

**2007 Bulletin of Reports
Delaware-Maryland Synod**

MISSION TEAMS

MISSION THROUGH CONGREGATIONS

Africa Task Force

The Africa Task Force met regularly through 2006-7, trying to improve the relationship with our companion in Tanzania, the Diocese in the Mara Region. We successfully arranged for the visit of Sarah Ringo, Matron at the Lutheran Hospital at Bunda, to the 2006 Assembly. The congregations she visited were appreciative, raising overall interest in our companion relationship.

Since then, the Africa Task Force has desired to move forward with the relationship more aggressively, but has been hampered by communication problems with the Diocese. In July 2006 the Task Force decided to send a representative, Pastor Bob Lowden, to Mara Diocese to address the issues. The January 2007 visit was successful (a Trip Report or Summary is available upon request) and will guide future goals, which are:

- Maintain constant communication with the leadership of the Mara Diocese, using their improved email capability, funded by part of last year's Synod Assembly offering
- Send delegation to Mara Diocese in October 2007
- Receive visitors from Mara at the 2008 Synod Assembly
- Build relationships between the 11 Mara Diocese Parishes and the 11 DE-MD Conferences with conference visits, and by encouraging congregations/conferences to hold "Africa Festivals"
- Seek third party funding for an English/Computer Teacher at the Kiabakari Lutheran Bible School (the Task Force is ready to move forward on this project)
- Seek third party funding for Bunda Designated District Hospital, owned by the Mara Diocese, to help alleviate staffing and water shortages
- Encourage teachers and others interested in education to support Mwangaza Education for Partnership through teacher exchanges and gifts of money or computers (Mwangaza supports ELCT secondary schools)
- Encourage private donations for continuing education of Mara Diocese staff and pastors.

The Rev. Robert W. Lowden, chair