

PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

BETWEEN

**THE CENTRAL SYNOD OF THE MALAGASY LUTHERAN CHURCH (Synodam-Paritany Afovoany, SPAf,
AND THE DIOCESE OF STAVANGER (Church of Norway)**

Background:

Since 1866 there has been a close relationship between the Malagasy Lutheran Church and the Church of Norway, through the work of the Norwegian Mission Society (NMS) in Madagascar. As NMS has a formal relationship to the Church of Norway, the two churches have a long standing formal relationship. This is also confirmed by our membership in The Lutheran World Federation and other ecumenical fora.

There have been personal links between church leaders in Stavanger and Fianarantsoa, but no written agreement has been signed on a synodal/diocesan level between the two partners until now. As a means of sharing information, a document of information from both partners is attached to this agreement. On this basis we agree on the following:

We will:

- Stand together in mission and service
- Include each other in prayer, by exchanging subjects for thanksgiving and intercession.
- Arrange for exchange and visits that will forward the Church's mission in both Stavanger Diocese and The Central Synod.
- Use our websites and other methods to aid regular communication.
- Have a committee on both sides that follows up the agreement.

Areas of co-operation

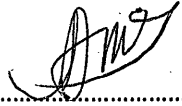
In the following areas we will learn from one another:

- Pastoral work and role of lay people:
 - Share experiences and reflections
 - On lay peoples' place and role in church
 - On the understanding of the pastoral role in different societies
 - On encouraging young people to seek ministry
 - Exchange ideas on the role of women in church.
 - Facilitate regular exchange between the partners.
- Young adults (18 – 30 years)
 - Share experience on work among young adults.
 - Challenge young adults to volunteer in local ministry.
- Spirituality and diakonia
 - Share information about one another's spiritual traditions and diakonal work.
 - Share experiences in the area of revival, with particular reference to the Malagasy fifohazana movement and to the Norwegian lay-movements.
 - Share experiences on the role of the church in the public sphere.
 - Facilitate visits to each other's work.
- Administration, web and IT
 - Exchange information on web-sites.

- Share good ideas on how to promote the work of the church in news media.

This agreement is valid for a period of five years, and will be evaluated after the fourth anniversary of the signing of the agreement.

Signed in Fianarantsoa, Madagascar, September 2016



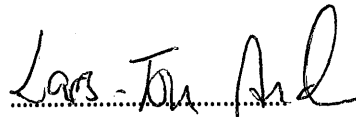
Mr Dieu-Donné Randrianirina
President of the Central Synod
Malagasy Lutheran Church



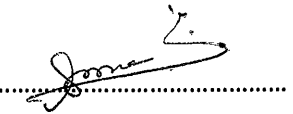
Mr Erling Pettersen
Bishop of Stavanger
Church of Norway



Mr Rasamimanana Alfred,
Head of FAFAFI (Development of the agriculture and farming)
Malagasy Lutheran Church



Mr Lars Tore Anda
Head of Stavanger Diocesan Council
Church of Norway



Mrs Randriamahazo Hasina
Representative of the youth and women
Malagasy Lutheran Church



Mrs Jorunn Kraft Vistnes
Director of Stavanger Diocese
Church of Norway

