

Rhineland Church supports climate-neutral UEM campus in Tanzania

Check for €10,000 presented to Council member Bishop Mothusi Letlhage

(Bonn/Wuppertal, February 3, 2025). "[Green Solidarity](#)" – under this motto, the Evangelical Church in the Rhineland, together with the United Evangelical Mission (UEM), launched a fundraising campaign at the 2024 National Synod to support the ecological profile of the new UEM headquarters in Africa. At the current synod in Bonn, President Dr. Thorsten Latzel and Senior Church Councillor Dr. Wibke Janssen presented an initial cheque for €10,000 to Bishop Mothusi Letlhage from Botswana, who is a member of the Council and Chairman for the Africa region of UEM, and to the UEM General Secretary Rev. Dr. Andar Parlindungan.

"Climate protection and the preservation of God's creation are a common task for all humanity," says the President of the Evangelical Church in the Rhineland, Dr. Thorsten Latzel. "They do not end at national borders. The 'Green Solidarity' project is a strong sign of ecumenical brotherhood across continents. With our resources, we can strengthen the impressive work on the ground – every euro makes a big difference."

Congregations and church districts are committed to the construction project

The fundraising campaign was initiated by Oberkirchenrätin Dr. Wibke Janssen, head of the Department of Theology and Ecumenism at the Regional Church Office, who, as a member of the Rhineland church leadership and the international Council of UEM, is closely involved in the construction project called "New Home for UEM Africa Region." "The appeal at the 2024 Regional Synod was enthusiastically received by church districts and congregations. Together with the [Regional Service of UEM](#), many of them have developed local fundraising campaigns. This means that one goal has already been achieved, because with our support we are showing solidarity and underlining the global importance of a commitment to climate-neutral construction," emphasizes Janssen.

A shared identity for the church community

Bishop Mothusi Letlhage, who is attending the Rhenish Synod in Bonn as an ecumenical guest, emphasizes the importance of the center for the work of the entire UEM: "The new campus for the African region creates a common identity for the African, Asian, and German members, thus conveying a sense of belonging. Here, all members are united in mission to serve the international church community together. We are proud to be members of this UEM."

Ecological building technology, traditional African architecture

In the Tanzanian metropolis of Dar es Salaam, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania (ELCT-ECD) has donated a centrally located plot of land to UEM. A Christian center with offices, meeting rooms, guest accommodations, and a café is being built there. The

concept envisages sustainable facilities with solar panels, extensive green facades, rain-water harvesting, and natural building materials. Designed by Tanzanian architects, the campus combines ecologically sustainable building technology with traditional African architecture.

The donation target: 50,000 euros

In order to reach the donation target of €50,000, the fundraising campaign will continue in the Rhineland church this year. Anyone who wishes to contribute can do so:

Donation account:

United Evangelical Mission

IBAN DE45 3506 0190 0009 0909 08

Reference: Green Solidarity

About „UEM“

The United Evangelical Mission (UEM) with offices in Wuppertal, Indonesia and Tanzania is an international, equal community of 39 members, including 32 Protestant churches in Africa and Asia as well as six Protestant churches and the v. Bodelschwingh Foundation Bethel in Germany. The UEM consistently pursues a holistic understanding of mission. This includes improving the living conditions of suffering and disadvantaged people while respecting their personal dignity and taking their cultural context into account.