

**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

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

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Mr Erling Pettersen  
Bishop of Stavanger  
Church of Norway

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

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

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

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Mrs Jorunn Kraft Vistnes  
Director of Stavanger Diocese  
Church of Norway