BE A
GLOBAL
MISSION
CHURCH

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

ACTS 1:8

Steps to take for Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) congregations and regions
Will you accept the challenge to **Be a Global Mission Church**?

Global Ministries would like to partner with you on this exciting journey. As Disciples, our mission imperative is: to be and share the Good News of Jesus Christ, witnessing, loving, and serving from our doorsteps “to the ends of the earth.” (Acts 1:8)

The mission to which God calls us is both “local” and “global.” The **Be a Global Mission Church** workbook focuses primarily on our witness beyond our national boundaries “to the ends of the earth.” It provides a step-by-step approach for congregations and regions to engage effectively in global mission in the 21st century and receive the many gifts of our international partners in and around the world.

We look forward to connecting with you in this process and believe that, together, we can make a difference in our world.

Grateful for your partnership in global mission,

David Vargas

President,
Division of Overseas Ministries

Co-Executive, Global Ministries

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*Global Ministries: a common witness of the Division of Overseas Ministries, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and Wider Church Ministries, a covenanted ministry of the United Church of Christ*
You are about to begin a transformative journey as God extends your reach beyond our national boundaries to the ends of the earth.

Here is a summary of the steps that we invite you to follow to *Be a Global Mission Church*:

**1. Gather...**

A team to coordinate the *Be a Global Mission Church* process: pages 4 – 5

**2. Learn...**

About our Disciples global mission heritage and current mission strategy: pages 6 – 11

**3. Evaluate...**

Your current global mission involvement and discern your launching point: pages 12 – 15

**4. Create...**

Your package of global mission involvement: pages 16 – 22

**5. Commit...**

To a plan of action in partnership with Global Ministries: page 23 – 24

An important note for Disciples regions

We are excited that your region has decided to undertake the *Be a Global Mission Church* process. With your intentional support, the congregations of your region will be able to go further in their global mission involvement. We have designed this workbook so that congregations and regions can follow the same basic steps. The first three steps are identical. Just substitute “region” every time you see the word “congregation.” When you get to steps 4 and 5, please go to www.globalministries.org under *Be a Global Mission Church* and download *Be a Global Mission Region: Disciples Ideas for Action and Commitment* form. There you will find ideas for action specifically designed for regions that will enable you to create a package of global mission involvement for your region, and commit to a plan of action in partnership with Global Ministries. We look forward to walking with you through this process!
As you begin the **Be a Global Mission Church** journey, here are some leadership questions for you to consider:

- Who will spearhead this effort to grow in global mission involvement and commitment?

- Is there anyone in your congregation or region who has been trained as a Ministries and Mission Interpreter (MMI) for Global Ministries? Is it possible to invite that person to be a part of the leadership team?

- Is there an existing committee? Is it working well? Do you need a change of people, name, time, budget, etc.?

- Enthusiasm and energy are more important than expertise. Folks can learn about global mission as they go. Are there any new people with a "passion" for global mission in your church?

- Plan to involve youth and a diverse cross section of your congregation from the beginning.

- Avoid having your mission program identified with one person.

- Find a way for the entire congregation to feel responsible for this new initiative.

- Make sure your congregational leadership (pastor, elders, staff, etc.) is on board.

- Find volunteers who will spread the word through newsletter articles, bulletin boards, bulletin inserts, e-mail updates, website postings, and mission moments.

As the group that will lead this process comes together, consider this prayer: (You may want to create a simple commissioning service for a Sunday morning worship service):

> God we are ready to embark on an important journey. Jesus has told us that we will receive the power of the Holy Spirit to be his witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria and to the ends of the earth. At this moment, we want to be faithful to this mission, particularly “to the ends of the earth.” Show us where we are and where we need to go. Empower us to share the Good News of Jesus Christ in and around the world. Enable us also to allow the “ends of the earth” to come to our “doorsteps” through what our international partners can teach us. Together, may we make a difference in your world for Jesus’ sake. Amen.

With a leadership team in place, you are ready to move on to step 2!
Disciples have a rich heritage in global mission. The first milestone to point out is the creation of the American Christian Missionary Society (ACMS) on October 23, 1849, of which Alexander Campbell was president for many years. Dr. and Mrs. James T. Barclay were the first missionaries sent to Jerusalem by the ACMS. In 1858, Alexander Cross, a freedman, was sent as a missionary to Liberia and J.O. Beardless, a Congregationalist, was sent to Jamaica. The Disciples journey to the “ends of the earth” had begun.

Very early on, Disciples women also became a vital part of building our global mission legacy. Alexander Campbell wrote: “Every Christian woman is either a commissioned or noncommissioned Missionary of the Lord Jesus Christ. To the eternal honor of the sex be it spoken and written and published from the rising to the setting sun that women stood by the cross and nearest to the dying Lord.” On October 22, 1874, at the General Convention in Cincinnati, a resolution was unanimously adopted to form the Christian Woman’s Board of Missions (CWBM). In 1876, the CWBM sent their first missionaries, the Williams family, to re-open the work originally started by the ACMS in Jamaica. Missionaries to Japan (1883) and China (1886) soon followed. Today, Global Ministries has vital partnerships that can be traced back to these early beginnings in all these countries.

When the ACMS was focusing mainly on starting congregations in the U.S. and Canada, a group of concerned men began to explore how Disciples could once again become active in foreign mission. At the General Convention in Louisville on October 22, 1875, plans were adopted to create the Foreign Christian Missionary Society (FCMS). Through 1879, the first missionaries were sent mainly to Europe, but on September 16, 1882, the Whartons, the Norton’s, and four young women appointed by the CWBM left for India to begin one of the Disciples’ first efforts in church planting, which is bearing fruit today in the Church of North India. Evangelization efforts were also begun in Africa in 1898. Today the Disciples of Christ Community of the Church of Christ in the Congo, Global Ministries’ partner, is the largest autonomous Disciples of Christ denomination in the world.

After a period of collaborative work in the early 1900’s, these three mission societies (ACMS, CWBM and FCMS) merged to form the United Christian Missionary Society (UCMS) on June 22, 1920. For the next 50 years, Disciples experienced the boom in missionary recruitment of the 1920’s, the drastic reduction of missionaries (from 339 to 199) due to the Great Depression of the 1930’s, the challenges of World War II in the 1940’s and the creation of the World Council of Churches (1948) implying the need for change in mission strategies and relationships.

For the UCMS these changes in strategies and relationships were formalized in a document entitled: Strategy of World Mission, which was approved by the board of trustees of the UCMS at the Miami International Convention in October 1954. This document clarified the nature of mission and affirmed the need to move from creating Disciples of Christ denominations overseas to relating as equal partners to autonomous denominations, uniting churches, ecumenical councils, and other councils of churches. The transition to a partnership model of mission had begun.
After 50 years of faithful service, the programmatic aspect of the UCMS was reorganized to permit the creation of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the U.S. and Canada, resulting in two of the new general units of the church in 1973: the Division of Overseas Ministries (DOM) and the Division of Homeland Ministries (DHM), now Disciples Home Missions. The church further elaborated the partnership model of mission in DOM’s General Principles and Policies adopted at the General Assembly of Anaheim, California in 1981: “the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is called to work in partnership with a variety of churches and institutions in mutual ministry and mission, many of which are ecumenical or union bodies… It (DOM) assumes that the basic ‘planting’ of the church has been accomplished - that is, the ‘foreign missionary movement’ established the church on every continent, in nearly every nation. An era of ‘world mission’ now exists in which the churches in each country and place in the world must engage in witness and service appropriate to that place. The churches in all parts of the world have differing gifts to share with the rest of the Christian community. Finding ways to share mutually in common tasks is crucial for the future of the church and the faith. Mission is on six continents and every place is an arena for mission, including the United States and Canada.”

Although DOM no longer sent missionaries to plant Disciples of Christ churches, at the request of church partners, it continued to support the evangelism and church planting efforts undertaken by national churches among their own people. Today, we are in partnership with some of the fastest growing churches in the world as a result of new church starts, such as the Pentecostal Church of Chile or CONASPEH in Haiti, which regroups some 5,000 grassroots churches among the poorest of the poor. In these types of partnerships, we receive many gifts with Christian commitment that enrich our churches in the U.S. and Canada.

This transition to a partnership model in global mission was also accompanied by a unique ecumenical experiment in American Christianity. While having common historical roots before either denomination formally existed, for over 40 years the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the United Church of Christ have collaborated together in global mission in various ways, especially in the creation of “joint” area offices which functioned for, and reported to, both the DOM board and the United Church Board for World Ministries (UCBWM), now Wider Church Ministries (WCM). The decision by both churches in 1989 to “engage in mission together, wherever and whenever possible” paved the way on January 1, 1996, for the official creation of Global Ministries, a common witness of the Division of Overseas Ministries, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and Wider Church Ministries, United Church of Christ. Today, Global Ministries accompanies over 250 international partner churches, ecumenical bodies and organizations. Together, we discern priorities of presence and action.

In order to respond to the challenge of a rapidly changing world, in April 2004 Global Ministries adopted a strategic approach emphasizing Critical Presence in all phases of its mission. As we walk with international partners in some 68 countries with over 150 missionaries, volunteers, interns, and associates, we seek to timely and appropriately meet God’s people and creation at the point of deepest need: spiritually, physically, emotionally and/or economically. In this approach to global mission, priority is given to ministries of accompaniment to, and with, people in critical situations, which may include:

- Pastoral ministries related to fear and hopelessness where people are desperate for meaning.
- Dangerous or life-threatening situations related to social, economic, or political realities.
- Partners living in countries wherein the Christian faith is a minority faith.
- Interfaith relations.
- Conflict transformation and resolution.
- Areas where Global Ministries can offer a distinctive presence.
As we seek to be faithful to our Critical Presence commitment, there are a number of implications for how we, as Disciples, will do global mission from this point forward. We will seek to develop and maintain partnerships and appoint missionaries where capacity building and healthcare are a primary focus. We will also explore and implement economic alternatives which empower the powerless and the most impoverished communities in each area of the world where we have partnerships. Critical Presence also has implications for our churches here in North America. We will facilitate the engagement of local congregations and other settings of the church more intentionally in global mission. This Be a Global Mission Church workbook is a conscious attempt to target that implication.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:

- How has the Disciples approach to global mission evolved over the years? What were some of the factors that led to the changes you have noted?

- Why do you think Global Ministries is committed to a partnership model of mission? What are some of the advantages and disadvantages of this type of model for doing mission?

- After reading Acts 1:6-11, how do you understand your congregation’s responsibility to be a Spirit-empowered witness for God in the world?

LEARN MORE BY ORDERING THE FOLLOWING RESOURCES BY CALLING 1-800-537-3394:

- Connecting Threads Around the World Through Global Ministries DVD and Study Guide. Through seven DVD segments (7-20 minutes each) and an accompanying study guide with introductory material, discussion questions and Bible study, you can learn more about the current global mission work of the Disciples of Christ.


- “Standing Rules and Guiding Principles of the Common Global Ministries Board of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the United Church of Christ.”

Now that you have spent some time learning about our Disciples global mission heritage and our current mission strategy in Global Ministries, you’re ready to proceed to step 3!
Evaluate...

your global mission involvement and discern your launching point

Use the following questions to review the global mission involvement and commitment of your congregation. Determine if your congregation is ready to:

1. **Start in Mission**
   Global mission is not a central part of your congregation’s life and you are ready to introduce this new and exciting dimension. As you go through the Global Mission Evaluative Questions, identify at least one encouragement or area of success that you could build on in step 4 when you create your package of global mission involvement.

2. **Grow in Mission**
   Global mission is a part of your congregation’s life, but not to the level you would like it to be. You are ready to evaluate your current commitment and activities, make changes and grow. As you go through the Global Mission Evaluative Questions, make a list of your current global mission program’s strengths and weaknesses in order to discern what you will focus on in step 4.

3. **Celebrate Mission**
   Global mission is already a vital part of your congregation’s life and you want to share the Good News with others! You are ready to creatively evaluate your programs, share your experiences with others and consider branching out to new areas of involvement. As you go through the Global Mission Evaluative Questions, look for areas of global mission involvement that you can build upon and share with other congregations in your region. Consider branching out into one or two new areas as you move to step 4.

**GLOBAL MISSION EVALUATIVE QUESTIONS:**

1. How do we already financially support the global mission efforts of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)? What is our support of the Disciples Mission Fund? Are we moving toward a tithe? Are we supporting Week of Compassion? What about the Special Day Offerings? What other overseas financial commitments do we have?

2. How is our congregation already involved globally with projects, programs and people?

3. How are individual members active in world outreach and advocacy? Can we name the people who have a “passion” for global mission in our congregation? How involved in mission are the Disciples Women/Men in our congregation?

4. Are we active in our region’s Missionary Relationship? Global Church Partnership?

[www.globalministries.org](http://www.globalministries.org)
12. Do our children know what global mission is? Have they met and spoken with a missionary or a person from another country, such as a mission partner?

13. What nationalities are present in our congregation?

14. Have members been on a mission trip or visited Global Ministries partners or missionaries in their travels? Are they willing to share what they have learned with our congregation?

15. Has our congregation resettled refugees? Do our members reflect on the inter-connectedness of local and global justice issues and relationships?

16. Have we ever sponsored a global mission event with a local United Church of Christ (UCC) congregation in order to make the “common witness” of Global Ministries more visible?

17. In what other ways is our congregation global?

Now that you have evaluated your global mission involvement and determined your launching point, move to step 4 and create a package of global mission involvement.
Create...

your package of global mission involvement from the checklist of ideas for action

We invite you to create a package of global mission involvement based upon your evaluation and tailored to your congregation’s interests:

- Remember to start by checking off what your congregation is already committed to doing in global mission. There is an “other idea” line under each category which enables you to include ideas that are not explicitly listed.

- Then choose a few ideas that seem to be realistic for your congregation at this point on your journey. Try to spread your ideas for action over the seven categories.

- Finally don’t forget to give the congregation a few challenges that will extend your relationships to the ends of the earth.

Consider working on these ideas for action over the next three years. At the end of that three-year period, evaluate and then plan to begin another cycle. If you would like to contact a Global Ministries staff person to ask a question about any of these ideas for action, you can go to www.globalministries.org under Be a Global Mission Church and download Be a Global Mission Congregation: Disciples Ideas for Action and Commitment form. In this document you will find the name and contact information of the staff person responsible for each action idea.

Even though quality is more important that quantity, here are some benchmarks to target in creating your package of global mission involvement:

Starting in Mission: choose 4 to 7 ideas for action
Growing in Mission: choose 8 to 13 ideas for action
Celebrating Mission: choose at least 14 ideas for action

CHECKLIST OF IDEAS FOR ACTION FOR DISCIPLES CONGREGATIONS

1. A Global Mission Church prays regularly for partners, missionaries and the world.

Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Romans 12:12

___ a. Distribute the monthly Global Ministries mission story (download at www.globalministries.org) as a worship bulletin insert, an article in the congregational newsletter, an all-church e-mail or listserv, a posting or link on your congregation’s website…

___ b. Incorporate a global component into worship on a monthly basis, such as a mission moment or PowerPoint, a letter from a missionary, a scripture reading or prayer in another language, a sermon illustration, an international hymn, song or other liturgical element…

___ c. Pray weekly for a Global Ministries missionary, international partner church or organization, global issues and concerns…

___ d. Other prayer ideas:

______________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________
2. A Global Mission Church **educates** its members about global issues from preschool age to adult.

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God — what is good and acceptable and perfect. **Romans 12:2**

___ a. Emphasize global mission at least once a year with children and youth: Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, youth group, retreat, camp…

___ b. Offer a global mission class utilizing the *Connecting Threads Around the World Through Global Ministries* DVD and study guide and/or create and maintain a visible Global Ministries bulletin board.

___ c. Organize an annual global mission educational event using Global Ministries resources and/or a speaker.

___ d. Other educational ideas:

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

3. A Global Mission Church **seeks justice** for the “least of these” in the international community.

What does the Lord require of you? To act justly and love mercy and to walk humbly with your God. **Micah 6:8**

___ a. Establish or revitalize a functioning Global Mission and Advocacy committee.

___ b. Educate and mobilize a group in your congregation each year on at least one specific Global Ministries advocacy issue.

___ c. Send at least one member of your congregation to the Ecumenical Advocacy Days in Washington D.C.

___ d. Other advocacy ideas:

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

4. A Global Mission Church **receives** the gifts of the global church.

At the present time your plenty will supply what they need, so that in turn their plenty will supply what you need. Then there will be equality. **2 Corinthians 8:14**

___ a. Start or renew a communication relationship with your region’s missionary through Global Ministries Missionary Relationship Program.

___ b. Host a missionary visit in your congregation.

___ c. Work with your region or a cluster of congregations, Disciples of Christ and/or United Church of Christ, in your area to establish a long-term relationship with one of Global Ministries international church partners or organizations.

___ d. Other receiving ideas:

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________
5. A Global Mission Church **gives** to the work of global mission.

*Just as you excel in everything...see that you also excel in this grace of giving.*

2 Corinthians 8:7

___ a. Create a plan to work towards giving a tithe, such as a target minimum of 10% of your total church budget to Disciples Mission Fund (DMF) and promoting the Special Day Offerings and Week of Compassion.

___ b. Sponsor a child through Global Ministries Child Sponsorship Program.

___ c. Support global mission through “over and above” gifts to Global Ministries for a special project or specific missionary support.

___ d. Other giving ideas:

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________________________

6. A Global Mission Church **sends** its members into the world to share the Good News.

*How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, Your God reigns!* Isaiah 52:7

___ a. Encourage church members who travel overseas, to visit Global Ministries missionaries and international partners.

___ b. Involve a group from your congregation in a People-to-People Pilgrimage - the Global Ministries group mission trip program.

___ c. Send one or more of your congregation’s members as a volunteer missionary to serve with one of Global Ministries international partners.

___ d. Other sending ideas:

________________________

________________________

7. A Global Mission Church **grows** in sharing the story of God’s mission with others.

*Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.* Galatians 6:9

___ a. Designate at least one member of your congregation (mission committee chair or member, lay minister, pastor, etc.) to participate in the Ministries and Mission Interpreters (MMI) training offered by Global Ministries, and to be actively involved in the MMI network in telling the story and connecting congregations to global mission.

___ b. Organize a joint global mission event with another Disciples of Christ and/or United Church of Christ congregation in your area for the purpose of learning and sharing about God’s mission together.

___ c. Have at least one of your congregation’s members involved in supporting your region’s global mission efforts, such as: serve on regional mission committee, coordinate a missionary visit to the region, help develop a partnership with an international partner, use the region’s communication tools to promote global mission, organize a region/conference Ministries and Mission Interpreters training workshop...
Now that you have completed your congregation’s checklist of ideas for action, it’s time to set in place a plan to carry out these ideas and to formalize your package of global mission involvement with Global Ministries. You’re ready for step 5!

Congratulations! You have made it to the end of this evaluation and planning process for being affirmed as a Global Mission Congregation.

As you create your action plan for implementing the ideas for actions that you have chosen, you will need to establish measurable objectives for the implementation of each idea, including target dates and names of the people who will be responsible for carrying out the objectives. You will also want to plan a yearly evaluation of your progress.

Please take the time to download the Be a Global Mission Congregation: Disciples Ideas for Action and Commitment form from www.globalministries.org. You will want to fill out these forms, make copies for Global Ministries and send them to the address provided.

WHAT’S NEXT?

Global Ministries would like to recognize your congregation with a certificate presented during Sunday morning worship and to celebrate this important step in the life of your congregation. Contact the Disciples point person today at dom@disciples.org or 317-713-2571 to talk about possible dates.

Now it’s time to roll up your sleeves and go to work on the plan you have made. Don’t hesitate to contact us at any point on your journey. We want to be faithful traveling companions and look forward to walking with you.
Here's a prayer that will help us start the journey together:

**PRAYER FOR A GLOBAL MISSION**

**CONGREGATION**

*God, we thank You ...*

- for the opportunities we have to reach out to the world around us and hear what others in the wider world have to say as they bear witness of You in their lives;
- for the people in our church who seem to always have the wider world upon their hearts and in their vision;
- for our church’s global mission legacy—locally, regionally, generally and beyond; and
- for the lives of those who have gone before us dedicating their time, talent and gifts in sharing Your love with others.

*God, we ask You to...*

- continue to show us where You are calling us now, as individuals and as a congregation of your people, to make a commitment to grow;
- help us as a congregation to hear the cries of lament and praise of people around the world;
- grant us energy and enthusiasm to reach out our hands, to receive and respond with grace;
- use our voices to proclaim the joys, as well as to denounce the suffering of Your people, our wider kin;
- grant us wisdom and guidance as we build global connections in the life of our local congregation, ensuring that this may contribute to the building of Your Kingdom; and
- bless the work of the Division of Overseas Ministries, Global Ministries in Jesus’ name. Amen.
As members of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) we are committed to “witnessing, loving and serving from our doorsteps to the ends of the earth.” Many congregations already actively pursue global mission through education, advocacy, stewardship, and mission trips. For others, the Global Mission Church initiative presents a challenge. Wherever your congregation fits, this workbook can be a new direction or milepost on a path already being traveled.

The Be Global Mission Church initiative can be used to propel a congregation into new activities or to affirm numerous projects already in place. Whether your next step is to find a world map, study globalization or plan a mission exposure trip, we encourage you to make the decision to put a foot forward and take a step into world mission. Being a Global Mission Congregation will challenge your members to stretch toward a new level of interest in, and commitment to, God’s world.

For questions and mission resources contact:

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GLOBAL MINISTRIES
A common witness of the Division of Overseas Ministries, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), and Wider Church Ministries, United Church of Christ

www.globalministries.org