



Central / Southern Illinois Synod

524 South Fifth Street
Springfield IL 62701

Phone: 217.753.7915
Fax: 217.753.7976

2014 Madagascar Trip Information

Walk with your brothers and sisters in Christ living in Madagascar and help your brothers and sisters in Christ in the Central/Southern Illinois Synod (C/SIS) to walk with our companion synods on the other side of the globe. The C/SIS is preparing for a trip to Madagascar during the fall of 2014. This is a 16-day trip taking 13-15 representatives (ambassadors) from all conferences of our synod to participate in an accompaniment experience.

This is not a sightseeing trip. Those going on the trip are ambassadors representing Christ, the C/SIS, congregations and communities of the C/SIS. The trip will only be the beginning of the experience. It will then be the mission of all participants to come back and share all that they have experienced to help the whole synod grow in our relationship with our companion synods.

Transportation and accommodations may at times be less than what is familiar in the United States. There are risks due to limited medical response and treatment in addition to greater exposure to disease and other physical challenges. Political infrastructure has also been fragile in Madagascar in recent years. Travelers should be physically fit, mentally ready for the rigors of international travel, and socially open to new and different experiences. Though the trip comes with some risks, being exposed to the greater body of Christ is a powerful and life-giving experience.

The trip will cost between \$5000 and \$5500 per participant, and each participant is expected to provide his or her own funding. Fundraisers and aid from congregations, your conference, and other organizations (such as the Women of the ELCA) can help supplement your own personal expense.

Each participant is encouraged to gather a Support Team. The folks on this team may include family members, members of your home congregations, members of neighboring congregations and from your conference, and members of the synod Global Mission Committee. The team will help you prepare for the trip, including fundraising, pray for you while you travel, and help you share your experiences upon your return.

To be considered for the trip, please complete the application and submit it to the synod office by November 30, 2013. The Global Mission Committee will consider the applications and select participants, with an attempt to select at least two people from each conference of the synod. Those selected will be asked to submit a \$1000 deposit by January 31, 2014. Dates for the trip are tentatively set for September, 2014, but those who apply should be somewhat flexible if the dates should shift. Applying for this trip should come with much discernment and conversation with your family, congregation, greater Christian community, and God.