

## UEM Statement on Corporate Identity

### What is the United Evangelical Mission (UEM)?

*Have reverence for Christ in your hearts, and honour him as Lord. Be ready at all times to answer anyone who asks you to explain the hope you have in you (1 Peter 3:15).*

Following the Biblical call we are a communion of 34 Protestant churches in Africa, Asia and Germany and the von Bodelschwingh Institutions Bethel united in mission. Our roots are in the Rhenish Mission (founded 1828), the Bethel Mission (founded 1886), and the Zaire Mission (founded 1965). Since 1996, the UEM has been internationally organized and staffed with its headquarters in Germany.

### What is our commission?

*Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, so I send you (John 20: 21).*

As a mission community we are taking part in God's mission on earth. Together we give witness to the message of the Father's reconciliation with all humankind through the Son Jesus Christ. We trust the power of the Holy Spirit, with whose help we work for justice, peace and for the integrity of creation. In this light we also acknowledge the responsibility to critically face the history of our mission work.

### What are our tasks?

*The spirit of the Lord is upon me ... (Luke 4:18-19)*

We understand mission as a holistic commission, and we cooperate to carry out our task. Therefore, evangelism, diaconia, advocacy, development and partnership are integral parts of our mission to spread the gospel. The UEM is global and works locally – in Africa, Asia and Germany. To empower each other for mission we share our resources and gifts and exchange co-workers and volunteers.

- **Evangelism**

We believe in the Gospel as God's power of salvation and renewal, therefore:

- we jointly strengthen our spiritual life and develop and promote evangelistic projects to share the gospel with all people and to invite them to trust in Christ
- we promote joint programmes
- we promote theological exchange.
- we encourage and support our members to learn mutual and respectful ways of encountering people of other faiths

- **Diaconia**

We confess that all human beings are created in the image of God, therefore:

- we maintain grassroots networks to fight HIV and AIDS and to care for orphans, the widowed and for people infected with HIV.
- we work to improve peoples' living conditions, especially for those with special needs.
- we strive to improve medical care and to promote physical and psychological health for all people.
- we support churches as they assist people in need as a result of human made or natural disasters.

- **Advocacy**

We believe that human beings are created in the image of God and therefore have inalienable dignity and rights. Therefore

- we promote and defend human rights.
- we support initiatives to solve conflict peacefully.
- we join efforts to achieve just economic conditions and good governance.
- we strive for the protection of the environment.

- **Development**

We are convinced that God's love continues to empower people, therefore:

- we support programs that empower men, women and youth.
- we carry out training programmes.
- we offer scholarships for higher education to build capacity in our member churches.
- we contribute towards overcoming poverty in all its forms.

- **Partnership**

We understand ourselves as parts of the one body of Christ, therefore:

- we foster and support various forms of partnership relations among our members based on respect, mutuality and transparency.
- we facilitate exchange visits for staff, experts and volunteers.
- we create networks of partnership to open up and strengthen multilateral relations

### **How do we work together?**

*Two are better than one, because they have a better reward for their toil. For if they fall, one will lift up the other, but woe to one who is alone and falls and does not have another to help. (Ecclesiastes 4: 9)*

Our members from Africa, Asia and Germany have equal rights in governance. Our decision makers –women, men and young adults– come from all three continents. All decisions about our work are taken on the basis of our common rules and regulations and our joint budget.

We manage the resources entrusted to us transparently and conscientiously and account for them together in faithful stewardship. In working and living together we learn from each other and are willing to be transformed and renewed as we experience that our partaking in God's mission also changes our lives and our work.