

# Hand in Hand

Guide for Covenant Sponsors



*“Thank you  
for making a world of difference.*

Every gift for an ELCA missionary changes lives around the world. This guide shows how you can take your gifts further and make a direct connection with a missionary serving on your behalf through a covenant relationship of mutual prayer, communication and financial gifts.”

*Pastor Lanny Westphal* DIRECTOR, MISSIONARY SPONSORSHIP



**ELCA Missionary Sponsorship**  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
God's work. Our hands.

# Missionary Visits



*"And he said to them,  
'Go into all the world and  
proclaim the good news  
to the whole creation.'"*  
MARK 16:15



**Every two years, ELCA missionaries return for a two-month home assignment.**

During this time, missionaries make an effort to accept invitations from covenant sponsors. Visit arrangements and expense reimbursement are handled between the covenant sponsor and the missionary.

Sponsors are responsible for covering the missionaries' lodging, meals and domestic travel expenses. Please remember expense reimbursements are in addition to your covenant financial commitment.

Since missionaries receive salary and other support through the ELCA, gifts to support them should be given through ELCA Missionary Sponsorship, except for home visit expense reimbursements and small personal gifts as allowed by the IRS. Contact us for guidelines.

## HANDY RESOURCES

To fully engage and enjoy your missionary sponsorship, view all the handy resources at [www.ELCA.org/handyresources](http://www.ELCA.org/handyresources). For stories and updates about global mission, ministries and missionaries, check out:

### Hand in Hand newsletter and blog

Visit [www.ELCA.org/missionarysponsorship](http://www.ELCA.org/missionarysponsorship) or <http://blogs.ELCA.org/handinhand> to read or download the latest edition.

### Global Links

Visit [www.ELCA.org/global-links](http://www.ELCA.org/global-links) to stay informed, be inspired, and get involved with monthly e-newsletter, Facebook or Twitter updates on global mission.

# Your Covenant Relationship



## PRAYER

Holding your missionary, the companion church and the country of service in prayer is an important part of the covenant relationship. Remember to:

- Pray for missionaries by name each Sunday.
- Pray for churches around the world.
- Distribute the monthly editions of "Prayer Ventures," which lift up missionaries and companion churches.
- Write prayer petitions based on missionary updates and other resources.



## COMMUNICATION

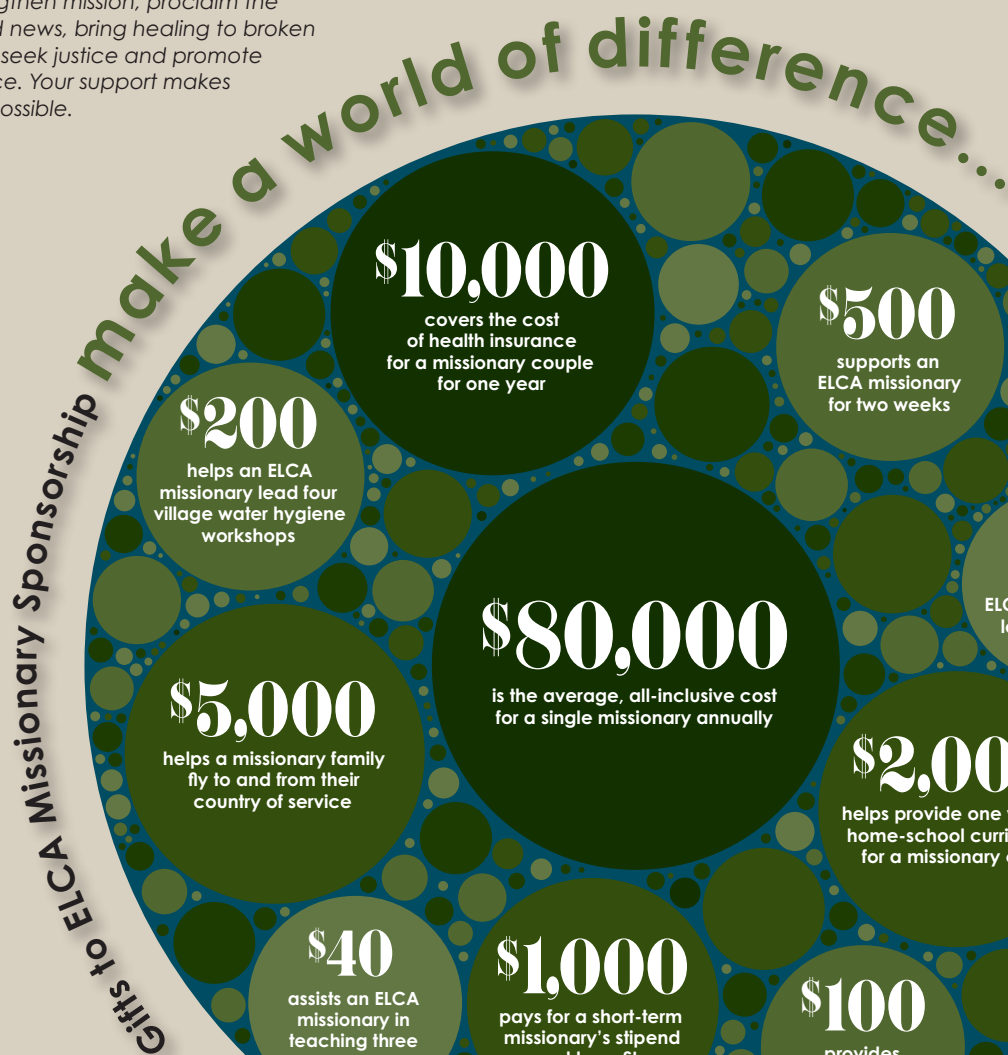
Many missionaries use the Internet to update friends, family and covenant sponsors through email or posts to a blog or website. Those with limited access to the Internet rely on traditional mail. As you grow in your covenant with your missionary, a preferred communication method will become clear.

Missionaries aim to communicate with their covenant sponsors at least three times a year. Covenant sponsors are encouraged to remember their missionaries on Christmas, Easter, birthdays and other special days.

Congregations and organization sponsors are encouraged to relate with their missionary and companion church in fun and creative ways. Here are some ideas to consider:

- Create a bulletin board or table display with correspondence from your missionary and photos from the area.
- Include missionary updates in bulletins and newsletters.
- Get children involved through children's sermons and Sunday school programs.
- Make connections in worship by incorporating hymns and music from the area and encouraging prayer.
- Many congregations focus on global mission during Epiphany, holding mission festivals and international potlucks.

Your gifts make it possible for over 240 ELCA missionaries to work hand in hand with global neighbors to strengthen mission, proclaim the good news, bring healing to broken lives, seek justice and promote peace. Your support makes this possible.



## FINANCIAL SUPPORT






We are a church that believes God is calling us into the world – together. Financial covenant commitments allow ELCA missionaries to do God's work around the world.

Congregations and other group sponsors meet their financial covenant commitment from their budget, with endowment funds or through special fundraising. Here are a few ideas to get people involved in your covenant relationship:

- ❑ Include ELCA Missionary Sponsorship offering envelopes in the pews, bulletins and mailings.
- ❑ As is customary in many congregations in Africa, receive a second offering for your missionary.
- ❑ Remember fundraising favorites: silent auction, bake sale, free-will offering at special events, or garage sales.
- ❑ Encourage members to celebrate birthdays or other special occasions with gifts to ELCA Good Gifts for ELCA Missionary Sponsorship.

# ELCA Missionary Sponsorship Covenants

## Pick your level of support.

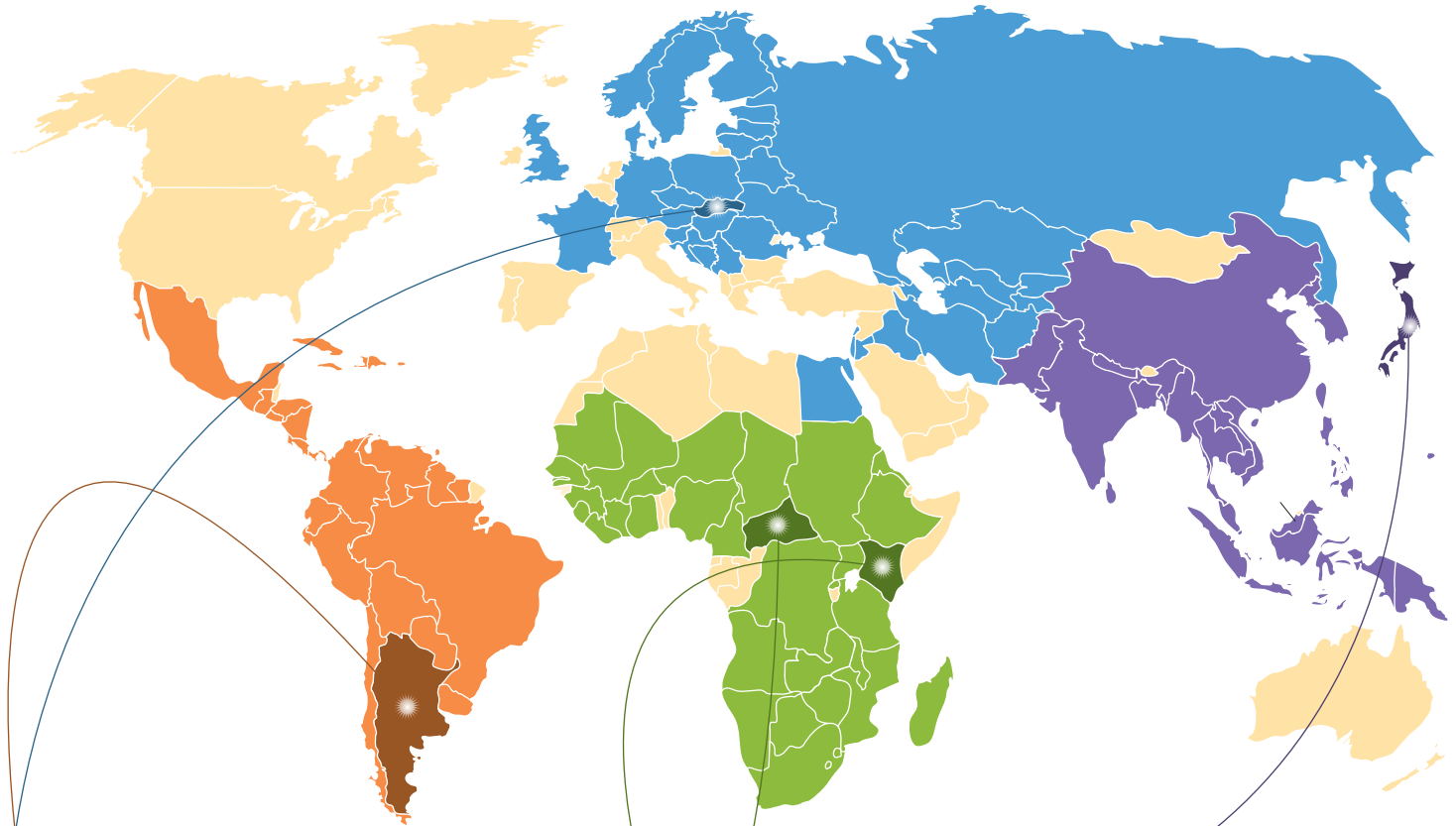
 <b>Helping Hands</b> Your covenant commitment of under \$2,000 in one year	Receive regular updates from the sponsored missionary and ELCA Missionary Sponsorship, including the global mission annual directory.
 <b>Friends</b> Your covenant commitment of \$2,000 or more in one year, or a commitment of \$1,000 or more for two consecutive years	In addition to the above: Sponsored missionaries make every effort to accept invitations to visit during home assignment.
 <b>Neighbors</b> Your covenant commitment of \$10,000 or more in one year	In addition to the above: Sponsored missionaries make it a priority to accept an invitation and sponsors are acknowledged in the annual directory.
 <b>Companions</b> Your covenant commitment of \$75,000 or more for one year or after three consecutive annual gifts of at least \$25,000	In addition to the above: Companion sponsors are honored at a recognition event, often during the annual Summer Missionary Conference.
 <b>Endowment Companions</b> Your covenant commitment to the ELCA Missionary Sponsorship endowment fund of \$75,000 or more in one year or after three consecutive annual gifts of at least \$25,000	In addition to the above: Endowment companions are invited to name their gift; the missionaries who receive proceeds from the endowed sponsorship will communicate with the donor or the donor's family.

## Select your giving method.

<b>A Covenant Relationship</b> Complete your covenant form online at <a href="http://www.ELCA.org/missionarysponsorship">www.ELCA.org/missionarysponsorship</a> or send it to us at: ELCA Missionary Sponsorship 8765 West Higgins Road Chicago, IL 60631-4101	<b>Mail</b> Send your donation directly to: ELCA Missionary Sponsorship PO Box 71764 Chicago, IL 60694-1764  If your donation is for a specific missionary, write the missionary's name in the memo line of your check.
<b>Online</b> Visit <a href="http://www.ELCA.org/missionarysponsorship">www.ELCA.org/missionarysponsorship</a> and click Donate Now.	<b>Give through your congregation or women's group.</b> Make check payable to "ELCA" or "Women of the ELCA," noting the missionary's name or ELCA Missionary Sponsorship on the memo line. <b>Treasurers</b> can remit contributions through their synod or synodical women's organizations.
<b>Phone</b> Call us at 800-638-3522.	For <b>planned giving options</b> or to include ELCA Missionary Sponsorship <b>in your will</b> , contact the ELCA Foundation at 800-638-3522.

Thank you.

Each year, more than 240 missionaries serving in 48 countries work hand in hand with global neighbors: teaching, preaching, healing, peacemaking, building and growing.



## In Argentina

Pastor Jose D. Rodriguez and Kathryn Baker train future pastors at the Protestant seminary and coordinate events for the Lutheran church.

## In the Central African Republic

Susan Smith works to bring elementary schools to villages that previously had none and to create Sunday school curriculum.

## In Slovakia

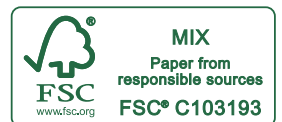
Pastor Miriam Schmidt and her husband, Jeremy Blyth, coordinate a group of Young Adults in Global Mission to bring hope and healing after years of communism.

## In Japan

Pastor Erik and Tauna Roth serve the congregation of Tokyo Lutheran Church. In addition to Erik's pastoral duties, they both teach English classes and build relationships in the community.

## In Kenya

Pastor Michael Fonner and Leslie Weed-Fonner work with their congregation's HIV and AIDS program, as well as the nursery, knitting and sewing schools.



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8765 West Higgins Road  
Chicago, Illinois 60631-4101

missionarysponsorship@ELCA.org  
www.ELCA.org/missionarysponsorship  
800-638-3522, ext. 2657