

CALL TO BE FAMILY

Doing business as (d.b.a.)

INTERNATIONAL LUTHERAN MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

CHARTER

1. ILME

ILME is a world-wide ministry of encountered couples who, through the Lutheran Expression, seek to spread the concepts of Worldwide Marriage Encounter through offering Weekends and related events and activities. It is contractually affiliated (license agreement) with Worldwide Marriage Encounter through its North American Region.

2. MISSION and PURPOSE STATEMENT

ILME is a ministry dedicated to assisting married couples (a man and a woman) to live fully intimate and responsible relationships by providing an Encounter Weekend experience as well as ongoing community support. It seeks to (a) strengthen the couple relationship; (b) strengthen the couple relationship with God; and (c) strengthen and renew the Lutheran Church.

3. ILME ORGANIZATION

3.1 REGIONS

A Region is a natural, large geographical territory with substantial ILME activity. The Regional Executive Couples are primarily responsible for the administration of their Region. The Regional Board is comprised of the Regional Executive Couples and the Lay and Clergy Couples of each District in the Region. Regions shall report to the International Council.

The Regional Board shall be responsible for ensuring compliance within the Region with the WWME Agreement, including the Non-Negotiables; adherence to the teaching of the Lutheran Confession. They shall endeavor to spread Marriage Encounter to more Lutheran communities in the Region; provide inspiration and fellowship to the LME communities in the Region as a Family; facilitate the exchange of resource material and new development; facilitate the funding of Regional and International activities; and ensure that the number of couples on Weekends given in any area, average sixty (60) percent or more Lutherans over the year.

Each Region will carry out the ministry of Lutheran Marriage Encounter in accordance with their own By-Laws. Regions are encouraged to build relationships with other ME Expressions in their part of the world. The North American Region Executives have a special responsibility to up date the other Regions on any changes in the contract with WWME.

The Region shall be organized into Districts. Normally a Region will be comprised of three or more Districts. A District shall, as a minimum, have one full set of Presenters. Districts may again be divided into Areas and units of Areas.

All Regions, Districts, and Areas are to be led by a team comprising a Lay and a Clergy Presenting Couple. Terms of office for each elected position shall be three (3) years with no couple serving more than one consecutive term. If a Clergy Couple is not available, the leadership on the District level may temporarily consist of two Lay Presenting Couples. On the Area level, leadership may for a limited time also consist of non-Presenting Couples. All leader Couples are to be active and regular communing Couples in a Lutheran Church.

3.2 THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL

The International Council is non-geographical being comprised of the Regional Executive Lay and Clergy Couples. When deemed necessary, the International Council may elect International Executive Couples among candidates nominated by the Regions according to the same procedures which apply for Regional Executives. Until that time, one of the Regional Teams will be appointed to serve as the first among equals and take initiative when that is deemed appropriate. This shall normally be done on a rotating basis.

The International Council has responsibility for all Lutheran Marriage Encounter activities throughout the world. The Council shall provide overall vision, direction, and focus to ILME. This shall include but not be limited to fostering our oneness as a family; ensuring that the Regions carry out this ministry in compliance with the Charter, overseeing revision, approval, and implementation of Weekend Outline as given by WWME; establishing new Regions and making any changes to existing boundaries of Regions; receiving and proposing any changes to the Charter that is then submitted to the Regions for ratification; sharing resource material and new developments with the ILME Family; facilitating the funding of international costs and expansion. The Council shall normally meet once a year.

4. THE ILME FAMILY

The legal name, *Call To Be Family*, was chosen to emphasize that all of Lutheran Marriage Encounter is to be one in mission and ministry. In this oneness, all encountered couples are responsible to and for each other. They are called to support and encourage, share and help each other out in encountering the world. Regardless of which country, Region, District, or Area encountered couples are from, they are Family together in mission.

Family contact is maintained in as many ways as possible, including Internet, telephone, visits, and international meetings. The Regions will exchange the minutes from their Regional meetings. All executives have a standing invitation to take part as observers in the Board meetings of the other Regions.

If a Region fails to meet criteria for continuing as a Region, the International Council is responsible for providing the continued support to encountered couples in that territory. If deemed advisable, a liaison couple may be appointed to work with the Region and report to the International Council.

5. FUNDING

Being one family, ILME has one treasury located in different banks and in different parts of the world. A portion of funds from each Area and/or District is to be used to support the ministry of the Regions and International Council to build and expand the Family. Costs will normally be shared on the basis of encountered couples. Regions and Districts should be contacted well in advance regarding projected contributions. The Regions are responsible for collecting the funds and depositing them in a separate fund.

6. CHANGES TO THE CHARTER

Any Region of ILME may make proposals for changes to the Charter. Such proposals shall be considered by the International Council in a timely manner. For the proposed changes to take effect, they need a 2/3 majority vote within each Regional Board. All Regions must agree to the changes in order for them to take effect.