

# KAYANGA AGREEMENT 2008

## 1. UNITED IN GOD'S MISSION

In our partnership we proclaim Jesus Christ as the Lord and Saviour of all people. Together we meet the present challenges of God's mission in a world that is torn apart. We commit ourselves to remain members of the one Body of Christ, and therefore

- grow into a community, where we worship, learn and serve together;
- share gifts, insights and responsibilities;
- call all people to repentance and new life;
- bear witness to the Kingdom of God in striving for justice, peace and the integrity of creation;
- respond together to the missionary challenges of today.

We as German partnership groups, ELCT Karagwe diocese and its districts are together in the fellowship of United Evangelical Mission (UEM), a communion of churches on three continents.

When gospel and culture meet, many questions come up. We hope to learn to handle these questions with high sensibility and respect. The aim of intercultural learning is to find a deeper understanding and respect of 'the other'.

We welcome the Strategic Plan July 2008 - June 2013 of KAD-leadership envisioning a Christ-centred society that is peaceful, joyful and holistically empowered.



## 2. PARTNERSHIP

We take into consideration that the term 'partnership' in general refers to a personal relationship (e.g. within a marriage) or a business relationship. 'Church-Partnership' in the German-Tanzanian context means:

- Friendship (Kiswahili: *Urafiki*);
- Brother- and sisterhood, companionship (Kiswahili: *Undugu*).

From there, we discover each other, and our eyes are opened to others, to the riches of the church of Christ in the whole world and to her sufferings and needs. It is God who governs history beyond our understanding. God has brought us together in the spirit of committed ecclesiastical communion. We take mutual critical questions seriously. We are confident that the difficulties and burdens of the partnership can be discussed in a spirit of mutual respect, honesty and transparency.

We recommend:

- To develop further contacts within the frameworks of the existing partnership relations such as between kindergartens, schools, institutions, youth groups and choirs.
- Congregational councils, church district councils and the heads of the concerned institutions should be involved in the development of partnership relations.

We should consider the guidelines, priorities and constitutions of UEM and all churches involved.

## 3. KEY AREAS

Sharing, in all its different aspects, belongs to the essence of partnership. What we are and what we have does not come from our own strength, but it is a gift of God. Therefore we participate and communicate. Sharing then becomes one of the important expressions of life in Christ.

Such sharing includes the whole person, in whatever situation we find ourselves. Christ Himself has founded our communion. Because of this we share our material possessions; we share and try to alleviate the needs of individuals and of our churches and societies.

Sharing has its roots in the unity which Christ gave to the Church. Partnership and the sharing of material and immaterial resources have to start with this clear confession. This results in spiritual fellowship which cannot be separated from material, administrative, political, financial, personal, personnel, or other aspects.

### **Personal Contacts, Visits, Delegations and Personnel**

Visits stimulate friendship and strengthen partnership. In personal encounters mutual acceptance can be experienced, as Christ has accepted us. We learn from each other. Through visits we experience hospitality. The different languages are a challenge.

Both, pastors and lay co-workers, women, men and youth should be involved in these visits, and all parties should be prepared thoroughly. Hosts and visitors should organise a programme that includes both church and society life.

Visits help to get another perspective on one's own situation. Therefore, we need time for evaluation and for discussion of common issues. Visits should be prepared jointly in good time.

Mutual visitations are an expression of mutual assistance in church leadership.

We recommend:

- Spiritual exchange should be an integral part of the visits;
- Visits should include time for reflection and evaluation;
- Both partners should contribute to a visit. Details have to be worked out in advance;
- Visits should be recorded by reports and documentation;
- Information should be given to parishes, church elders, youth and women groups and the media;
- The exchange of youth groups and volunteers should be encouraged.

In the spirit of sharing, we welcome the exchange of personnel which is not limited to pastors. For such a programme, an agreement on the job description, coverage of the costs for housing, medical care and salaries, is to be worked out. Personnel should be recruited in mutual consultation. Such programmes will be facilitated with the help of UEM.

## **Spirituality**

Since the beginning of the partnership we have shared in each other's spiritual life (e.g. Partnership Sunday, common prayers and singing during visits...). Common celebration of services and sharing in the sacraments, as well as sharing in hymns, common prayers and intercessions are an expression of the unity of the church.

We recommend:

- It is an essential part of our partnership to reflect together what the message of the Bible means for our life and work;
- Partnership groups should encourage one another to improve their spiritual life;
- The partnership committees should invite all parishes and congregations to the partnership Sunday.

## **Ecumenical Learning**

Partnership encounter initiates ecumenical learning. This means that we as partners and districts in Germany and Tanzania realize that we are only one part of the worldwide body of Christ. We learn from each other because we encounter different ways of life through partnership. Ecumenical learning includes the commitment of caring for the next generations as well.

We recommend:

- That ecumenical learning should be an integral part of all areas of the church work;
- The partnership committees should discuss common issues of the ecumenical agenda in their meetings and should exchange their views and possible actions.

## Advocacy

Advocacy is that people of God stand together for justice, mercy, compassion and healing for all people and bring the good news to the poor and the needy. We do this because we are caretakers of God's creation and because we believe that every human being is created in the image of God.

We recommend:

- That partnership groups in Germany and KAD include advocacy work in their agenda and activities;
- Partnership groups should remind governments, offices, individuals, institutions, companies to play their part in respecting and implementing human rights.

## Projects

We confess that we are one in Christ. Because of this confession we share not only our material goods but also our shortcomings. Therefore partnership projects are not based on charity, but solidarity.

We live under unjust economic conditions. The division between rich and poor is a distressing reality between North and South and also visible within our respective societies. One of the ways we respond to this fact is our financial cooperation.

Needs and possibilities always affect all members of a body equally. Those who have greater financial potential at present do not have a greater right in decision-making or interference.

We recommend:

- The scheme of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation (PME) should be implemented. The details of PME should be agreed upon before the partners start with a project;
- Format of application and reporting should be standardised;
- Both partners should contribute to a project according to their abilities;
- All contributions are welcome, whether it is money, time or other resources;
- Decisions should be made mutually;
- Detailed budget showing all costs including local contributions and administration;
- Evaluation criteria should be agreed upon in the process of planning;
- Project support should get higher priority than budget financing;
- Income generating projects are recommended in order to alleviate poverty;
- All bodies concerned within KAD, German churches and UEM should receive copies of any correspondence.

All decisions within the framework of the partner relationship should consider and guarantee the inner structure and unity of the churches concerned.

## Communication

Communication means to share information about life and work in congregations, institutions and church districts (in German: Kirchenkreise, Dekanate) as well as burning issues in our societies.

We recommend:

- In communication between partners we observe many misunderstandings because of different languages, cultural backgrounds and expectations. Therefore, we should listen and talk more carefully to each other;
- To exchange prayer concerns, especially for mission work in Tanzania and Germany;
- To involve congregations and churches from all parts of the world, which have official relationships with KAD and its partners (e.g. Danmission etc.);
- To use English as the official language of communication.

## Partnership Committees

We realise the different setups of partnership committees (e.g. 'Freundeskreise') in Germany and Tanzania.

We recommend:

- To exchange minutes and/or annual reports;
- To understand each other's different structures (see constitution, setup, history etc.);
- That within KAD, a maximum of 50% of partnership committee members should be elected newly so that the continuity of the relationships and proceedings is guaranteed;
- To think about further development and increasing participation.

## 4. CONCLUSION

We hope there will be another partnership consultation in the future together with the other ecumenical partners of the Karagwe diocese.

Amendments to this agreement can be made at the KAD Round Table of UEM. Applications should be made in writing and be made available to all partners in Germany and Tanzania before the meeting. Since not every Tanzanian partnership committee will be able to send a delegate to the KAD Round Table, all Tanzanian Partnership Committees should agree on a joint point of view in advance.

Kayanga, 8<sup>th</sup> August 2008  
Karagwe, Tanzania