

1 2016-2021 Partnership Covenant
 2 Between
 3 Susquehanna Valley Presbytery of the PC(USA) (“SVP”)
 4 and
 5 Western Wollega Bethel Synod (“WWBS”), a part of the Ethiopian Evangelical
 6 Church Mekane Yesus (EECMY)

7 * *DRAFT approved by the Team 7/7/16, to be forwarded to SVP Cabinet* *
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24 *United in the Spirit of Christ, but seeking ever greater unity in fellowship and*
 25 *practice, we commit to praying for each other and assisting each other in*
 26 *ministry.*
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28 The Susquehanna Valley Presbytery seeks to:

- 29 1. Further our understanding of the Christian faith as practiced in western Ethiopia,
 30 especially within a non-Christian cultural context;
- 31 2. Further our understanding of Ethiopian culture, especially the Oromo peoples in Western
 32 Wollega;
- 33 3. Find more ways to connect with WWBS in prayer and share in worship;
- 34 4. Encourage our members in evangelism, our Ruling Elders in spiritual leadership, and our
 35 Lay Pastors in pastoral leadership;
- 36 5. Pray for the spiritual life of our members;
- 37 6. Pray for expanding the involvement of congregations in our Presbytery in our Ethiopian
 38 Partnership;
- 39 7. Practice seeing our Ethiopian sisters and brothers as neighbors, confronting stereotypes
 40 and prejudices, and acknowledging our own privilege and power as Americans;
- 41 8. Gain a better understanding of how the actions and inactions of the USA impact Ethiopia
 42 and other African nations; and
- 43 9. Find inspiration in the humble “servant leadership” exhibited by WWBS officers and
 44 leaders, as examples of Christian integrity
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46 The Western Wollega Bethel Synod seeks to:

- 47 1. Pray for the life of the Church in Western Wollega;
- 48 2. Increase its knowledge of the PC(USA), especially in areas of worship, church
- 49 governance, and mission;
- 50 3. Provide prayer and financial support for:
- 51 a. The WWBS Synod Office
- 52 b. the Synod schools: Birhane Yesus Elementary (BYES), Bethel Evangelical
- 53 Secondary (BESS), Gidada Theological College (GTC); and the Ethiopian Rural
- 54 Education Project (EREP)
- 55 c. training Ruling Elders for Church leadership;
- 56 d. training of missionaries to the East Shewa/West Arsi region of Ethiopia;
- 57 e. women’s ministries and health ministries, such as:
- 58 i. Training women in marketable skills that will enable them to generate
- 59 income for their families;
- 60 ii. Provide communities with grinding mills (freeing women to develop other
- 61 skills);
- 62 iii. Medical treatment for fistula condition
- 63 f. the maintenance, remodeling and new construction of Synod buildings such as:
- 64 i. the Kake Multipurpose Center; and
- 65 ii. the original Guest House for visiting mission personnel;
- 66 iii. the Pioneers Memorial Building Project in Dembi Dollo
- 67 g. WWBS agricultural and water projects;
- 68 4. Find opportunities to exchange visitors, both sending representatives of WWBS abroad to
- 69 the USA and SVP, and receiving representatives of SVP; and
- 70 5. Publicize and promote opportunities for American professional volunteers to work for
- 71 WWBS in the Dembi Dollo region in the fields of education, health, construction,
- 72 technology and Church leadership, and help train native Ethiopians in their area of
- 73 expertise.
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75 *In view of these needs, we commit to do the following, with God’s help:*

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77 The Presbytery of the Susquehanna Valley will:

- 78 1. Support exchange visits by representatives of each partner, as often as finances and visa
- 79 processes permit;
- 80 2. Pray for the specific needs of WWBS;
- 81 3. Provide a list of specific prayer needs to WWBS;
- 82 4. Educate our congregations on the life, faith, and needs of WWBS and EECMY;
- 83 5. Encourage children and youth in mission awareness and mission partnership;
- 84 6. Encourage college graduates and retirees to consider teaching at the Synod schools as
- 85 volunteers, help financially support volunteers in mission, and promote other
- 86 opportunities for professionals to do volunteer work in Ethiopia (eg. health care,
- 87 construction, water & agricultural development);
- 88 7. Provide some financial support to WWBS that the Synod can determine how to use
- 89 according to their priorities, whether for program purposes such as teaching, training,
- 90 evangelism, and mission outreach or for Synod office, buildings and maintenance such as
- 91 the Pioneers Memorial Building in Dembi Dollo;

- 92 8. Provide some financial support designated to the three Synod schools and EREP;
- 93 9. Participate in the PC(USA) Ethiopian Mission Network;
- 94 10. Budget annually for our commitments above on a year-to-year basis;
- 95 11. Seek opportunities for fund-raising through special offerings, individual and
- 96 congregational contributions, and extra commitment giving; and
- 97 12. Abide by the Principles of Partnership of the PC(USA) as described in the 2003
- 98 document “Presbyterians Do Mission in Partnership.”
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100 Western Wollega Bethel Synod will:

- 101 1. Pray for the people and churches of SVP;
- 102 2. Receive our brothers and sisters visiting from the SVP with joy and friendship, as guests,
- 103 providing food, accommodation, and transportation within the WWBS work area;
- 104 3. Maintain timely correspondence with SVP providing information regarding the mission
- 105 and ministry of the WWBS churches and Synod that can be shared with congregations
- 106 and members of SVP, and provide a written summary of activities and general
- 107 information once a year;
- 108 4. Send prompt confirmation when funds from SVP have been received and promptly
- 109 disburse designated funds to the target agency or program (such as BESS or Women’s
- 110 Ministries), and have the agency or program send confirmation that they have received
- 111 their designated funds;
- 112 ~~5.~~ Report to SVP how discretionary funds are spent by WWBS;
- 113 6. Explore ways to be in contact through whatever means are available so as to share in
- 114 worship and prayer;
- 115 7. Share as a model how WWBS Elders and Lay Pastors are trained as spiritual leaders with
- 116 SVP; and
- 117 8. Seek to dedicate funds through the Synod annual budget, special offerings, individual
- 118 contributions, and extra commitment giving.
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120 Term of the Covenant

121 This covenant is for 5 years. The partners agree to review the agreement annually and especially
 122 in anticipation of its end date (2021), so as to have prayerful deliberation about the continuation
 123 of this partnership.

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125 *Signatures:*

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