

# STATEMENT OF COVENANT

between

The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Colombia

and

The Synod of Alberta and the Territories of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

**INTRODUCTION** With joy and thanksgiving to God, this covenant relationship was established between the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Colombia (IELCO) and the Synod of Alberta and the Territories of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC) on June 13, 2003. As companions in Christ, we participate in each other's life and mission through communication, learning, and prayer. The relationship is mutual; we both give and receive as brothers and sisters in one holy, catholic, and apostolic church.

**PURPOSE** By the grace of God, we have established this partnership in order to share our common humanity and life of faith. While we recognize and affirm our cultural differences, we seek to manifest the unity in life and mission we have through our crucified and risen Lord Jesus Christ.

**COMMITMENT** Our companionship is one of mutual trust in which we accept one another as equal partners. We respect the institutional church structures and policies of each body and their liturgical and theological expressions of the Lutheran Christian faith that we hold in common. In addition, we pray for the guidance of God's Holy Spirit as we are enriched by new understandings and perspectives.

## EXPRESSIONS OF OUR COVENANT RELATIONSHIP

As companions in Christ, we will do the following:

1. Pray at synod worship services for our companion and its mission and ministry, and encourage congregations and individuals to include such prayers regularly in their worship life.
  2. Learn about the other's history, geography, culture, and current affairs. Such information shall be shared widely throughout our respective churches through preaching, teaching, written materials, personal conversations, and other appropriate methods.
  3. Encourage exchange visits, including both clergy and lay members of our churches.
  4. Encourage congregation-to-congregation (or institution-to-institution/common ministry) relationships as mutually agreed upon by the IELCO and the Synod of Alberta and the Territories.
  5. Support projects as mutually agreed upon by the IELCO and the Synod of Alberta and the Territories.
- We agree to evaluate this covenant every three years.

As companions in Christ, we, the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Colombia and the Synod of Alberta and the Territories of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, affirm this covenant.

Together we pray that our mission and ministry as partners will be both faithful and fruitful.

To God alone be glory!

**For the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Colombia**

**For the Synod of Alberta and the Territories of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada**

Bishop/President Atahualpa Hernández Miranda

Bishop Larry Kochendorfer

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Signed this 15 day of June, 2018