

## **Global Missions Team Annual Report: 2024-2025**

Our Penn West Conference Global Missions Team met a number of times during the 2024-2025 program year.

In July, we debriefed our Zoom meetings with our Keystone partners as well as our Global Mission Partners in the Northwest Luzon Conference of the United Church of Christ in the Philippines. We also talked about P.I. Jose's book "Hindutva Palm Branches and the Christian Resolve," which we received copies of at the June Annual Gathering & Meeting. We received a variety of updates on local mission initiatives that are taking place around the Conference.

In September, we continued the conversation about Advocate Jose's book, and we began planning for a Mission Night early in 2025. We bid farewell to the Coliaicos, who are moving, and we noted that Dave Fox will begin helping with Disaster Ministries' work in the Conference.

In November, we agreed to try to arrange another meeting with our Keystone partners. We learned that our Global Missions Night might be from one of our mission co-workers in Lebanon.

On January 21, we met with our Keystone partners again. We noted a number of important, ongoing partnerships within our four Conferences. In addition to our partners in the Philippines, the three eastern Pennsylvania UCC Conferences share a partnership with the ECU in Germany. PNE and PSSEC share a partnership with the Church of South India and with the Monte Maria Medical Center in Guatemala. Penn Central Conference has a partnership with the UCCSA Namibia Synod, and other local churches in our Conferences have individual partnering arrangements, as well. We agreed to reach out to the churches with whom we are currently in partnership to ask them to send us a prayer and/or liturgical element that we can put together in a World Communion Sunday liturgy. We also agreed for our next meeting on May 27 to share with each other a brief account of the history of our mission partnerships. That will hopefully help us to think through what we want to accomplish together moving forward.

Later on in the evening of January 21, we had an amazing Mission Night via Zoom with Nishan and Maria Bakalian from Lebanon. People throughout Keystone attended, and it was truly a remarkable event!

After the May 27 meeting, we hope to have a clearer sense of what next steps our Penn West Conference Global Missions Team will want to take moving forward, in concert with the work of the other three present UCC Conferences in Pennsylvania.

Respectfully submitted,  
David Ackerman