



## Reformed Episcopal Board of Foreign Missions

Dear Friend:

Greetings in the Name of our Missionary Savior, who in God the Father's love came to redeem this world from sin, death, and the powers of hell. It has been a busy summer! I would like to share a few highlights with you, and especially to invite you to send your Lay Missions Advocates to the REC Pre-Conference Day at the triennial New Wineskins in North Carolina on Thursday, September 22.

### Some Highlights

- The Rev'd Canon Robert Gresser and I returned from Malawi this summer to finalize preparations for his call to serve as professor and organizing Ph.D. at The Leonard Kamungu Theological College in Zomba, Malawi on behalf of the Anglican Council in Malawi.
- The Reformed Episcopal Church of Germany is now recognized as a "Missionary Convocation" working directly with the Board of Foreign Missions, and has new ministry opportunities for short-term missions teams.
- A new fund has been established for providing matching scholarships to the students in our foreign seminaries, and especially for the new growth of ministerial training in Malawi, where a \$1000 match will provide room, board, and tuition for one student for a whole year!
- The 2022 Advent Offering has been designated to provide moving expenses to Malawi for the Gresser family, to seed the new matching scholarship fund, and to augment travel expenses for missionaries and foreign bishops to General Council, 2023 in Charleston, SC.
- A number of Latin American Anglican parishes have requested oversight and membership.
- Delivery of electric scooters to clergy and evangelists in Cuba has begun!

### Get Involved this Fall

- Attend, or send a short-term mission team to, the New Wineskins Conference. Sign up today for the REC PRE-CONFERENCE on Parochial Evangelism.
- Pray through the Trinitytide Cycle of Prayer in the weekly intercessions of your parish.
- Plan for this Fall's Advent Offering.
- Invite Fr Enrique, the Ayres, or the Gressers to visit your parish.
- Plan for monthly support to two or three individual BFM missionaries, Missionary Dioceses, or Ministry Projects: Cuba, Germany, Croatia, Scholarships, Gressers, and Ayres.

### Prayer Requests

- mission opportunities for REC Germany prior to the retirement of Bishop Gerhard Meyer
- ministerial training and parish revitalization for The Free Church of England
- relief from food shortages, and additional clergy in REC Cuba
- development of new missions in Croatia and surrounding countries
- regathering Free Church of England missions in Brazil
- Fr Enrique Melchor's family, and final immigration papers

In Christ, and for His Kingdom!  
The Rev'd Canon John Peter Boonzaaijer  
BFM President  
September, 2022





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### MISSION TRIP INVITATION

The Reformed Episcopal Church is a member of the Anglican Global Mission 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 overlaying actual success.
- **Regroup** to mobilize missions and future short-term teams within your local parish.

Why are small REC parishes so well-suited to grow and send missionaries, and become mission-minded themselves? **Think of “PAROCHIAL EVANGELISM” as a charism of The Reformed Episcopal Church!** We learn always to face the parish altar as we follow Jesus in discipleship throughout the week. 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 would love to see you and your Parish Missions Advocate there—and a few others! Use **REC discount code for 10% off your registration: RECATNW**

#### **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 for those who wish to remain.*

**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. Such 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.*