

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN TANZANIA - ELCT

Vision Statement

A communion of people rejoicing in love and peace; blessed spiritually and physically, hoping to inherit eternal life through Jesus Christ.

Mission Statement

To make people know Jesus Christ and have life in it fullness by bringing to them the Good News through words and deeds based on the Word of God as it is in the Bible and the Lutheran teachings guided by the ELCT Constitution.

Background

The Lutheran Church began its activities in the country during the 19th Century. The Church has continued to bear fruits despite interruptions by the Hehe/ German War in 1891, the Majimaji war of 1905/6, the 1st World War 1914-1918 and later on the 2nd World War of 1939 - 1945.

Membership

In December 2012 the Church had a membership of nearly 6.1 million in a population of over 44 million people (2012 Census).

Church Focus

The Church focuses on propagating the "wholistic" Gospel serving man through spiritual, social, economic and environmental programmes /interventions in order to have a God loving community hence fulfilling God's mission in Tanzania. In serving human beings in a wholistic way, The Church carries out mission work within and outside the country using all types of means and media. Has a coordination office responsible for financial reports on church activities. Produces literature for Christian nurturing. The central office has a function of Capacity building, Advocacy and Facilitation (CAF) of the dioceses. The Church has common work institutions including: The Tumaini University Makumira that has 6 constituent colleges; Morogoro Lutheran Junior Seminary (LJS); Three schools for deaf children. It has 23 Hospitals and more than 140 health centres and dispensaries spread across Tanzania. It is engaged in PHC, diakonia, HIV counseling, treatment and Palliative Care at national and Diocesan levels. ELCT has a number of water projects as well as poverty alleviation and environment protection projects. The implementation of these projects have had a significant impact on development in the communities.

History

By 1938 there were seven Churches in the then Tanganyika, as the country was known at the time and in 1938, the Churches formed a federation known as the Federation of Lutheran Churches in Tanganyika. On June 19, 1963, the seven Churches, under the umbrella of a federation, merged to become dioceses of a single Church, known as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania.

Dioceses

The Church will have 22 Dioceses when two new ones are inaugurated in May 2013; the Dioceses are:

1) North Western Diocese 2) North Eastern Diocese 3) Pare Diocese 4) Northern Diocese 5) North Central Diocese 6) Karagwe Diocese 7) Central Diocese 8) Southern Diocese 9) Konde Diocese 10) South Central Diocese 11) Ulanga / Kilombero Diocese 12) Eastern and Coastal Diocese 13) Mbulu Diocese 14) Iringa Diocese 15) Dodoma Diocese 16) East of Lake Victoria Diocese 17) Diocese in Mara Region 18) Diocese of Meru 19) South Western Diocese 20) Morogoro Diocese. The new dioceses are: 21) South East of Lake Victoria Diocese and 22) South Eastern Diocese.

Leadership

The Presiding Bishop (also referred to as 'Mkuu') is elected by the ELCT Assembly from amongst the Bishops of the dioceses for a four year term; re-election is possible for another term. The Assembly is the highest decision making body. Other bodies include the Executive Council and the Executive Committee.

ELCT Head Office

The Head Office has four main departments answerable to the Secretary General. The Departments are:

1) Mission and Evangelism 2) Finance and Administration 3) Social Services and Women's Work 4) Planning and Development.

Auditor General

The office of the ELCT Auditor General is responsible to the ELCT Executive Council.

Common Work Institutions

Common work Institutions that serve the entire Church, include:

TUMAINI UNIVERSITY MAKUMIRA that started operating in 1997 offers various courses in its various constituent colleges:

OTHER COMMON WORK INSTITUTIONS ARE:

- The Lutheran Junior Seminary in Morogoro
- The Lutheran FM Station in Moshi - 'Radio Sauti ya Injili'
- Two Primary Schools for the deaf one at Mwanga, Kilimanjaro Region and another in Njombe as well as a Deaf Secondary School in Njombe Region.

Income generating-cum investments:

The New Safari Hotel in Arusha and the proposed Kunduchi Beach Centre in Dar es Salaam.

THE HEAD OFFICE of the ELCT is in the Lutheran Centre Building in Arusha along Boma Road opposite the main Post Office, close to the landmark Clock Tower round-about at the Sokoine/ Joel Maeda and Boma Road junction.

The offices of Air Tanzania are on the ground floor of the Lutheran Centre and so are a book store/curio shop, a tour company and a café. The centre is quite close to New Safari and Arusha Hotels. Offices of Precision Air/ Kenya Airways, Ethiopian Airline, Easy Travel, a Bank and a number of Foreign Exchange bureaus are housed in the New Safari Business Centre.