



**የኢትዮጵያ ወንጌላዊት ቤተ ክርስቲያን መካነ ኢየሱስ  
ዋናው ጽሕፈት ቤት**  
**THE ETHIOPIAN EVANGELICAL CHURCH MEKANE YESUS  
CENTRAL OFFICE**

መ-ሰ-ውን ሰው ማገልገል

“Serving the Whole Person”

ቤጊ ጊዳሚ ሲኖዶስ	Beghi Gidami Synod	ግዕዝላዊ ደቡብ ኢትዮጵያ ሲኖዶስ	South Central Ethiopia Synod
ብርብር ዲላ ሲኖዶስ	Birbir Dilla Synod	ግዕዝላዊ ደቡብ ሲኖዶስ	South Central Synod
ግዕዝላዊ ገቤ ሲኖዶስ	Central Gibe Synod	ደቡብ ኢትዮጵያ ሲኖዶስ	South Ethiopia Synod
መዕከላዊ ሲኖዶስ	Central Synod	ደቡብ ምዕራብ ቤቴል ሲኖዶስ	South Western Bethel Synod
ግዕዝላዊ ኢትዮጵያ ሲኖዶስ	Central Ethiopia Synod	ደቡብ ምዕራብ ሲኖዶስ	South West Synod
ምሥራቅ ጋምቤላ ቤቴል ሲኖዶስ	East Gambela Bethel Synod	ደቡብ ሲኖዶስ	South Synod
ገምቤ ጆርጎ ሲኖዶስ	Ghimbi Jorgo Synod	ዋቤ ባቱ ሲኖዶስ	Wabe Batu Synod
ኢሉባቦር ቤቴል ሲኖዶስ	Illubabor Bethel Synod	ምዕራብ ጋምቤላ ቤቴል ሲኖዶስ	West Gambela Bethel Synod
ሰሜን ምራ ክፍል	North Area work	ምዕራብ ሲኖዶስ	Western Synod
ግዕዝላዊ ሰሜን ኢትዮጵያ ሲኖዶስ	North Central Ethiopia Synod	ምዕራብ ወለጋ ቤቴል ሲኖዶስ	Western Wollega Bethel Synod

ቁጥር .....  
Ref.No.  
ቀን... **September.12, 2012**  
Date

**Bishop John Bradosky**  
**Bishop of the North America Lutheran Church**  
**Columbus, Ohio**

Dear Bishop Bradosky

I greet you in the precious name of God our Father and Our Lord Jesus Christ!

I am thankful to you for the email message as well as for the letter which I recently received from you with regard to the process of applying for membership in the Lutheran World Federation and your request to the EECMY to offer counsel and guidance in this process.

The EECMY is a member of the Lutheran World Federation for almost the last six decades. The Church highly values its participation in the life of this global communion. EECMY sees the communion as a venue where churches with the same identity and confession come together to empower each other and share with each other their God given gifts.

It was during the 3<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly which was held in Minneapolis, USA in 1957, through the “mother congregation in Addis Ababa.” It was in 1959 that EECMY (as a national church) replaced the mother congregation as a member after its constitution at the national level, although the inception of the Church goes back to the year 1898; and had been serving God’s people through witness and diakonia in different parts of the country. Since 1958 the church has obtained various support from the Federation towards its evangelistic, development and social activities that contributed a lot to enabling the church to respond to the spiritual and physical needs of our society.

Among the activities that received support were the establishment of the Radio Voice of the Gospel—broadcasting the Good news to Africa and the middle East countries, the establishment of Mekane Yesus Theological Seminary which laid the foundation for Lutheran teaching in the process of preparing pastors, theologians and leaders for the growing church, the launching of a literacy campaign starting in 1961 that covered the whole nation (13 provinces) and lasted for 29 years. These literacy centers later turned into congregations.

EECMY is convinced that LWF was founded to foster and strengthen cooperation among World Lutherans through its commission for World Mission whose task was to promote the goals of the Federation. This initiative has

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ሰዎችን ሁሉ የሚያድን የእግዚአብሔር ጸጋ ተገልጦአል ቲቶ 2:11

“For the Grace of God that bringeth Salvation hath appeared to all men,” Tit. 2:11 (KJV)



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ምሥራቅ ጋምቤላ ቤቴል ሲኖዶስ	East Gambela Bethel Synod	ደቡብ ሲኖዶስ	South Synod
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ሰሜን ምራ ክፍል	North Area work	ምዕራብ ሲኖዶስ	Western Synod
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created solidarity and mutual accompaniment among member’s churches. It encouraged member churches to make intentional efforts for joint action and recognition of each other’s ministries and act on behalf of one another in times of difficulties. Among this one concrete example is the situation of the EECMY (the severe persecution) during the Marxist regime and the international advocacy role of the LWF to ease the suffering that the church was experiencing.

Therefore solidarity and mutual accompaniment among member churches of the Federation as well as bilateral relations in the process of witnessing Christ in words and deeds have been a treasure that EECMY values and shares.

Through decades of living and working together in this global ecumenical body one may observe new developments where some member churches attempt to deviate from following the doctrinal basis, goals, objectives and functions of the LWF. Such deviation tries to promote liberalism, which in the course of time distorts the orthodoxy and biblical Lutheran understanding that we value more than anything else. This and other related issues are some of the practical challenges that hurt the body of Christ. Then what would be the solution?

For us the solution is not to stand aside and allow those hurts to expand. Solidarity among member churches that are faithful to the teaching of the Bible, who always are ready to uplift the Christian values as handed to us from the early church fathers should be the solution. In a time when some leaders who represent the church of God for which Christ laid his life seem obsessed by the spirit of infidelity and minimize the authority of the Word of the living God, we who hold on to the Orthodoxy of this Word of God should find ways and means of rubbing off such negative notions of diluting God’s Word into the wishes of human beings which does not give reverence to God. We have to be able to stand in solidarity and say, No! How do we do this? We have to stand alongside those Churches for the sake of guarding the truth of God’s Word. We have to stand by those who are part of this global communion, struggling to cry aloud against this deadly heresy.

Therefore, for NALC to apply for membership in the LWF may not directly benefit. But the questions that need an answer are the following: “For what purpose does NALC exist? Are the visions of NALC, its mission and objectives to inform the church about the need for solidarity and accompaniment with other Churches to bring forth a united prophetic voice calling all to come back to the Bible? How are the members of the congregations and pastors informed about this need?”

I fully am convinced that the answer to these questions is obviously clear to you all. I am sure that NALC is committed to undertake the Great Commission seriously. I believe that NALC is ready to defend the orthodoxy of God’s Word in any situation anywhere through its ministry together with all other churches who devote themselves to the same cause. I firmly believe that NALC will continue offering itself to be in solidarity with churches that hold the same values and are struggling to influence and make a difference within the Federation if accepted as a member.

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EECMY believes that the North American Lutheran Church exists to serve others and to live for others. NALC has to stand alongside the African Lutheran Churches. NALC has to stand alongside the Asian and East European Lutheran Churches, not only the Africans. Together we commit ourselves to speak and be heard. Together we defend the authoritative Word of God and our identity, confession and the Lutheran Heritage. Together we can make a difference, not depending on our wisdom, our strength and our power, but through and by the help of God whose gracious hand is upon His people; to give us success in this fractured world, robbed of the fear of God and of the truth of the Gospel entrusted to God’s church; the world that always tries to push Jesus the Lord of peace and life-giver aside.

May He who is the Truth, Life and the Way guide us as we continue to serve Him and His people!

Wakseyoum Idosa Negeri (Rev. Dr.)

President of the EECMY  
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

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