

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE DEPARTMENT FOR MISSION AND DEVELOPMENT

The Department for Mission and Development is based on the calling of churches to participate in God's mission by proclaiming in word and deed both the presence and the coming of the kingdom, by conveying the message of salvation in Jesus Christ to the world, and by exemplifying in concrete acts a responsible care for all aspects of the life of the human community.

The specific assignment of this department, in fostering the communion of member churches and in the spirit of listening to the people, is to:

encourage, support and work jointly with Lutheran churches, agencies and other groups as they endeavor to create, develop and maintain ministries faithful to the fundamental task of the church to participate in God's mission to all creation.

In pursuance of its assignment and within the limits of its resources, the department seeks to:

1. carry out programs with Lutheran World Federation member churches in respect to their task of mission and evangelism within the many contexts in which the churches are present;
2. assist LWF member churches in responding to the needs for community development shared by all human beings with special concern for joint action in solving problems related to the family, society and nation;
3. serve the LWF member churches in the field of communication as it relates to the church's mandate to proclaim the gospel, foster human development and exchange information;
4. advocate inclusive patterns of full participation by women and men, youth, the elderly and persons with disabling conditions in the lives of church and society;
5. assist the LWF member churches in developing programs of Christian education/theological education, which are fully responsive to the needs of church, society and nation;

6. carry out a program of leadership training, scholarships and exchange between LWF member churches; and
7. initiate and conduct consultative services as requested by the LWF member churches, the Council or other LWF units.

In pursuance of its assignment and within the limits of its resources, this department is authorized to:

1. stimulate a comprehensive program of mutual sharing between LWF member churches;
2. respond to requests for specific projects for which the services of the LWF or another international organization are required;
3. provide for meetings on a global, regional or sub-regional basis;
4. encourage new forms of Christian witness; and
5. offer such other special services as may be appropriate.

The work of the department shall be carried out through a system of area desks responsive to the needs of LWF regional expressions and through desks which address particular concerns of church life in all regions. It shall be the department which shall implement the decisions of the LWF Project Committee. Its work shall also express ecumenical concerns for the unity of the church and its mission.