“That they may all be one.”
John 17:21

Steps to take for United Church of Christ congregations
As members of the United Church of Christ, our mission imperative is, “that they may all be one.” (John 17:21). This ministry of reconciliation and unity to which we are called is both local and global.

Global Ministries would like to partner with you on this exciting journey. Why? Because we believe a global church is a vital church. Because churches equipped for mission are flexible and growing. Because a global mission church has strong local and global relationships. And because we know that mission efforts bring abundant blessings!

This *Be a Global Mission Church* workbook provides a step-by-step approach for congregations, associations or conferences to engage in global mission.

Will you accept the challenge to *Be a Global Mission Church*?

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 God’s global mission,

Cally Rogers-Witte

Executive Minister
Wider Church Ministries,
United Church of Christ

Co-executive, Global Ministries*

*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 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 United Church of Christ global mission heritage and current mission strategy: **pages 6 – 10**

3. **Evaluate...**
   your current global mission involvement and discern your launching point
   - Global mission involvement: **pages 11 – 13**
   - Starting in Mission – **page 14**
   - Growing in Mission – **page 14**
   - Celebrating Mission – **page 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**

Your Association or Conference can become *A Global Mission Association or Conference*!
Just go to www.globalministries.org and click on *Be a Global Mission Church*, then the Association and Conference form.
As you begin the Be a Global Mission Church journey, there are some questions to consider:

- Who will spearhead this effort to grow in global and local mission involvement and commitment?
- Who in your congregation or conference 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. People can learn about 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.
- Find a way for the entire congregation to feel responsible for this new initiative.

- Make sure your 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 around the world so that we may all be one. Enable us also to allow the “ends of the earth” to come to our doorsteps through what our global 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!
The United Church of Christ has a rich heritage in global mission beginning with the Haystack Prayer Meeting. On a Saturday afternoon in 1806, five Williams College students, Congregationalists in background, gathered in a field to debate the theology of missionary service and to discuss the spiritual needs of those living in Asian countries. Their meeting was suddenly interrupted by a thunderstorm and the students, Samuel J. Mills, James Richards, Francis L. Robbins, Harvey Loomis, and Byram Green, took shelter under a haystack until the sky cleared. “The brevity of the shower, the strangeness of the place of refuge, and the peculiarity of their topic of prayer and conference all took hold of their imaginations and their memories.” This gathering came to be called “The Haystack Prayer Meeting,” launching the modern mission movement.

In 1810, the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions (ABCFM) was proposed by recent Williams College graduates and was officially chartered in 1812. That same year, ABCFM sent its first missionaries - to the Indian subcontinent – and became the leading missionary society in the United States. Between 1812 and 1840, representatives of the ABCFM went to the following people and places: India (the Bombay area), northern Ceylon (modern day Sri Lanka), the Sandwich Islands (Hawaii), East Asia (China, Singapore and Siam), the Middle East (Greece, Cyprus, Turkey, Syria, the Holy Land and Persia), and Africa (Western Africa — Cape Palmas — and Southern Africa — among the Zulus). Congregationalist in origin, the American Board supported missions by Presbyterian (1812-1870), Dutch-Reformed (1826-1857) and other denominational members.

In its first fifty years, the ABCFM sent out over 1250 missionaries. Most were from the smaller towns and farm villages of New England. Few were affluent, but many were trained in colleges where they received a classical education, which included Hebrew, Latin, and Greek. When they reached the mission field, they were able to translate the Bible from the original Greek and Hebrew into difficult and often previously unwritten languages. They built educational systems in their lands of ministry and were often called upon to advise foreign governments. The ABCFM saw to it that schools and hospitals were established in all the mission fields. Native leaders were trained to continue the work of the ministry.

The Evangelical and Reformed arm of uniting denominations lived out its own merger over nearly one and a half decades. From 1940 onward, Reformed missions in Japan, China, and Iraq were united under the Evangelical and Reformed Church Board of International Missions. New missions were undertaken through cooperative efforts in Ecuador, Ghana, and western Africa. The Messenger became the church publication. Christian education resources soon followed. Organizations united. The Woman’s Missionary Society united with the Evangelical Women’s Union to become the Women’s Guild.

In the early 1900s, the ABCFM experienced a boom in missionary recruitment during 1920s, a drastic reduction of missionaries due to the Great Depression of the 1930s, and the challenges of World War II in the 1940s. The creation of the World Council of Churches in 1948 implied the need for change in mission strategies and relationships.

Following the merger that created the United Church of Christ in 1957, the United Church Board for World Ministries (UCWM) was officially
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.
- Mission partners in countries where 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 members of the United Church of Christ, will do global mission from this point forward. We will seek to develop and maintain partnerships and appoint missionaries where capacity building and health-care 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 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 goal.

established in 1961 as a merger of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions of the Congregational Christian Churches, the Board of International Missions of the Evangelical and Reformed Church and the service agencies of both denominations, the Evangelical and Reformed Commission on World Service and the Congregational Christian Service Committee. After 150 years, the American Board had sent out nearly 5000 missionaries to 34 different fields, and it all began with five young men praying in a haystack.

Although the UCBWM no longer sent missionaries to plant churches, missionaries were sent at the request of church partners and they 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 spiritual gifts and Christian commitment that enrich our churches in the U.S.

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 United Church of Christ and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) have collaborated in global mission in various ways, most notably in the creation of joint area offices which functioned for and reported to both the United Church Board for World Mission (UCBWM), now Wider Church Ministries, and the Disciples’ Division of Overseas Ministries Board. 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 as 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 and ecumenical bodies. We discern together priorities of presence and action.
QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:

- How has the United Church of Christ 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?
- How do you understand “Critical Presence”? What do you think are the points of deepest need in our world today?
- 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) 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 United Church of Christ and Global Ministries.
- Learn more on the web at www.globalministries.org and www.ucc.org/wcm:
  - Standing Rules and Guiding Principles of the Common Global Ministries Board of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the United Church of Christ.
  - Haystack Prayer Meeting, historical mission partnerships, and timeline of mission
  - Origin and Legacy of the Common Global Ministries Board
  - An adult Bible study series called, “That All May Be One... so the World May Believe: 50 Years of Global Mission Practice and Thinking in the United Church of Christ”

Now that you have spent some time learning about the United Church of Christ’s global mission heritage and our current mission strategy in Global Ministries, you’re ready to proceed to step 3!

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 church life and you are ready to introduce this new and exciting dimension to your congregation.

2. **Grow in Mission**
   Global mission is a part of your church life, but not to the level you would like. You are ready to evaluate your current commitment and activities, make changes and grow.

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.
GLOBAL MISSION EVALUATIVE QUESTIONS:

1. How do we already financially support the global mission efforts of the United Church of Christ? What is our support of Our Church’s Wider Mission (OCWM)? Are we moving toward a tithe? Are we supporting One Great Hour of Sharing? What other overseas financial commitments do we have?

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

3. How are individual members active in global outreach and advocacy? Can we name the people who have a passion for global mission in our congregation? How involved in mission are the youth and adults of our church?

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

5. Are we familiar with, and do we utilize the print, audio-visual and web-based resources of Wider Church Ministries (www.ucc.org/wcm ) and Global Ministries (www.globalministries.org )?

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

7. When was the last time we had a global, multi-cultural or justice program with a lunch or dinner? For a Bible study? For Vacation Bible School? With a youth group? For another event?

8. How often or well does our Mission and Advocacy Committee(s) present issues and concerns by which to engage the congregation?

9. To what extent do we support Global Ministries and Wider Church Ministries through giving to special projects or programs such as disaster response, refugee resettlement, child sponsorship, etc.?

10. What other global service and mission organizations do we support (financially, materially, or with time and energy)? Church World Service? Habitat for Humanity? Heifer Project? Others?

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

12. Do our children know what global mission is? Have they met and spoken with a missionary or a person from another country? A mission partner? A volunteer in mission?

13. What nationalities are present in our congregation?

14. Have members been on a mission trip or visited WCM or 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?

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

17. Do our members reflect on the inter-connectedness of local and global justice issues and relationships?

18. In what other ways is our congregation “global”? 
If your congregation is starting in mission

Are you ready to introduce something new and exciting to your congregation? This will take energy and time, but the benefits are great! For example, a mission-equipped congregation can become even more vibrant and open to new challenges. Mission partnerships may strengthen and revitalize relationships locally and globally. Mission efforts encourage a spirit of abundant blessings and generosity.

Identify one area that stood out as an encouragement in your review of the Global Mission Evaluative Questions:

- What factors make this area a success?
- Who is involved and who knows about this existing area of global mission involvement?
- Share the Good News about this area of strength with the entire congregation. (You might write an article for the church newsletter, decorate a bulletin board, lift up a mission partner or missionary in prayer, or share a mission moment in worship.)

If your congregation is celebrating mission

Spread the Good News! Consider how you can share your global mission outreach with others, evaluate your programs creatively and regularly, and branch out to new areas of world mission.

Share your mission stories! Through increased visibility, help the entire congregation and wider church know what exciting events are happening:

- Write an article for your conference newsletter.
- Send mission event news to Global Ministries for the website, updates, and UC News.
- Offer global mission workshops and displays at conference events.

Evaluate each of your global mission priorities:

- Review your covenants: does your ministry respect the covenants you have as a member church of the United Church of Christ, with your conference and Global Ministries?
- Consider moving into new areas of global mission focus or rotating leadership.
- If a particular group, such as youth or young adults, is not involved, find real and meaningful ways to include them.

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

If your congregation is growing in mission

Now is the time to evaluate your current global mission projects, make changes, and start new ones.

Identify your strengths and weaknesses in world mission:

- Where do you do global mission well? What factors make each one a success?
- Which global mission projects are weak or disappointing? What are the problems you face?
- After reviewing your global mission programs, decide on which you would like to focus and which you would like to discontinue.
Create...

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

We invite you to create a package of global mission involvement tailored to your congregation's interests:

➢ Remember to start by checking what your congregation is already committed to doing in global mission through Wider Church Ministries and Global Ministries.

➢ Choose a few ideas that seem to be realistic for your congregation at this point on your journey. Try to apply your ideas for action over all seven categories.

➢ Don’t forget to give the congregation a few challenges that extend out 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 the Be a Global Mission Church: United Church of Christ Congregation Criteria and Commitment Form. In this document you will find the name and contact information of the staff responsible for each action idea.

These are some benchmarks to target in creating your package of global mission involvement in becoming a Global Mission Church:

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 UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST 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 (from www.globalministries.org) as a worship bulletin insert, an article in the church newsletter, an all-church e-mail, or a posting on your church website.

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

___ c. Each week, lift up global communities, mission partner organizations, missionaries, volunteers, global issues and concerns. Or utilize the United Church of Christ Calendar of Prayer in worship each week and/or for personal prayer time.

___ 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 in church 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
__ c. Organize an annual global mission educational event using Global Ministries’ resources and a speaker. Or create and maintain a global mission bulletin board.
__ d. Other advocacy 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 and/or sign up to send messages to members of Congress and the government on justice issues at www.ucctakeaction.org.
__ b. Educate and mobilize a group in your congregation each year on a specific Global Ministries advocacy issue, such as advocating for the rights of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender citizens.
__ c. Send at least one member of your congregation to the Ecumenical Advocacy Days in Washington D.C. each spring.
__ 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 conference’s missionary through Global Ministries’ Missionary Relationship Program. Or work with your conference or a cluster of congregations in your area to establish a long-term relationship with one of Global Ministries’ international church partners. Host reciprocal visits and other activities with partners.
__ b. Host a missionary visit in your congregation.
__ c. Invite one of the trained Ministries and Mission Interpreters (MMIs) from your conference to speak with a group at your church.
__ 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 toward giving 10% of your total church budget to Our Church's Wider Mission, and promoting the One Great Hour of Sharing offering and special appeals for national and international disasters.

___ b. Sponsor a child through the Global Ministries Child Sponsorship program.

___ c. Encourage individuals with a passion for mission to support Wider Church Ministries or Global Ministries with a gift for a special project or to fund a specific missionary.

___ d. Other giving ideas:

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 mission 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 Wider Church Ministries’ or Global Ministries’ U.S. or 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, member, or pastor) 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 United Church of Christ or Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) congregation in your area for the purpose of learning and sharing about mission together.

___ c. Have at least one of your church members involved in supporting your conference’s global mission efforts: serve on the conference mission committee, coordinate a missionary visit to the
conference, help develop a partnership with an international mission partner, use the conference’s communication tools to promote global mission, or organize a region/conference Ministries and Mission Interpreters (MMI) training seminar, speak in summer camp, etc.

___ d. Share with the Global Ministries staff what your congregation is already doing in global mission. Offer other ideas for action and explore the possibility of linking that involvement to an existing Global Ministries project, program, missionary, or partner in a particular country.

___ e. Other ideas for growth:


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 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 Church.

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 the names of people who will be responsible for carrying out the objectives. You will also want to plan an annual evaluation of your progress.

Please take the time to download from www.globalministries.org the Be a Global Mission Church: United Church of Christ Congregation Criteria and Commitment Form. Complete the form, make a copy for Global Ministries and send it to the address provided.

Global Ministries would like to recognize your congregation with a certificate presented in person (if possible) to your congregation during Sunday morning worship, and to celebrate this important step in the life of your congregation. Contact the United Church of Christ point person today at 216 736 3204 or wcm@ucc.org 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 CHURCH**

*God, we thank You ...*

- for the opportunities we have to reach out to the world around us, and hear what others have to say to us;
- 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 — local, national and international; 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, to make a commitment to grow;
- help us as a congregation to hear the cries of people around the world;
- grant us energy and enthusiasm to respond and reach out to receive and respond with grace;
- use our voices to proclaim the joys as well as denounce the suffering of Your people;
- grant us wisdom and guidance as we build global connections in the life of our congregation ensuring that this may contribute to the building of Your realm, and:
- bless the work of Wider Church Ministries and Global Ministries, in Jesus’ name.

Amen.

Your Association or Conference can become *A Global Mission Association or Conference!* Just go to www.globalministries.org and click on *Be a Global Mission Church*, then the *Association and Conference form.*
As members of the United Church of Christ we are committed to answering the call to be part of Christ’s ministry of reconciliation and unity, “that they may all be one” (John 17:21). 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 Church will challenge the members of your congregation to stretch toward a new level of interest in, and commitment to, God’s world.

For mission resources and ideas contact:

- Office for Mission Education and Interpretation
  (216) 736-3204
  email: wcm@ucc.org
  web page: www.globalministries.org
  700 Prospect Avenue, 7th Floor
  Cleveland, OH 44115-1100