

# Peace Message

**Issued by UEM Church leaders in Africa Region,**

**at the occasion of their meeting hosted by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania, Eastern and Coastal Diocese in Dares-Salaam from 16<sup>th</sup> -20<sup>th</sup> January 2024.**

The United Evangelical Mission (UEM) is a worldwide organization made of many Churches from three continents, Africa, Asia and Europe, joining and working together in one Communion: It is an international and equitable communion of 39 members, including 38 Protestant churches in Africa, Asia, and Germany, plus the v. Bodelschwingh Foundations Bethel, Germany. The UEM is steadfast in its pursuit of a proclaiming the Gospel and implementing the population's social and development work translated through five major areas of work: Evangelisation, diaconal work, advocacy, development and partnership.

## **UEM members are united in Mission**

With great concern, we continue to observe a world torn apart where some live in abundance, others have fewer basic human rights, not enough peace in their living places and very little to live on each day. Human beings become daily threatened, isolated, their relationships and community lives are lost, their social and lives' natural foundations are increasingly destroyed in several countries.

We were all brought together as members of the body of Christ and we are committed to follow his example. We strongly invite people into a learning, serving and praying communion across continents and cultures. In following him, we work for a more just, peaceful world, the integrity of creation and the sharing of the Gospel so that all people may enjoy life in abundance, by strictly observing peaceful cohabitation between nations and God's people among the world's population in their respective places/countries.

## **Our sympathy and prayers**

Among other issues, we express our heartfelt sympathy for solidarity with the people of Ukraine, Russian, Israel and Gaza families, who have lost their loved ones and continue to lose more lives; those who have been forced to flee their homes, and those who have lost their livelihoods and their hope to return. We pray for the people of Ukraine, Gaza, Israel and the Russian families who suffer.

We, UEM African region church leaders re-affirm and lament over the repercussion of these senseless wars on the people and God's creation. We have already started to see the costs of these wars on the world economies, and we call for solidarity to face together against these tragedies.

## **Standing with those who are suffering, we call for peace**

We also stand in solidarity with people who are suffering due to wars in Democratic Republic of Congo, Sudan, Cameroon, Papuan people and others worldwide. We lament over the appalling toll of death, destruction, displacement and collateral damages on humanity and God's creation. We appreciate the countries who welcome and accommodate refugees and continue to assist them. From 30<sup>th</sup> June to 4<sup>th</sup> July 2023, the UEM delegation led by Bishop Dr. Abednego Keshomshahara, the UEM moderator, visited brothers and sisters of UEM member church, the CBCA, in the Eastern DR. Congo. We noticed a great suffering of people but also their unbelievable spirit of survival and resilience in the midst of a context of war and instability. In all life aspects, people are psychologically, socially and economically affected. This is contributing to a very high level of human vulnerability. We take this opportunity to call upon all political leaders and Heads of States of the Great Lakes Regions and elsewhere to find peaceful ways to address the issues of endless wars and conflicts in the world.

War is against God's very nature and plan for humanity and creation.

Have mercy Lord, hear our prayer. Amen.

**“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God.” (Matthew 5:9).**