

Tanzania Pilgrimage

Report to Diocesan Convention 2025

Submitted by the Rev. Linda Anderson

1. Mission / Purpose Statement

The Tanzania Pilgrimage strengthens the long-standing relationship between the Diocese of Wyoming and the Dioceses of Mount Kilimanjaro and Kiteto in Tanzania. The pilgrimage supports shared worship, mutual understanding, and collaborative mission through visits, cultural exchange, and direct support of local schools and congregations.

2. Summary of Current Year's Activities

Bwana Asifiwe! Praise the Lord!

As of this report, a pilgrimage to Tanzania to visit both the Diocese of Mount Kilimanjaro and the Diocese of Kiteto has not yet taken place in 2025. The Diocese of Kiteto elected and consecrated Bishop Bethuel Mlula in March 2025. Several representatives from the Diocese of Wyoming attended both the retirement service for Bishop Chambala and the consecration of Bishop Mlula. The full pilgrimage will take place later to allow Bishop Mlula time to settle into his new role.

However, a smaller pilgrimage did occur in 2025. The Rev. Linda Anderson, two people from St. Peter's Sheridan, and one person from St. Andrew's Basin traveled to Tanzania in the fall. The group visited two schools in the Diocese of Mount Kilimanjaro and several churches, making donations to support the student populations. They also met with Bishop Stanley Hotay on two occasions while in Arusha.

Traveling to the Diocese of Kiteto provides the opportunity to experience the landscape of Tanzania as the journey takes several hours. While in Kibaya, pilgrims stay on the Cathedral and school grounds. Donations are made to support the Cathedral and both the primary and secondary schools. Recent donations have funded the purchase of milking goats and the construction of shelters for them. These goats are given to families in financial need, providing both food and income through milk sales that help pay for children's school tuition.

Pilgrims also travel to outlying churches to worship with local congregations. Services are filled with joyous singing and dancing to the Lord. Contributions are made at each gathering to support the congregations, and worship often takes place outdoors or in partially completed buildings.

Participants consistently report that their spiritual lives are transformed during and after the pilgrimage. Witnessing the deep faith and joy of people with so few material resources leaves a lasting impact on all who travel.

3. Financial Report

N/A

4. Plans and Projections for the Coming Year

The next full diocesan pilgrimage to Tanzania will take place after Bishop Mlula has settled into his ministry in the Diocese of Kiteto. Future plans include continued financial and spiritual support for Tanzanian schools, families, and congregations, and ongoing relationship building with partner dioceses.

5. Membership / Leadership

Led by the Rev. Linda Anderson, the Tanzania Pilgrimage group includes clergy and lay participants from across the Diocese of Wyoming.

6. Gratitude / Acknowledgments

Special thanks to the Dioceses of Mount Kilimanjaro and Kiteto for their hospitality and to the bishops, clergy, and lay members who continue to nurture this global partnership. Gratitude is also extended to all who support this ministry through prayer and giving.

Respectfully submitted,

The Rev. Linda Anderson