

**KUYENDA LIMODZI - WALKING TOGETHER
COMPANION SYNOD COVENANT**

INTRODUCTION

With joy and thanksgiving to God, this covenant relationship has been established between the **Evangelical Lutheran Church in Malawi** and the **NW Synod of Wisconsin of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**. As companions in Christ, we participate in each other's life and mission through communication, learning, prayer, and sharing the gifts we have received from God. This relationship is mutual; we both give and receive as brothers and sisters in Christ who have been gathered, called and sent to proclaim God's creative, redeeming and sanctifying activity in the world.

PURPOSE

By the grace of God, we have established this companionship in order to share our common humanity and life of faith. While we recognize and affirm our cultural differences, we seek to demonstrate the unity in the life and mission we have through our crucified and risen Lord Jesus Christ.

COMMITMENT

Our companionship is one of mutual trust in which we accept one another as equal companions. We walk together side by side (kuyenda limodzi). We walk with one another in a journey where the presence of God is revealed to us in the fellowship of word and sacrament. We respect the institutional church structures and policies of each church body and their liturgical and theological expressions of our common Lutheran Communion. We intend to live out our companion relationship in the spirit of abundance and to rejoice in the exchange of gifts that builds our capacity to engage in mission together.

EXPRESSIONS OF OUR COVENANT RELATIONSHIP

In establishing this covenant relationship, we intend to do the following:

1. Pray regularly in our worship life for our companions and our mission and ministry.
2. Learn about the other's history, geography, language, culture, and current affairs. This information will be shared through preaching, teaching, written materials, and other appropriate methods.
3. Exchange communications, e.g., letters, cultural, educational and devotional materials, sermons and newsletters.
4. Exchange visits, including both clergy and lay members.
5. Encourage the existing parish-to-congregation relationships and establish additional matches.
6. Direct congregations and parishes to work with the leadership of the NW Synod of Wisconsin and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Malawi to ensure transparency and accountability in our interactions.
7. Support projects mutually agreed upon by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Malawi and the NW Synod of Wisconsin of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
8. Share our God-given resources and gifts with our companions.
9. Celebrate the relationship annually on Companion Synod Sunday, on a date we agree upon together.

As companions in Christ, we, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Malawi and the NW Synod of Wisconsin of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, affirm this covenant. As partners in the Gospel we are encouraged to confess our unity in Christ by eagerly accepting the challenge to walk together in faith, resolving to pray for one another, inspiring one another, learning from one another, and sharing our faith and culture with one another.

This Covenant is signed in agreement on June 1st, 2007 by:

Bishop Joseph Bvumbwe
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Malawi

Bishop Robert Berg
NW Synod of Wisconsin- ELCA