

International Partnership Agreement

Presbytery: Susquehanna Valley, Presbyterian Church (USA)

Partner: Western Wollega Bethel Synod, Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus

Partnership Data:

Presbytery Contact Persons:

Interim Executive Presbyter Rev. Dr. Cheryl Ann Elfond

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Stated Clerk, Rev. Dr. Janet Adair Hansen

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Ruling Elder Junietta Brooks

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Synod Contact Persons:

Rev. Korsá Yadessa, President of WWBS

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Rev. Deressa Wakjira, Executive secretary of WWBS

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Rev. Chali Yosef, Vice President of WWBS

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International partnership Agreement

II. Needs to be addressed:

A. Needs of the Presbytery of Susquehanna Valley, PCUSA

1. Continued growth in our understanding of the practice of faith in another land.
2. Continued growth in our understanding of the Ethiopian culture, particularly in Western Wollega.
3. We need your assistance with *encouraging our members in evangelism.
4. We need assistance with *encouraging Ruling Elders as spiritual leaders and with *encouraging Lay Pastors.
5. The continued need to break down stereotypes and prejudices.
6. We need your *prayers for strengthening the faith of our individual members and empower the spiritual life of our members.
7. We need help in learning how to enlarge the active participation of the partnership beyond those who have been involved over the years to all congregations and members of our Presbytery.
8. We need to learn more about how *WWBS practices their Christian faith in a non-Christian context.
9. To gain a better understanding of how the actions of the USA impact other nations.
10. We need your help in finding a way for us to connect in prayer and share in our worship on a regular basis through whatever means are available.

B. Needs of Western Wollega Bethel Synod, EECMY

1. We request your prayers.
2. We desire education and knowledge of the PC (USA), especially in areas of worship, polity and mission.
3. We have needs which require financial resources for maintaining the Western Wollega Bethel Synod office.
4. We need continued support for:
 - a. the Ethiopian Rural Education Project,
 - b. the Kake Multipurpose Center,
 - c. Maintaining the original Guest House for visiting mission personnel,
 - d. Support for the three schools: Berhane Yesus Elementary School, Bethel Evangelical Secondary School, and the Gidada Bible School,
 - e. Elders training.
5. We desire opportunities to exchange people in order to share ideas through personal contact.
6. We desire opportunities for educational training and advancement in the international Colleges and Universities.
7. We request teachers, technical personnel and professionals who can work in a developing country and offer their expertise to train our people in the fields of Church leadership, building construction, education, and health.

8. We have a need to train women in helpful skills that will enable them to generate income for their families.
9. We have a special need to provide communities with grinding mills so that women will have the time and energy to develop other skills.

International partnership Agreement

III. Commitments Made To Carry Out the Partnership Activities Or Objectives

A. The Presbytery of Susquehanna Valley agrees to do the following to implement the Partnership activities:

1. Continuing exchange visits annually or every other year by representatives of each partner (SVP and WWBS) as finances permit.
2. International prayers and providing a list of prayer concerns to Western Wollega Bethel Synod.
3. Supporting WWBS including the annual elder training program. *BYES, BESS, Gidada and EREP, in whatever ways possible.
4. Exploration, with WWBS, of other projects needing financial or other support.
5. International efforts to better educate our churches about the life and faith of the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus and the Western Wollega Bethel Synod.
6. Encouragement of children and youth in mission awareness and mission partnership
7. Encouragement of Presbytery of Susquehanna Valley College graduates to serve as teachers in Western Wollega Bethel Synod- at Berhane Yesus Elementary School, Bethel Evangelical Secondary School, and the Gidada Bible School.
8. Budgeting monies annually or every other year as finances permit for the
 - a. Exchange of visitors with the Presbytery of Susquehanna Valley
 - b. Support for running cost of the Western Wollega Bethel Synod.
 - c. Participation *in the PC (USA) in the Ethiopian Mission Network.

B. The Presbytery Partner agrees to abide by the Principals of Partnership of the Presbyterian Church (USA).

C. Western Wollega Bethel Synod agrees to do the following to implement the Partnership activities

1. We will make a commitment to pray for the people and churches of the Presbytery of Susquehanna Valley.
2. We will receive our sisters and brothers from the Presbytery of Susquehanna Valley with joy and friendship. We will receive them as guests and provide food, accommodations, and transportation within the Western Wollega Bethel Synod work area.
3. Western Wollega Bethel Synod will make a commitment to keep the people and churches of the Presbytery of Susquehanna Valley informed about the life and activity of Western Wollega Bethel Synod churches. In addition to regular correspondence:

- a. We will provide a written summary of the activities and information once a year.
 - b. We will maintain monthly correspondence with the Presbytery of Susquehanna Valley providing information regarding the mission and ministry of the Synod. This communication will be in a format that can be easily shared with the congregations and members of the Presbytery.
4. We will explore ways that we can be in contact through whatever means are available so as to share in worship and prayer.
 5. We will explore ways that we can assist with training Ruling Elders as spiritual leaders within the Presbytery.
 6. We will explore possibilities of sending a mission worker in evangelism to work within the bounds of SVP under the direction of the Council of the Presbytery with the goal of training Teaching and Ruling Elders in engaging in evangelistic work themselves.

International partnership Agreement

IV. Resources Available for Carrying Out The Partnership Activities:

- A. The Presbytery of Susquehanna Valley resources will be raised as finances permit
- a. The Presbytery annual budget
 - b. Special offerings.
 - c. Individual contributions.
 - d. Extra commitment giving.
- B. Western Wollega Bethel Synod resources will be raised as finances permit
- a. The Synod annual budget as finances permit.
 - b. Special offerings.
 - c. Individual contributions.
 - d. Extra commitment giving.

V. Review

The partners agree to review this agreement annually and one year before the end date for this agreement (end date: June 2016)

A full evaluation will be held and the results shared with the appropriate leadership of the respective denominations

Cheryl Ann Elfond October 13, 2011 Cheryl Ann Elfond Executive Presbyter

(WWBS signature and date) Rev. Korsá Yadessa, President of the Western Wollega Bethel Synod.

[Signature] November 25, 2011
Rev. Korsá Yadessa
President of the WWBS