

## ACCOMPANIMENT



*Karen Anderson, ELCA missionary in Chile, with ELCA pastor Alvaro Nova, who participated in a 2016 international training program in Chile about community health organizing. Photo: Isabel Díaz Medina / Fundación EPES*

Mission rooted in relationship means mutuality, inclusivity, vulnerability, sustainability and empowerment. Mostly it means growth – for everyone involved. Together we listen, learn and deepen our understanding of one another. As we recognize and affirm one another’s gifts, we become invested. These investments are the center of global mission.

The ELCA has organized its global engagement around the theology and practice of accompaniment, walking together with Lutheran, ecumenical and interfaith sisters and brothers around the world. We are a church that believes God is calling us into the world – together.

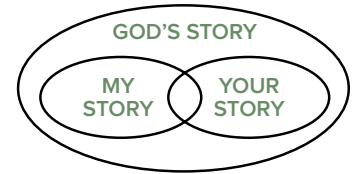
A lot of mission work historically looked like this: there is God’s story, my story and your story. Mission meant me bringing God’s story to you. God’s story is on my side, and you are on the other side. I’m crossing boundaries to bring God to you.



## HISTORICAL MISSION WORK



## MISSION OF ACCOMPANIMENT



Engaging in mission through accompaniment, we remember that life in Christ comes through community rooted in mutuality and interdependence. God, who has reconciled all things through Christ's death and resurrection, calls us to actively participate in the work of reconciliation through relationship. This relationship of reconciliation can be characterized by the following values:

### MUTUALITY

A commitment to relationships that receive one another's gifts and expertise.

### INCLUSIVITY

A commitment to relationships that address exclusion in communities.

### VULNERABILITY

A commitment to relationships that are open to Christ's transformation and reconciliation.

### EMPOWERMENT

A commitment to relationships that build one another's strengths and capacity for God's mission.

### SUSTAINABILITY

A commitment to relationships of accountability that steward God's given-gifts for the present and future.

In action, accompaniment means using these values to guide our mission work in the areas of life together where brokenness and asymmetries of power often are present. These include decision-making, network-building, sharing resources and expertise, and the way we understand and tell the stories of others.

Together with our companions, we listen, learn, share gifts and grow together in relationship with God and with one another to proclaim the good news and serve our neighbors. In this journey of accompaniment, we seek to raise up leaders and congregations in the church who are globally formed and informed, through which the spectrum of God's creation is both honored and celebrated.

### ACCOMPANIMENT HELPS US SEE MISSION DIFFERENTLY:

In reconciliation, we realize that my story and your story are not divided by boundaries but are both reconciled within God's story. We bear witness to the transformative and life-giving promise found in the gospel and seek to hear and honor the witness of others.