

Objectives and Tasks of Connexio

*Objectives printed in **bold letters** describe goals, which Connexio will seek to accomplish through certain activities listed below.*

Partnership

The United Methodist Church Switzerland-France (UMC) agrees upon and fosters partnerships with Methodist Churches in other countries as well as with their associated institutions. Such partnerships are mutual and must not create dependency – neither financially nor in decision making. The parties involved, whether individuals, groups, or parishes agree to the objectives and the manner of their co-operation.

- Connexio arranges meetings between leaders of the participating churches to build and to foster relationships.
- Connexio supports activities and projects, which promote self-reliance and financial independence. Financial resources therefore are to be used for:
 - promotion of leaders through allocation of scholarships and contributions to training institutions;
 - training of co-workers in partner churches;
 - improving church organizations and church growth.
- Connexio counsels parishes and church related groups which desire to enter into and cultivate a partnership and provides logistic support if needed. Connexio advocates that partnerships are to be entered into conscientiously and that the expectations of either side are clearly formulated and mutually accepted.

Projects

Groups, parishes and churches aim for missionary and service projects in order to achieve results in a local context. The initiative originates from a local support group that also assumes the full responsibility for it. Contributions from Connexio are start-up help; in midterm the projects must become self-sufficient and independent.

- Connexio does not implement it's own projects but supports local bodies (parishes, churches or related organizations) to be the facilitators:
 - in developing visions and exchanging experiences with other organizations which may have implemented similar projects;
 - in planning their own projects;
 - in providing financial support for a limited period at the beginning and in facilitating the start of a project through personnel.
- Connexio insists at the outset on the agreement of a financial plan, which shows how the transition, from financing through Connexio to financing from other sources of income, can be accomplished.

Emergency Aid

Connexio engages in effective and uncomplicated assistance in emergencies.

- Connexio maintains an emergency fund in order to provide financial support on very short notice. To maintain this fund Connexio calls for special contributions. In certain cases of emergency, the fund may be bolstered by additional fund-raising.

Awareness building

Members and friends experience that the UMC is a global church and that they are connected worldwide with brothers and sisters in Christ. They realize that they can deepen and make use of this connection in order to learn from each other and find encouragement and support. Men and women in the church are called upon to be personally engaged and to become members of this network.

- Connexio provides information about the global church and creates opportunities for as many persons as possible to experience the worldwide connection on a personal basis.
- Connexio promotes exchange and learning from one another, supports such projects of churches, parishes and groups and communicates results and experiences that they become known and understood.
- Connexio calls to mind that mission and service are essential and indispensable tasks of the church.
- Connexio increases awareness that engagement in the framework of the worldwide church can provide personal satisfaction.

Promoting Encounter

Groups, parishes and churches come together to become acquainted and for fellowship; relationships arise and grow. Men and women experience the global connection on a personal level.

- Connexio organizes days of encounter, enables individuals to meet members of partner churches, and arranges visits for persons from partner churches and speakers for parishes. Connexio also fosters deeper relationships from encounters and encourages groups, parishes and churches to enter into partnerships between parishes and assists in the exchange of letters and prayer needs.

Fund Raising

The financial means are raised from within the UMC Switzerland-France and from interested sponsors and donors. Targets and budgets are co-ordinated in such a way that financial contributions for partnerships and projects are firmly committed and subsequently paid accordingly.

- Connexio organizes fund raising within the UMC Switzerland-France.
- Connexio encourages parishes to conduct their own fund raising and offers support.
- Connexio initiates fund raising in well defined circles outside of the UMC Switzerland-France and applies for financial contributions for specific projects to other organizations, such as "Bread for all" (BFA), the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), Solidarität Dritte Welt (SDW), political organizations or institutions, foundations etc.
- Connexio makes certain that sufficient financial means are available in reserve to equalize fluctuations in income from year to year.

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The Executive Committee of Connexio has approved the above "Objectives and Tasks" in November 2004.