

## ***Guiding principles***

1. The Board for International Mission is charged with developing and determining policies in support of mission and ministry in foreign countries for the Office of International Mission (Bylaw 1.2.1 [m]). The policies shall be inclusive of both Witness (martyria) and Mercy (diakonia). Further, such policies shall be in accordance with the Constitution and Bylaws of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod; and, in particular Articles II and III of the Constitution.
  - 1.1 Missionaries shall focus attention on support of partner church mission endeavors, school and theological education, and the establishment, whenever possible, of Lutheran congregations.
  - 1.2 Missionaries shall focus attention on support of our emerging church's endeavors in areas of Witness (martyria), Lutheran education, and theological education, and where ever possible help the emerging churches establish Lutheran congregations.
  - 1.3 Missionaries shall recognize and include works of mercy and human care as they perform their responsibilities as outlined in Policies 1.1 and 1.2.
  - 1.4 Missionaries shall work cooperatively with partner churches to make certain that services adequately provided by partner churches shall not be duplicated.
  - 1.5 Missionaries shall consider that their faith leads to a missionary lifestyle not only through confession, but conduct (Matt.5:16).

## ***Recognizing the rights of partner churches***

2. The Board for International Mission shall develop policies that foster the cooperation with the work of partner churches and are consistent with the protocol documents with our partner churches related to the work between the LCMS and partner churches.
  - 2.1 The protocol document shall be the guiding principles related to work between the LCMS and partner churches.
  - 2.2 Missionaries shall work cooperatively with partner churches to make certain that services, adequately provided by partner churches, shall not be duplicated.
  - 2.3 The Office of International Mission shall work cooperatively with our partner churches to assist and support the programs of the partner church.
  - 2.4 The Office of International Mission shall work cooperatively with districts, congregations and RSOs to assist and support the programs of our partner churches, providing human, educational and doctrinal resources.
  - 2.5 Missionaries in focusing upon education and support of partner churches mission endeavors shall follow the partner churches lead in development of the theological education and mission emphasis.
  - 2.6 In promoting the unity of the faith, missionaries shall model life together and avoid paternalism.

3. The Board for International Mission shall develop policies to seek cooperation from/with colleges, universities, and seminaries of the Synod to advance and facilitate the conversation and promotion of the unity of the true faith working together with our partner churches to evangelize the world and to provide a united defense against schism, sectarianism, and heresy.
  - 3.1 The Office of International Mission shall promote opportunities for college, university and seminary staff, professors and students to participate in international mission and mercy work.
  - 3.2 The Office of International Mission shall identify opportunities for our colleges, universities and seminaries to help train church workers of our partner churches in Lutheran Theology.

### ***Liaison with colleges, universities and seminaries of the Synod***

4. The Board for International Mission shall develop policies to coordinate and cooperate with the colleges, universities and seminaries of the Synod to provide educational opportunities to church workers to ensure our missionaries have a solid Lutheran theological foundation and are prepared for work in the international mission field. (Constitution Article III, Par. 3.)
  - 4.1 The Office of International Mission shall work with the colleges, universities, and seminaries to develop and expand curriculum that trains church workers to effectively work in the international mission field.
  - 4.2 The Office of International Mission shall identify resources available to the colleges, universities and seminaries to assist these institutions in the training of international church workers.
5. The Board for International Mission shall develop policies that support cooperation and collaboration with colleges, universities, and seminaries of the synod.
  - 5.1 The Office of International Mission shall work with the colleges, universities and seminaries of the Synod to create channels of communication, cooperation and collaboration to draw on their expertise and resources in matters of international mission.
  - 5.2 The Office of International Mission shall work with the colleges, universities and seminaries of the Synod to provide support to these institutions in matters of international mission.

### ***Liaison with Chief Ecumenical Officer of the Synod (President)***

6. The Board for International Mission shall develop policies that provide collaboration and communication with the Synod's Chief Ecumenical Officer or his representative.
  - 6.1 The Board for International Mission shall include in its normal meeting agenda time for discussion with the Synod's Chief Ecumenical Officer or his representative of current and future international mission issues.

### ***Human Care***

7. The Board for International Mission shall develop policies to provide opportunities through which the Synod's members may express their Christian concern, love, and compassion in meeting human needs (Const., Art. III 4) in proximity to or leading toward Word and Sacrament.
  - 7.1 Missionaries shall be sensitive to partner church “mercy” emphasis and diligently maintain the values and emphasis of Policy 2.2
  - 7.2 Missionaries shall be cognizant of the principles outlined in Policy 2.3

## *Chaplaincy*

Introduction: Chaplaincy is a calling to serve outside a voluntary congregational structure -- where there is a common and shared faith identity. The chaplain’s constituency is a military or institutional community (hospitals or prisons) within an increasingly pluralistic environment and as such a community within which many may be Christian, a great number of them are not; many may be non-Lutheran Christians, others Lutheran and still others, members of congregations of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. Chaplaincy is a very different vocation from a civilian congregational pastorate because a Lutheran chaplain shall never find that his work is among a majority of Lutherans, let alone a served-community of strictly LCMS, Lutherans. As such, and by assignment, the LCMS chaplain is called to ensure the religious needs of all those of his unit, ship or other appropriate U.S. military installation are met. The ministry of the LCMS chaplain is the same ministry of Word and Sacrament as defined by the Book of Concord and applied by the LCM Constitution and Handbook.

8. The Board for International Mission shall develop policies that provide a pastoral ministry for all of the Synod’s military personnel and dependents of military personnel through the calling of military chaplains.
  - 8.1 The LCMS chaplain shall be primarily concerned with a spiritual ministry, with major emphasis upon the preaching of the Word and the administration of Sacraments, and on personal contact and counseling.
    - 8.1.1 Within this environment the LCMS chaplain is a missionary. Through the opportunity to become close to un-baptized and lapsed Christians, his ministry shall be an opportunity for planting the seed of the Gospel which, by the working of the Spirit, shall bear fruit according to God’s promises (Mark 4: 1-20).
    - 8.1.2 The LCMS chaplain shall conduct, for Lutherans, a Lutheran worship service with the Lord’s Supper. Law and Gospel are preached and the liturgy conducted so that Baptism, repentance, the church’s creedal faith and the Real Presence are faithfully presented to the worshipers.
  - 8.2 The Board for International Mission shall be responsible for calling active duty Military Chaplains in accordance with and consistent with all policies and procedures established by the Synod.
    - 8.2.1 All Ecclesiastical Endorsements, Ecclesiastical Approvals and Calls for active duty military chaplains shall be approved and issued by the Board for International Mission.

- 8.2.2 The Ministry to the Armed Forces Committee (MAF Committee) shall operate as an advisory committee for purposes of calling and sending of active duty military chaplains.
- 8.2.3 The MAF Committee shall be responsible for developing policies procedures (MAF Chaplain Guidelines), which shall be reviewed and approved by the Board for International Mission.

## ***International Schools***

- 9. The Board for International Mission shall develop policies that would, where requested and appropriate, assist its “partner” or associated Lutheran Church bodies in the establishment and maintenance of Lutheran schools in the geography of that Lutheran Church body all in accord with the Constitution of the LCMS in particular Article VI.
  - 9.1 The LCMS shall provide assistance, through personnel or other forms of guidance, in understanding the process for the start-up of Lutheran Schools; and, ongoing assistance, again through personnel or other forms of guidance, in maintaining and/or expanding the operation of such Schools.
  - 9.2 The involvement of LCMS personnel shall always be with the intent and purpose of furthering a program of
    - 9.2.1 The highest level of Lutheran education; and,
    - 9.2.2 Proclamation of the Gospel through word and deeds to the communities around the School consistent with the doctrine and teachings of the Lutheran Confessions as found in the Book of Concord.
- 10. The Board for International Mission shall develop policies that support (through direct or indirect ownership or otherwise) a system of world class international schools in major international metropolitan centers that leverage academic excellence with the opportunity to clearly proclaim the works and Words of God to both Christian and non-Christian students, thereby equipping and training Christian students and faculty to witness and show mercy in their present and future lives. Specifically, ends that (1) support the existing three International Schools either owned on behalf of or associated with the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, i.e., the Schools located in Hong Kong, Shanghai and Hanoi; and, (2) where the opportunity presents itself, establish, through appropriate ownership or otherwise and thereafter assist in the operation of, Christian/Lutheran Schools.
  - 10.1 As part of the “international operations” of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, the School shall:
    - 10.1.1 Offer a program of Lutheran education, at the highest level of academic standards; and,
    - 10.1.2 Serve the community in a manner consistent with the doctrine and teachings of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod as spelled out in Article II of the Constitution of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.

- 10.1.3 Offer an American model and standards of education.
- 10.1.4 Function under the leadership of a Lutheran administration, where:
  - 10.1.4.1. The Head of School, or other appropriate title, shall, where at all possible, be an LCMS educator; and if not, a member of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.
  - 10.1.4.2. A majority of the senior administrators of the School, again where at all possible, shall be members of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.
  - 10.1.4.3. There shall be a strong nucleus of Lutheran teachers, with as many positions, where at all possible, filled by graduates from LCMS colleges who are trained as Lutheran educators.
- 10.1.5 The faculty, administration and the local governing body of the School shall be cognizant of and agree to uphold the Christian ethos of the School, in particular as found in the Lutheran Confessions.
- 10.1.6 A program of religious studies shall be offered wherein Christianity shall be taught from the perspective of the doctrine and teachings as found in the Lutheran Confessions.
- 10.1.7 Regular Lutheran worship shall be provided for the school staff for spiritual support of the school and wherever possible a Lutheran congregation shall be planted.
- 10.1.8 The Office of International Mission shall work with LCMS colleges and universities and other institutions and agencies, where appropriate and necessary, in developing and implementing a system for the education, training equipping, and certifying of qualified teachers and administrators for calling or appointing to International Schools that are either in “partnership” with the LCMS or are associated with partner churches of the LCMS. (see guidelines 5.b)

### ***International Ministry***

- 11. The Board for International Mission shall develop policies that provide spiritual edification and growth, and where at all possible, Word and Sacrament ministry through divine services, for its personnel serving internationally on behalf of the Board for International Mission, through the Office of International Mission of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.
  - 11.1 The Office of International Mission shall, for called and appointed missionaries serving internationally, ensure a continuing availability of LCMS theological material and personnel for the spiritual edification and growth of LCMS personnel in the field.
- 12. The Board for International Mission shall develop policies that provide spiritual edification and growth, and where at all possible, Word and Sacrament ministry through divine services, for its LCMS members who may be living and or working in major international metropolitan centers.

- 12.1 Worship centers in major international metropolitan areas shall serve as mission outposts, meeting the spiritual needs of expats, whether LCMS (but in particular LCMS), or not and equipping them for witness and mercy in their respective vocations for the building up of the Kingdom of God.
  - 12.1.1 Worshipping communities, developing into congregations, shall be built around a core of Lutheran laity.
  - 12.1.2 When and where practical, an LCMS clergy, evangelical in mindset and energetic in nature, is sent to pastor, teach and equip the laity within the worshipping community for Kingdom outreach in and through their vocations.

### ***Strong Missional Leadership***

- 13. The Board for International Mission shall develop policies that encourage strong missional leadership that follows through, is consistent with, and accomplishes directives mandated by the Synod in convention and its constitution and by-laws.
  - 13.1 The Office of International Mission IM shall encourage and support the church at large in their own lives of serving in God's mission internationally through prayer, witness, mercy, and life together activities and their financial stewardship so that the love of Christ and the message of salvation might be made known to and for the eternal benefit of the nations.
  - 13.2 The Office of International Mission shall develop positive and truthful mission leadership communications and opportunities that shall challenge and enable individuals to grow in their own capacity to speak and live the mission of God through their personal stewardship of "Witness", "Mercy", and "Life Together" at home and for the sake of the International mission.
  - 13.3 The Office of International Mission shall provide opportunities for missionaries to grow in their mission leadership skills.
  - 13.4 The Office of International Mission shall require missionaries to take advantage of educational opportunities to develop their mission leadership skills.

### ***Training of Missionaries***

- 14. The Board for International Mission shall develop policies, which assure missionaries shall have adequate theological understanding and missional vision consistent with LCMS theology.
  - 14.1 A missionary shall be either:
    - 14.1.1 Called from the roster of the LCMS as ordained or commissioned ministers of religion. or;
    - 14.1.2 Through a solemn appointment (other workers for the ministries in foreign area).

- 14.2 Persons receiving a solemn appointment (non-rostered) shall be members of a LCMS congregation.
- 14.3 Missionaries shall pursue growth in their mission leadership skills and be afforded a clear path of training and development to enable this to take place.
- 14.4 The Office of International Mission shall develop minimum qualification requirements for missionaries.
- 15. The Board for International Mission shall develop policies that shall result in the establishment of appropriate levels of ongoing training, goal setting, and sharing of the unifying vision.
  - 15.1 The Office of International Mission shall establish minimum requirements for continuing theological and unifying mission vision training for all workers in the field.
  - 15.2 The Office of International Mission shall require that each missionary worker in the field receive training on establishing and reviewing goals.
  - 15.3 The Office of International Mission shall work with the regional directors to revisit and document existing and indigenous regional Witness Mercy and Life Together strategies so that they might be communicated consistently and clearly to international missions staff.
  - 15.4 The Office of International Mission shall work with its supervising International staff to establish appropriate individualized training in missiological principles for each missionary.

### ***Sending of Missionaries***

- 16. The Board for International Mission shall develop policies regarding the calling, appointing, assigning, withdrawing, and releasing of missionaries (ordained and commissioned ministers of religion and other workers for the ministries in foreign areas).
  - 16.1 The Board for International Mission and Office of International Mission shall follow the policies as established by the appropriate Synodical supervisory authority for the calling of ordained or commissioned ministers of religion.
    - 16.1.1 The Office of International Mission shall follow the established Human Resources policies of the Synod in the recruitment and selection process for all missionaries and other workers for ministries in foreign areas.
    - 16.1.2 The Office of International Mission shall provide appropriate and consistent background information to the Board for International Mission for all calls, appointments and the withdrawing of missionaries in foreign areas at least 2 weeks prior to any scheduled Board for International Mission meeting unless the Office of International Mission informs the Chairman of the Board for International Mission and receives permission to provide the information outside the established time period.

- 16.1.3 The Office of International Mission will thoroughly monitor the living and work environment of missionaries prior to and during their deployment.

### ***Recognized Service Organizations, Auxiliary, District, and Congregation, and LCMS Institutions Relationships with Partner Churches***

17. The Board for International Mission shall develop policies that foster cooperation and collaboration between Office of International Mission, RSOs, Auxiliaries, LCMS Institutions, Districts and congregations with our Partner Churches so that the mission and ministry of the Synod is extended and our life together is enhanced. (By-laws 6.1.1 — 6.2.3)
- 17.1 RSOs, Auxiliaries, LCMS Institutions, Districts, and Congregations shall abide by the Protocol Documents between the LCMS and our partner churches and shall be provided with appropriate assistance by the Office of International Mission to work collaboratively and cooperatively.
- 17.2 The Office of International Mission shall work cooperatively with Recognized Service Organizations, Auxiliaries, LCMS Institutions, Districts, and Congregations in the sending of rostered or commissioned ministers of religion and other workers to the foreign mission areas of the Synod.

### ***Disaster Response***

18. The Board for International Mission shall develop policies that support Synod members and individuals to have opportunities to express their Christian concern, love, and compassion in meeting human needs (Article III.4), both ongoing and in times of international disaster, in proximity to or leading toward Word and Sacrament ministry.
- 18.1 The Office of International Mission shall aide and facilitate districts, congregations, and individuals to serve their neighbor in immediate human need as the result of international disaster or catastrophe.

### ***Deaconess Ministry***

19. The Board for International Mission shall develop policies to support the increase of international church partners, RSOs and emerging church bodies awareness of the deaconess ministry of the LCMS.
- 19.1 The Office of International Mission shall aide international partner churches and emerging church bodies seeking consultation in identifying opportunities for the service of deaconesses in their church bodies.
- 19.2 The Office of International Mission shall collaborate with International partner churches and emerging church bodies seeking LCMS consultation in developing deaconess programs appropriate to the church body.

### ***Health Ministries***

20. The Board for International Mission shall develop policies to support International church partners, RSOs, and emerging church bodies to have opportunities to promote good health for its members and address health issues in their communities.
  - 20.1 The Office of International Mission shall aide international church partners, RSOs and emerging church bodies in promoting good health among its members.
  - 20.2 The Office of International Mission shall aide international church partners, RSOs, and emerging church bodies in addressing emotional, nutritional, and medical needs of their communities.
21. The Board for International Mission shall develop policies in accordance with the LCMS teachings to uphold the sanctity of all human life from conception to natural death.
  - 21.1 The Office of International Mission shall aide international partner churches and emerging church bodies seeking consultation in promoting the sanctity of all human life.
  - 21.2 The Office of International Mission shall collaborate with international partner churches and emerging church bodies seeking LCMS consultation in developing pregnancy centers and / or other services that support pregnant women and their child throughout the term of pregnancy.
  - 21.3 The Office of International Mission shall collaborate where appropriate with other Christian churches to strengthen the LCMS' international witness and programs for life.

### ***International Grants***

22. The Board for International Mission shall develop policies to support international church partners, RSOs and emerging church bodies to have opportunities to secure grants for their respective ministry, thus extending the capacity of the international entity and the LCMS.
  - 22.1 The Office of International Mission shall offer granting opportunities to international church partners, RSOs and emerging church bodies. Grants are defined as funding for work that is owned and managed by the grantee, without day-to-day involvement of the Grantor staff.