



Madagascar Mission Network



Madagascar Mission Network Communiqué

The Madagascar Mission Network (MMN)—which brings representatives of the Church of Jesus Christ in Madagascar (FJKM) together with Presbyterian churches and individuals in the USA concerned about Madagascar—met at St. Mark’s Presbyterian Church in Altamonte Springs, FL, October 10-12, 2019 for worship, fellowship, prayer, deliberation and discernment. Participants prayed for FJKM and Presbyterian Church (USA) leaders; for the August 2020 National Synod (Synoda Lehibe) of the FJKM; and for justice, reconciliation and peace in both countries and around the world. The network had opportunities to learn from the experiences of other PC(USA)-related mission networks, and to discuss reports from FJKM representatives and Presbyterian Church (USA) mission co-workers on a range of topics central to the FJKM’s ministry and the well-being of the people of Madagascar. These included:

- The expansion of the FJKM’s capacity to train theological leaders to meet the church’s growing need for pastors through the training of theological faculty members and the upgrading of libraries and other facilities
- The growth of the FJKM University Ravelojaona and progress in the introduction of distance learning in collaboration with US institutions
- The demonstrated success of evidence-based teaching methods in selected FJKM schools and the need to incorporate these techniques into the FJKM’s teacher training curriculum
- Progress achieved in environmental protection and sustainable agricultural development, including the establishment of the FJKM Fruit Centre to promote improved varieties of fruit trees and provide training in grafting techniques
- Provision of clean water, sanitation and rural dispensaries to improve community health through the FJKM Development Department, SAF/FJKM
- Education to prevent HIV transmission and accompaniment and support for people living with HIV
- The FJKM Chaplaincy program’s response to the alarming state of Madagascar’s prisons and the high percentage of prisoners who are awaiting trial
- The continuing threats of human trafficking, domestic violence and sexual exploitation and the steps taken by the FJKM Chaplaincy to Marginalized People to prevent these by raising awareness in the most vulnerable communities
- The need to promote national unity and healing through the administration of demonstrably free and fair elections and the active pursuit of national reconciliation [based on the “4F” principles—fibebahana (repentance), fiaiken-keloka (confession), fahamarinana (justice) and fihavanana (forgiveness and harmony)]
- Efforts to halt corruption and promote ethical governance.

MMN Vision/Mission Statement: To partner with the Church of Jesus Christ in Madagascar (FJKM) in its holistic ministry and visionary leadership, helping to improve the quality of spiritual and earthly life.



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Following prayerful reflection on the information shared, the MMN agreed to the focus its work in the coming year on the following priorities:

1. Continuing to accompany the FJKM's Committee on Theological Education, assisting it in its efforts to strengthen FJKM seminaries by training theological faculty members and improving facilities, particularly libraries and access to internet.
2. Supporting the development of the FJKM University Ravelojaona by continuing to facilitate the introduction of distance learning, exploring possible linkages with US colleges and universities, and assisting with library development and internet access.
3. Lifting up social justice and community development concerns by:
 - a. Building bridges between prison justice ministries in the US and Madagascar
 - b. Encouraging support for ministries aimed at preventing human trafficking and exploitation and halting domestic and gender-based violence
 - c. Promoting environmental justice, including by exploring potential linkages with PC(USA) Earth Care congregations.
4. Growing and strengthening the Madagascar Mission Network by:
 - a. Consulting with relevant members of other mission networks in order to Improve MMN communications and mailing list
 - b. Developing network resources (e.g., a file sharing for essential resources, a calendar, a network newsletter, etc.)
 - c. Making use of PC(USA) platforms (e.g. World Mission Facebook page, Presbyterian News Service, Presbytery web sites) to share stories about Madagascar, the FJKM and the MMN's work
 - d. Building connections with Malagasy people in Diaspora in the USA
 - e. Connecting regularly to pray for matters of concern to the network
 - f. Exploring opportunities for learning and for developing the skills of network members.
5. Supporting PC(USA) mission co-workers who work in Madagascar and lifting up the FJKM ministries that they accompany.

In this way, the MMN hopes to build the Church, build communities, and build the network to the glory of God.

October 12, 2019
Altamonte Springs, FL

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