



November 30, 2018

To the friends and constituency of Eastern Mennonite Missions,

This is a follow up to the November 17 announcement that the Eastern Mennonite Missions (EMM) Board of Directors separated employment with President Nelson Okanya on November 16, 2018. In this time of leadership transition, the Board offers the following:

We appreciate Nelson's leadership and missional vision as EMM President for the last seven years. Nelson built a strong team among EMM staff and workers and inspired the development of a new mission statement and core values reflected in "*A Garden in the Spring*." The outcome of this initiative continues to serve EMM as a guiding missional document.

We affirm and encourage the continuation of the many domestic and global partnerships Nelson developed and fostered. The Board remains committed to cultivate and grow these missional partnerships and networks across the world.

We wish to clarify that the decision to separate employment with Nelson was NOT the result of fiscal or moral impropriety, or past job performance, but the board's understanding of a lack of alignment between the board and Nelson regarding the future leadership of Eastern Mennonite Missions as an agency of LMC.

As a board we wish Nelson the very best in the Lord's leading in the next season of life. We invite your prayers on his behalf.

We also invite your prayers for the staff at Salunga and the many workers around the globe serving under the guidance of the EMM Leadership Team. Finally, we invite your prayers as the search for a new president is discerned in the future.

As we enter this season of hope and the promise of Immanuel—*God with us*, we continue to trust the Lord in the continuing and unfolding mission of the Good News of Jesus through the mission of EMM.

In Christ,

The EMM Board of Directors

Brian E. Martin, Board Chair

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