Be a Global Mission Church

A workbook for the Disciples and UCC to engage in God’s transforming mission through Global Ministries.

www.globalministries.org
Will you accept the challenge?
Global Ministries would like to accompany you on this journey as you reach out beyond our national boundaries to engage in God’s transforming mission with our international partners.

The United Church of Christ and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) have passed resolutions at Disciples General Assembly and UCC General Synod affirming our two denominations’ commitment to Be a Global Mission Church.

This workbook is a tool to help all settings/expressions of our two churches faithfully live out that commitment to God’s global mission with the accompaniment of Global Ministries.

We look forward to walking with you on this journey of faith as we claim our identity as a Global Mission Church. Together we are meeting God’s people and creation at the point of deepest need as we accompany our global partners in their life-giving ministries.

Grateful for your partnership in God’s global mission!

Jim Moos
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Be a Global Mission Church

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

**STEP 1**
Gather...

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

**STEP 2**
Learn...

About Disciples and UCC global mission understandings and commitments: pages 6 – 12

**STEP 3**
Evaluate...

Your past and current global mission involvement: pages 13 – 15

**Create...**

Your new action plan for engaging in God’s global mission: pages 16 – 22

**Commit...**

To carrying out your plan in covenant with Global Ministries: page 23 – 24

Your Program Staff...

A list of staff, by program, with contact information: pages 25 – 27

An important note for Disciples’ areas/regions and UCC associations/conferences:

We are excited that you have decided to undertake the *Be a Global Mission Church* process. With your intentional support, the local churches/congregations of your area/region or association/conference will be able to deepen their global mission involvement. We have designed this workbook for local churches/congregations, but the five steps can easily be adapted to UCC conferences and associations and Disciples’ regions and areas. We look forward to walking with you on your journey to *Be a Global Mission Region or Conference!*
Gather...

a team to coordinate the *Be a Global Mission Church* process.

As you begin the *Be a Global Mission Church* journey, consider these leadership questions:

1. Is our church leadership (pastor, elders, staff, etc.) supportive of this process? Have they given us their blessing to move forward?

2. Is there an existing committee? Is it working well? Do we need a change of personnel, name, time, budget, etc.?

3. Who will spearhead our new effort to grow in global mission involvement and commitment? Do we have any former missionaries in our church?

4. Is there anyone in our church or geographic area who has been trained as a Ministries and Mission Interpreter (MMI) for Global Ministries? Might we invite that person to be a part of our leadership team?

5. Are there any new people with a passion for global mission in our church? Enthusiasm and energy are more important than expertise. People can learn about global mission as they go!

6. How can we involve youth and a diverse cross section of our church from the beginning?

7. How can we avoid having our mission program identified with just a few people? What are strategies that we can implement to help the entire church feel responsible for this new initiative?

8. Who in our church is effective in spreading the word through newsletter articles, bulletin boards, bulletin inserts, e-mail updates, website postings, and mission moments?

As the team that will lead this process comes together, consider how you might affirm the importance of this work during Sunday morning worship through a prayer or a simple commissioning service.

With a leadership team in place, you are ready to move on to STEP 2!
Learn...

about Disciples and UCC global mission understandings and commitments.

As you gather your **Be a Global Mission Church** leadership team for your first meeting, take some time to talk over the foundational principles which guide our global mission efforts as the UCC and Disciples through Global Ministries. You may enjoy learning more about our two denominations’ participation in God’s global mission by looking at the Global Ministries web site, www.globalministries.org. Here are some frequently asked questions and answers for discussion:

**What is a global mission church?**

A working definition to consider is: A global mission church understands itself to be inter-related with the whole of God’s creation across all physical and human-made barriers, and seeks to timely and appropriately meet God’s people and creation at the point of deepest need.

**What is global mission?**

Carlos Cardoza-Orlandi provides a very helpful starting point in defining mission. In his book, Mission: An Essential Guide, he offers the following definition: “Mission is the participation of the people of God in God’s action in the world.” Global Ministries is responsible for helping the UCC and Disciples engage in God’s mission beyond our national boundaries as we walk with our international partners and discern together God’s action in the world.

**What is Global Ministries?**

Global Ministries is the common witness of the Disciples’ Division of Overseas Ministries (DOM) and the UCC’s Wider Church Ministries (WCM). Our two denominations have a formal partnership through which the Disciples and UCC share common staff, budget, programs/projects, and governance in our presence and witness with international partners throughout the global community.

**How was Global Ministries started?**

Beginning in the 1960’s there were discussions about “joint action and of a possible administrative merger of the agencies.” These discussions led to experiments with joint offices and “common ministry” over the next several decades. In 1989, the General Synod of the UCC and the General Assembly of the Disciples each voted on a partnership resolution “to engage in mission together, wherever and whenever possible.” On January 1, 1996, Global Ministries was born.

**Why is Global Ministries unique?**

No two denominations in the U.S. have entered into covenantal partnership to do global mission together through a common structure as the Disciples and UCC have done through Global Ministries.
What are Global Ministries’ current mission priorities?

Vision:
That all of God’s people and creation share in God’s abundant life

Mission:
To receive and share the Good News of Jesus Christ by joining with global and local partners to work for justice, reconciliation, and peace

Core Values:

Presence
Manifesting God’s love by loving in intentional, committed relationships

Mutuality
Walking in hope with others in God’s mission

Community
Building interdependence and unity among all God’s children

Justice
Living out God’s radical love by confronting powers that deny the fullness of life and the integrity of creation

Peace
Embodying reconciling relationships with God, humanity, and creation

Strategic Directions:

Nurturing community – to accompany overseas partners, UCC/DOC regions, conferences, and congregations in witnessing to God’s abundant grace through the proclamation of the Gospel and exchanges of people, gifts, and talents

Working for peace with justice – to affirm God’s just and peaceable realm by living as God’s global mission church, facilitating the mobilization of God’s people as advocates for current issues

Sharing the story – to acknowledge mission comes alive through personal stories and work with local and global partners to grow in global understanding by engaging more deeply in mission relationships and sharing those experiences

Developing resources – to recognize God’s abundance and growing opportunities for collaboration and generosity by strengthening existing and exploring new funding mechanisms and sources for God’s mission

When does Global Ministries send missionaries?
A missionary is sent when one of our global partners makes a request for a person to fill a specific need, finances are available for an appointment, and a qualified candidate is found.

What is the primary focus of missionary appointments?
Global Ministries appoints mission personnel in places where education, capacity-building (leadership and community development), and healthcare are a primary focus. Each missionary appointment is processed in dialogue with the global partner.
What categories of missionaries does Global Ministries send?

Missionaries are supported with salary and benefits and serve a term of three to four years. They are sent when a global partner makes a request for a person to fill a specific need, finances are available for an appointment, and a qualified person to fill the role is identified.

Global Mission Interns serve one to three years with a global partner. Interns must have a relationship to the church with preference given to members of the United Church of Christ and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). This program is open to college graduates under 30 who have a willingness to receive and share gifts with global partners in intentional service.

Long term Volunteers serve for one to four years in response to a request from a Global Partner. The co-worker is primarily responsible for all funding, with Global Ministries and the global partner contributing to the support package if possible.

Global Service Co-Workers serve from two weeks up to one year and are sent on assignments identified by the global partner. Participating in a Global Partner’s life as a co-worker is a great way to connect and learn about our partner’s work during a summer break or a sabbatical opportunity.

Associates are given recognition as such and are members of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the United Church of Christ serving outside the United States with a church, ecumenical institution or a project involving a ministry that is in accordance with the mission principles of Global Ministries.

How is Global Ministries governed?

The Common Global Ministries Board (CGMB) is composed of six international partners, one from each of the six areas of the world in which we are engaged in mission, 15 Division of Overseas Ministries (Disciples) board members and 15 United Church of Christ Board members (UCCB) representing Wider Church Ministries and Global Ministries.

Where does Global Ministries have home-based staff?

Approximately half of the staff is based in Cleveland at the UCC Church House and the other half is in Indianapolis at the Disciples Center. The staff is led by two co-executives, one in Indianapolis and one in Cleveland. (See the staff listing at the end of this booklet for more details.)

How is the work with international partners carried out?

Five area offices (Africa, East Asia and Pacific, Latin America and Caribbean, Middle East and Europe, and Southern Asia) are staffed by area executives. They work with the program offices: Mission Personnel, People-to-People Pilgrimages, Missionary Relationships, Resource/Financial Development, Mission Education and Advocacy, Finance, and Child Sponsorship.

How is Global Ministries funded?

A percentage of the Disciples Mission Fund (DMF) and the Easter offering from Disciples and Our Church’s Wider Mission (OCWM) from the UCC, and money through Week of Compassion (WOC) and One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) supports Global Ministries. Funds are also received from various endowments and special gifts provided by individuals, local churches/congregations and judicatories.

Why is it important to Be a Global Mission Church?

The Church exists by and for God’s mission in the world. In the summer of 2009, both the Disciples and UCC passed resolutions at their General Assembly and General Synod concerning denominational commitment to Be a Global Mission Church. The General Assembly resolution invites Disciples to “claim the church's core identity as a global mission church in all of its expressions, and calls on the church to live out this commitment in all current and future mission priorities.” The General
Synod resolution underscores the importance of the initiative, asking all settings of the UCC to pursue the *Global Mission Church* designation.

Learn more about Global Ministries’ current mission work by viewing the “Connecting Threads Around the World Through Global Ministries” DVD. Use the 7 video segments (7-20 minutes each) and the accompanying study guide with introductory material, discussion questions and Bible study. (To order this free resource call: 1 880 537 3394.)

Visit [www.globalministries.org](http://www.globalministries.org) for a wealth of resources including:


- “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 learned about our common global mission you are ready to begin the evaluation process offered in STEP 3!

Most churches/congregations are already involved in global mission. As you continue on the *Be a Global Mission Church* journey, take the time to celebrate your past achievements and then evaluate the effectiveness of those actions. Use the following questions to review the current global mission involvement and commitment of your church:

1. How are individual members active in global outreach and advocacy? Can we name the people who have a “passion” for global mission in our church? How involved in mission are our youth? men’s and women’s groups?

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

3. How do we financially support the global mission efforts of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the United Church of Christ? What is our support of the Disciples Mission Fund/Our Church’s Wider Mission? Are we moving toward a tithe? Are we supporting Week of Compassion/One Great Hour of Sharing? What about the Special Day Offerings? Do we encourage our church members to donate to denominational special appeals issued after natural disasters? What other overseas financial commitments do we have?
4. In what ways are we active in our region’s/conference’s missionary relationship? Global church partnership?

5. How do we use the printed, audio-visual and web-based resources of Global Ministries?

6. How often does our worship include elements of our global relationships?

7. When was the last time we had a global theme for a lunch or dinner program? Bible study? Vacation Bible School? youth group? another event?

8. How often, and well, do our Mission and Advocacy Committee(s) present issues and concerns to engage the church?

9. Which Global Ministries special projects do we support (through funding, education, and advocacy), such as child sponsorship, disaster response, refugee resettlement?

10. What other international or ecumenical efforts do we support financially, materially, or with time and energy? Church World Service (CWS), National Council of Churches (NCC), World Council of Churches (WCC), Habitat for Humanity? Heifer Project? Others?

11. Where and when is God’s global mission visible in our church building?

12. What understanding of global mission do our children have? 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 local church/congregation? What natural global relationships do we already have?

14. Have members been on a mission trip or visited Global Ministries’ partners or missionaries in their travels? Have they shared what they have learned with our local church/congregation?

15. When has our church resettled refugees or reached out to international students?

16. How do our members live out the inter-connectedness of local and global justice issues and relationships?

17. How have we, as a Disciples congregation, for example, ever sponsored a global mission event with a UCC church (or vice versa) in order to make the “common witness” of Global Ministries more visible?

18. In what other ways is our church global?

Global Mission Evaluative Summary Questions:

1. What did we learn from this evaluation about our church’s global mission involvement?

2. What are the strengths and weaknesses of our global mission efforts?

3. What do we want to conclude and celebrate before moving on?

4. What do we want to continue and strengthen in our next action plan?

5. What new areas do we want to consider in this next phase of our global mission involvement?

Now that you have evaluated your current global mission involvement, move to STEP 4 to create a new action plan!
Create...

your new action plan for engaging in God’s global mission.

It’s time to invent your church’s future! We invite you to create an action plan of global mission involvement based upon your evaluation and tailored to your church’s interests. We have provided an action plan checklist of global mission engagement ideas which are organized as the seven marks of a global mission church. As you read through the checklist:

- Begin by selecting what your church has already been committed to doing in global mission which you want to continue. Under each mark of a global mission church you may include ideas which are not explicitly listed. Be creative!

- Choose a few new ideas that seem to be realistic for your church. Remember it’s all about responding to God’s call and taking the next step(s). Try to spread your ideas for action over the seven marks of a global mission church. Be ambitious!

- 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. Plan an annual evaluation of your progress. Be committed!

Expect to implement these ideas for action over three years. At the end of that three-year period, evaluate and then plan to begin another cycle.

Be a Global Mission Church Action Plan for Disciples and UCC Churches

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

   *I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now.* PHILIPPIANS 1:3-5

   __ a. Pray weekly for a Global Ministries missionary, international partner church or organization, global issues and concerns (click on the photo on the homepage of www.globalministries.org to access the Global Ministries weekly prayer).

   __ b. Incorporate a global component into worship at least once a month, such as a video 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. (Explore the “Resources” pull down menu at www.globalministries.org)

   __ c. Distribute the monthly Global Ministries mission story as a worship bulletin insert, an article in your church newsletter, an all-church e-mail or listserve, a posting or link on your church website, etc. (Download from the homepage of www.globalministries.org)

   __ d. Other prayer idea(s):

   ____________________________________________________________

   ____________________________________________________________

   ____________________________________________________________
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. Invite members of your church to subscribe to the weekly Global Ministries E-mail Update by going to the homepage of www.globalministries.org and clicking on “Get Updates” or become a fan of Global Ministries on Facebook.

___ b. Emphasize God’s global mission with children and youth at least once a year in Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, youth group, retreats, or at camp.

Go to www.globalministries.org/resources/youth-and-children/ for ideas.

___ c. 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.

___ d. Organize an annual global mission educational event using Global Ministries’ resources and/or a speaker, or participate in Global Ministries webinars (Find the date of the next webinar by clicking on “All Events” on the homepage of www.globalministries.org.)

___ e. 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 an active Global Mission and Advocacy committee.

___ b. Educate and mobilize a group in your church each year on at least one Global Ministries advocacy issue. Participate in UCC and Disciples justice action alert networks by sending messages to members of Congress and the current administration.

UCC go to: www.ucc.org/justice/ Disciples go to: www.djan.net/

___ c. Send at least one member of your member of your church to Ecumenical Advocacy Days in Washington D.C. in March. (Visit www.advocacydays.org for the date of the next conference.)

___ d. Other advocacy idea(s):

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

For I am longing to see you so that I may share with you some spiritual gift to strengthen you - or rather so that we may be mutually encouraged by each other’s faith, both yours and mine. Romans 1:11-12

___ a. Start or renew a relationship with your region’s missionary through Global Ministries’ Missionary Relationship Program and publish missionary letters in your church newsletter.

www.globalministries.org/get-involved/missionary-visits/

___ b. Host a missionary visit in your local church/congregation.
c. Work with your area/region or association/conference to establish a long-term relationship with one of Global Ministries’ international church or organization partners through the Global Church Partnership program.
www.globalministries.org/get-involved/church-to-church-partnerships/

d. Other receiving idea(s):

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

*I do not mean that there should be relief for others and pressure on you, but it is a question of a fair balance between your present abundance and their need, so that their abundance may be for your need, in order that there may be a fair balance.* 2 Corinthians 8:13-14

appeals, and Week of Compassion or One Great Hour of Sharing.

b. Sponsor a child through the Global Ministries Child Sponsorship Program.
www.globalministries.org/get-involved/child-sponsorship/

a. Plan to work toward giving at least a tithe, such as a target minimum of 10% of your total church budget to the Disciples Mission Fund or the UCC’s Our Church’s Wider Mission, moving perhaps one percent per year to attain a particular percentage. Work to promote the Special Day Offerings, disaster appeals, and Week of Compassion or One Great Hour of Sharing.

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

While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, “Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.” Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off. Acts 13:2-3

a. Encourage church members who travel overseas to visit Global Ministries missionaries and international partners. (See the staff listing and contact the appropriate area office for information about partners in a specific country.)

b. Plan a group mission trip with your church through Global Ministries’ People-to-People Pilgrimage program.
www.globalministries.org/mission/group-trips/

c. Send one or more of your church’s members as a volunteer missionary to serve with one of Global Ministries’ international partners. www.globalministries.org/mission/volunteers/

d. Other sending idea(s):
7. **A Global Mission Church grows in sharing the story of God’s mission with others.**

You then, my child, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus, and what you have heard from me through many witnesses entrust to faithful people who will be able to teach others as well. 2 TIMOTHY 2:1-2

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

www.globalministries.org/get-involved/ministries-and-mission-interpreters/

___ b. Organize a global mission event with another Disciples of Christ and/or United Church of Christ church in your area to learn and share about God’s global mission.

___ c. Enhance your global mission efforts by having at least one of your church’s members serve on the region’s/ conference’s mission committee; help develop a partnership with an international partner; use the region’s/conference’s communication tools to promote global mission; organize a region/conference Ministries and Mission Interpreters training workshop.

___ d. Other growing idea(s):

Now that you have completed your church’s action plan, it’s time to commit to carrying out that plan in covenant with Global Ministries. You’re ready for STEP 5!

**Commit...**

to carrying out your plan in covenant with Global Ministries.

Congratulations! You have made it to the implementation phase of this evaluation and planning process to be affirmed as a **Global Mission Church**. Remember that you are not alone in this initiative. Many UCC and Disciples churches are on the path. Global Ministries wants to covenant with your church to walk with you on each step of the journey.

Download and print the *Disciples and UCC Be a Global Mission Church Covenant Statement* found at www.globalministries.org under the “Get Involved” pull down menu and by clicking on the “Be Global Mission Church” link. Complete the form, make a copy for Global Ministries and mail it to the address provided. We’d like to add the name of your church to the growing list of global mission churches!

**What’s Next?**

Global Ministries would like to recognize your church with a certificate to celebrate this important step in the life of your church. Contact Global Ministries by calling (216) 736-3204 for UCC churches and (317) 713-2571 for Disciples churches.

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.
This prayer will help us start the journey together:

Prayer for a Global Mission Church

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; 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 church, to make a commitment to grow;

• help us as a church 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;

• grant us wisdom and guidance as we build global connections in the life of our church, ensuring that this may contribute to the building of Your realm; and

• bless the work of Global Ministries; in Jesus’ name. Amen.
Mission Interpretation, Education and Constituency Relationships
Global partnerships, e-mail updates and audio/visual/print resources, Ministries and Mission Interpreters Training, displays, presence in regions/conferences etc.
(216) 736-3204

Advocacy and Education
Advocacy networks, sign-on letters, action alerts.
(216) 736-3220

People to People Pilgrimages
Group mission trips, hands-on overseas experiences, etc.
(317) 713-2565

Global Ministries Website
(216) 736-3209

Africa
(317) 713-2551

East Asia and Pacific
(216) 736-3226

Middle East and Europe
(216) 736-3227

Latin America and Caribbean
(317) 713-2563

Southern Asia
(216) 736-3228

Child Sponsorship Program
$25.00 to $30.00 monthly with no administrative fee!
(216) 736-3222

Treasury Services
DOM Treasurer (Indy) WCM Treasurer (Clev)
(317) 713-2557 (216) 736-3206

Resource Development
Opportunities to financially support Global Ministries’ presence and witness
(317) 713-2555

Also part of the UCC Wider Church Ministries
One Great Hour of Sharing, United Church of Christ
(216) 736-3210

Volunteer Ministries
(216) 736-3214

National Disaster Ministries
(216) 736-3211

Health and Wholeness Advocacy
(216) 736-3217

A Disciples Partner Ministry
Week of Compassion, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
(317) 713-2450
or
(317) 835-1275
Meet the Challenge

Many churches already actively pursue global mission through education, stewardship, and mission trips. For others, the Be a Global Mission Church initiative presents a new and different challenge. Wherever your church fits, this workbook can be a new direction or a milepost on the path already being traveled.

The Be Global Mission Church process can be used to propel a church 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 People-to-People Pilgrimage, we encourage you to make the decision to put a foot forward and take a step further into God’s global mission. Being a Global Mission Church will challenge your members to stretch toward a new level of interest in, and commitment to, God’s world.

For mission resources and ideas contact:

Office for Mission Interpretation and Constituency Relationships
(317) 713-2575
e-mail: dom@disciples.org
P.O. Box 1986
Indianapolis, IN 46206-1986

Office for Mission Education and Interpretation
(216) 736-3209
e-mail: wcm@ucc.org
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Cleveland, OH 44115-1100

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