

Partnership Link Agreement between the North Eastern Diocese of the Lutheran Church in Tanzania and the Diocese of Lund in the Church of Sweden 2019 - 2029

Sing praises, all you peoples, sing praises to the Lord!

Laudate omnes gentes, laudate Dominum!

The Evangelical Lutheran churches in Tanzania and Sweden are called to proclaim the life-giving gospel of Jesus Christ throughout the world. From our specific contexts, we wish to contribute to the well-being of our societies and actualise the Christian faith in our time. We share the mission of being the salt of the earth and the light of the world.

Historic background

Friendship links between the North Eastern Diocese and the Diocese of Lund have existed for many years. Recently, these links have intensified. An internship exchange program started in 2017, allowing Swedish volunteers to travel to Tanzania. Bishops Stephen Munga and Johan Tyrberg have equally expressed an aspiration for an enhanced relation. The respective administrations, the Diocesan Synod of the Diocese of Lund and the Executive Council of the North Eastern Diocese, have both expressed their support for the formalisation of a partnership link.

The Church of Sweden as well as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania view themselves as part of the Church worldwide; each contributing to the ministry and life of its church with their own traditions and settings. Ecumenical relations as well as partnership links are of great importance to the identity of the Diocese of Lund and the North Eastern Diocese alike, both being places of worship in diversified and pluralistic contexts.

The former Latin Catholic Diocese of Lund became archdiocese in the 12th century, and through the Nordic Reformation in the 16th century the diocese became part of the Evangelical Lutheran communion. Being a Lutheran church in the 21st century, the Church of Sweden and Diocese of Lund embraces the idea that the manifold expressions of the Church is accommodated in a reconciled diversity, embodied in various settings throughout the world. The current bishop of the Diocese of Lund, Johan Tyrberg, is the 69th bishop of Lund and was consecrated in 2014.

The North Eastern Diocese of the Lutheran Church in Tanzania originates from the Evangelical Lutheran missionary activity sent from Germany to Tanga in the last decades of the 19th century. After the turn of the century, the church continued its work forming congregations and expanding the school system as well as hospital care. The North Eastern Diocese became part of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania in 1963. The current bishop, Dr. Stephen Munga, is the diocese's fourth bishop and was consecrated in 2001.

Our vision

The extended relationship between the North Eastern Diocese and the Diocese of Lund has the intention of stressing the joint mission of the two churches: to share the message of salvation through Jesus Christ throughout the world.

Being God's created co-creators and followers of Christ, we acknowledge that the sharing of the various gifts of the Holy Spirit must be at the centre of our extended relationship. In our partnership link, we consequently wish to work in accordance with the following six principles:

Prayer at the core – Including each other in prayer throughout our dioceses' devotional life

Reciprocity – Inspiring each other in ministry and proclamation through our traditions and contexts

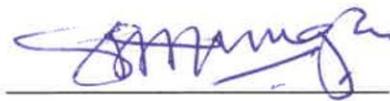
Leadership – Learning from and enriching each other's leadership styles by the development of exchange programs for ordained and lay people alike

Parish links - Encouraging communication and interchange between parishes in our two dioceses, regarding e.g. youth groups, trustees and choirs

Internship exchange – Sending and receiving volunteers and trainees of various ages

Education – Working together for the progress of SEKOMU (Sebastian Kolowa Memorial University)

Date and place



The Rt. Rev. Dr. Stephen Munga



The Rt. Rev. Johan Tyrberg

