasani via Moshi, Tanzania

With the villages resp. places of worship Magadini, Korongo, Ngorika C, Majengo, Chemchem, Chambogo

The partners act through committees: the executive committee on the Tanzanian side, the partnership committee of Marienwerder and Stötteritz on the German side.

2. Structures

1. **In Arushachini and Chemchem there is a committee.** It is the highest authority and attempts to ensure smooth running of the partnership. It is **acting in two bodies:**
 - 1.1. **The kamati kuu**, the main committee: to which belong the church elders, some honorary workers, pastors, evangelists and parish workers from all five parishes.
 - 1.2. **The executive committee** consists of one delegate per parish, the pastors, the chairperson, the vice chairperson and the secretary. The chairperson represents the partnership.
 - 1.3. In the management of the partnership the pastors take place as advisors, not as full members with the right to vote. This is due to the frequent change of pastors. The leading persons in the partnership are parish members and honorary workers.
 - 1.4. Central place of the partnership is T. P. C.
2. On the **German side there are two partnership committees:**
 - 2.1. **In Marienwerder** there is a committee called by the church elders, guests also are admitted to the meetings. In partnership meetings the committee represents the parish.
 - 2.2. The partnership Committee in Stötteritz also is a committee of the board of Church Elders.
 - 2.3. **Centralized Control for the German side is within Marienwerder.**

3. The Spirit of The Partnership

- 3.1. Ecumenical partnerships are covenants within the covenant of God with Israel, which was renewed and extended to all nations in Jesus Christ, his atoning sacrifice, his glorious resurrection, which is renewed and kept alive through the Holy Spirit, by which the Christian Church is founded and filled with love and life. Lastly all of them are aiming at one goal: "...That they all may be one..." (John 17, 21). So they live and act in obedience to the prayer and the commandment of Jesus Christ.
- 3.2. The meaning and the idea of ecumenical partnerships is fulfilled in spiritual communion, permanent consciousness of being bound together in the Holy Spirit, various forms of exchange, sharing of gifts, meeting each other as sisters and brothers, and mutual learning. Our differences we regard as wealth. This wealth helps us to discover and to acknowledge that God is always greater than our concepts of God, and that our cultural roots and characters lessen in importance when we meet each other in the presence of God.
- 3.3. We meet each other with love and respect before each other and in awe before God in the Love of Christ.
- 3.4. The foundation of the partnership is love. It lives within us by the faith in Jesus Christ which we have received in our hearts. On this foundation we cooperate with our sisters and brothers in intercessions, in the Learning of the Word of God, in

talking to each other, in confidence, in joy, in mutual carrying of burdens and mutual help at any time.

- 3.5. Injustice is the root of nearly all conflicts. The partners agree in the rule that all requests, ideas and proposals are to be channelled through the committees. They correspond with each other, examine, approve or reject. Private payments and supports generate injustice and thus do damage to the partnership. Also attempts to sell things within the partnership are forbidden unless the committees agree.

4. Aims of The Partnership

- 4.1. Worldwide Church shall be experienced locally. A Parish must look over it's boundaries and may not be self - sufficient.
- 4.2. Missionary impulses are necessary everywhere.
- 4.3. A challenge to prayer and action. The partners shall know: German / Tanzanian Christians know about us, care for us, are interested in us, seek communion with us.
- 4.4. People on both sides are to be educated concerning the difficulties in and the necessity of ecumenical dialogue and ecumenical learning.
- 4.5. Building of confidence and Friendship between Christians of different cultures.
- 4.6. Mission and Evangelization
- 4.7. Intercessions and Sermons
- 4.8. Mutual visits of different length.

5. Practice of Partnership

With these foundations our partnership is described and understood as a partnership in relations and meetings. Several forms of meetings and contacts have been developed, to which we stand. Should there appear new promising forms and possibilities, we shall test and establish them upon mutual agreement. Should existing forms and customs appear as no longer fruitful, we shall cancel them upon mutual agreement.

- 5.1. We pray for each other - personally, in services and other parish meetings. The Rogate Sunday will be Partnership Sunday: On this Sunday the parishes celebrate a service with elements which have been agreed upon (Songs, Text for the sermon, information about intercessions).
- 5.2. Therefore it is necessary that we keep each other informed concerning important events and developments in our churches and parishes, as far as they have influence upon us. Matters of politics, economy, religion, health and educational system should not be neglected, as they have influences upon our daily living. We show interest in the environment and the conditions, in which our partners are living. We shall send a year's report to our partners.
- 5.3. We agree that full transparency is essential - between the partners, the parishes as well as towards the district, the district pastor(s) and the dioceses. For that purpose statements of account concerning use of financial assistance or criteria of elections (e.g. children to support in education) are indispensable. Those

reports also serve as account towards donors and thus generate more financial supports.

- 5.4. Backbone and source of inspiration for the partnership are mutual visits of delegations. They keep the partnership alive. In meetings there is real exchange, the celebration of communion, service and praise. Meetings bring the partnership into the public within the parish and over its boundaries. So they have a missionary effect as they open room for questions and discussions about partnerships, the reasons for them - and so develops talking about faith.
- 5.5. Beside these visits of delegations there always have been visits of single persons. In some other way they serve the partnership in deepening, creating more information and transparency, thus they strengthen it. The partnership committees may entrust those visitors with a special mandate and discuss the character of these mandates in advance in writing.
- 5.6. Delegates are nominated by the church elders and committees, are responsible to them and give a report.

6. Main interests in Support

- 6.1. Proclaiming the Gospel and caring for people are deeply rooted in the life and the instructions of Jesus Christ. (Matth. 28, 16 - 20) From the beginning of the partnership Marienwerder was engaged in financing training and salaries of evangelists. Still an annual contribution to the salaries of the evangelists and parish workers is collected and transferred. This help also shall encourage parishes to have persons out of their midst educated as evangelists. Also in the future Marienwerder feels obliged - financial possibilities provided - to keep to this kind of support.
- 6.2. In our understanding of God's service among men and women, out of the Christian concept of man and out of diaconical reflections we give "investments in people" precedence to "investments in things". Out of gifts and collects of the parish of Marienwerder an "education fund" was created. With the interests of this education fund support for the further education of children who have finished Primary school is paid. The Tanzanian committee decides about this money and develops criteria for distributing it. It will give an annual report (see 5.3.) which contains information about the children supported, the criteria for electing those to be supported, examinations (successful, not successful), the use of fund in general.
- 6.3. The resources available can not support bigger income creating or generating projects. These are not the aim of the partnership. For such projects we together have to look for qualified partners in churches, government or non - government organizations.
- 6.4. Smaller supports (at a max. of € 5.000,00) have proved meaningful and possible. Upon mutual agreement via the committees they should be realized also in the future.
- 6.5. It does not at all mean lack of love or mistrust towards the partner, if wishes cannot be fulfilled or only partly fulfilled.

7. Conclusion

12 Therefore lift your drooping hands and strengthen your weak knees,
13 and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be put out of joint, but rather be healed.

14 Pursue peace with everyone, and the holiness without which no one will see the Lord.

15 See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God; that no root of bitterness springs up and causes trouble, and through it many become defiled.

1. Let mutual love continue.

2. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it.

Hebrews, 12, 12 - 15 + 13, 1 + 2

Signed:

L. S.

Ev. - luth. Parishes of Arushachini and Chemchem - The Partnership Committee

L.. S.

Ev. - luth. Kirchengemeinde Leipzig - Stötteritz

L.S.

Ev. - luth. Kirchengemeinde Marienwerder