

GLOBAL MISSION REPORT FOR 2021 SYNOD ASSEMBLY

Peace be with you, members of the 2021 Central Southern Illinois Synod Assembly.
The Global Mission Committee met twice online in 2020.

On March 24, 2020 we reactivated the committee in a meeting with Bishop Roth. Bishop debriefed us on the status of our support to the Ambovombe-Androy and Fort-Dauphin Synods of the Lutheran Church in Madagascar. During this meeting, Bishop also provided us with the directive to survey our congregations for any global outreach enterprise they may currently have in place. Furthermore, we welcomed Pastor Amy Berger from St. Petri in Flanagan, who the committee appointed as the liaison to the officials in our companion synods due to her French language skills.

On May 5, 2020 we met to compile our efforts regarding the synod global outreach survey. We could not reach many of our churches as offices were closed amid the State shelter-in-place order. The map, however, is beginning to take shape. Furthermore, the Synod had received a plea for emergency COVID-19 assistance towards field ministers in Madagascar from Toromare Mananato in the name of both of our Malagasy companion synods. The initial COVID-19 restrictions placed evangelists in dire situations forcing them to choose between their call and making a living. The committee began plans for fundraising as a response in collaboration with synod staff, especially Brett Gosteli, Pastor Elise Rothfuosz, and Bishop Roth. The effort has raised over \$25,000 so far in emergency assistance to our coworkers in Christ. Since then, we were briefed by Ms. Mananato about additional distress in Madagascar as a drought has reached the southern part of the island nation.

Pastor Amy Berger (St. Petri Flanagan), Pastor Ken Tegtmeier (Assistant to the Bishop), Ms. Colleen Rap (Community Lutheran Church, Cornell), Ms. Jean Scherer (Grace Lutheran Church, Springfield), and I are grateful for the generosity of our sisters and brothers in the Central/Southern Illinois Synod. We are also happy for our faith community's joy in assistance to our global mission together. Hopefully, we can do even more in the coming months as we pray and hope for pandemic relief around the globe.

This Spring, the committee will welcome our newly elected members and evaluate possibilities to keep building relationships with the Lutheran Church in Madagascar and facilitate other global outreach ministries in our Synod.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rev. Mauricio Vieira, Ph.D., Committee Chair