



Reformed Episcopal Board of Foreign Missions

Dear Friend of the REC Board of Foreign Missions:

As we enter another Trinitytide, we continue to pray, work, and give for the spread of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ through the Board of Foreign Missions. Thank you for your participation and support this past year, whether through the Advent Offering, Circles of Three, Sending Parishes, or hosting a Missions Sunday presentations. Every effort factors into the whole work of the Church!

How could you proceed this summer?

- Continue moving your parishes to sign up for monthly support of two or three individual missionaries and/or churches.
- Consider sending a short-term mission team to New Wineskins Conference and its Reformed Episcopal Pre-Conference Day this September (below).
- Pray for the mission trip to Malawi this summer to prepare the way for the Gressers' return to the Leonard Kamungu Theological College in Malawi next year.
- Include the *Cycle of Prayer* in the weekly intercessions of your parish.

While we will pray for many individual needs using the *Cycle of Prayer* this next season, please remember several special needs throughout Trinitytide in your parish's regular prayer life:

- leadership and new mission opportunities for REC Germany prior to the retirement of Bishop Gerhard Meyer;
- ministerial training and parish revitalization for The Free Church of England;
- regrouping and fresh leadership to assist Bishop Willians in REC Cuba after the loss of his wife, and regathering the Church in a land with many practical limitations and loss of clergy;
- development for the new missions in Croatia and surrounding countries; and
- the regathering of Free Church of England missions in Brazil.

OTHER NEWS

- Chapters of the REC Women of the Church are holding events around the country to help reunite the Melchor family.
- The Trinitytide *Cycle of Prayer* can be downloaded and printed from www.rec-bfm.org.
- The Spring *Cuba Chronicles* can be downloaded from the BFM website.
- Rev'd David and Mrs. Patricia Ayres plan to attend the Fall Diocesan Synods and will be available for parish visits surrounding each of them. Contact them directly at david.ayres@christchurchberlin.de.
- Dr. Gresser will teach seminary classes in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, this June, prior to his visit to Malawi.

In Christ, and for His Kingdom!

The Rev'd Canon John Peter Boonzaaijer
BFM President
Pentecost, 2022





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MISSION TRIP INVITATION

The Reformed Episcopal Church is a member of the Anglican Global Partners, and participates in its triennial missions conference called “New Wineskins.” The conference is preceded by a day of “pre-conferences” from individual mission agencies and churches. Reasons for your parish representatives to attend the Reformed Episcopal Pre-Conference Day include:

- Recover appreciation for the healthiness of Jesus in your parish.
- Reflect on the reality of apparent defeat and actual success.
- Regroup to mobilize missions and future short-term teams from within your local parish.

Why are small parishes so well suited to grow, send, and become missionaries? Think “PAROCHIAL EVANGELISM” as a charism of The Reformed Episcopal Church. The Reformed Episcopal Church is thus pleased once again to participate in the triennial conference for worldwide Anglican missions called New Wineskins, September 22-25, 2022 in North Carolina. The REC will present one of the pre-conferences, which you may attend for free by signing up for the conference itself. We hope to see you and your Parish Missions Advocate there—and a few others! Sign up today for the REC PRE-CONFERENCE on Parochial Evangelism.

Pre-Conference Schedule:

Thursday, September 22, 2022

9:00 am: Choral Matins

10:00 am: “Missional Nothingness”
(The Most Rev’d Dr. Ray R. Sutton)

11:00 am: Eucharist
(Feast of St. Matthew, transferred)

12:00 pm: Lunch

1:30 pm: “Baptismal Vision”
(The Rt. Rev’d Walter R. Banek)

2:30 pm: “Missional Parish Health”
(The Very Rev’d Dr. Jason S. S. Patterson)

3:30 pm: Choral Evensong, with Litany for Missions

Conference continues Thursday evening through Sunday morning

Bring a small team, and reserve your place now!





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Further Pre-Conference Description for Healthy Mission Mobilizers:

What if the West, in wise retreat, returned to a full embrace of the “nothingness” of Holy Baptism? Western Civilization, having lost its memory to understand those who have no personal desire for power or for insubstantial virtual reality, lives as if God was indeed dead. While the Church in history appears to suffer what Tolkien called “the long defeat,” she is in fact all along conquering the gates of hell—by immersing others into true, life-giving, sacramental reality of God’s Love.

*This guided reflection builds upon Conor Sweeney’s challenge for baptismal evangelism in *Abiding the Long Defeat: How to Evangelize Like a Hobbit in a Disenchanted Age* (Brooklyn, NY: Angelico Press, 2018), wherein he notes that it rarely occurs to the powers of evil that there are those “small ones” who are not compelled by the Power of the Ring but will instead destroy it through their little deeds done in love for their native land and its memories. This he names the “Baptismal Nothingness,” which forms the basis for all Church Mission. Due to the beauty, love, and worship that has already shaped them in “the Shire” of home and parish, those in tune with their own baptism into Christ can see beyond the ephemeral allure of might and coercion, and advance the Kingdom to the ends of the earth. The “parish-shire” produces an unlikely band of knights and adventurers who perceive the distant prize of Jesus’ victory—and venture forth to defeat the powers of Darkness.*

The discussion continues beyond Sweeney’s thesis for individuals and families to explore the Christian Mission in the context of the parish itself. One of the strengths of the Prayer Book Anglican parish is its organic marriage between the individual, the family, and the greater community. Its natural community provides a restful and fruitful oasis for human companionship while making immanent God’s transcendent beauty, goodness, and truth. It is both apostolic voice and shepherd’s calm to the world. Its members, rooted in their baptisms, bring their neighbors by hand to the font, while sending others farther afield.

This charism of Anglicanism provides thoughtful impetus to all its parishioners, and is able to organize the natural implementation of its planned mission strategy.