Being a Global Mission Church

One of the greatest opportunities you will have as an MMI is to invite your congregation and region/conference (and others in your sphere of influence) to consider entering into a process to be recognized as a Global Mission Church. The Be a Global Mission Church booklet is one resource which references many ways a congregation, region or conference can engage with Global Ministries in world mission. Both denominations passed a resolution called Be a Global Mission Church at their General Synod/Assembly in 2009. The resolution calls upon churches to gain the designation of Global Mission Church through a discernment and mission planning process. The Global Mission Church workbook is the entry point for any congregation who wants to accept the challenge of being a Global Mission Church in the 21st century. As an MMI, you will want to become thoroughly acquainted with the contents so that you can walk with your pastor and mission committee through this process.

Seven Marks of a Global Mission Church

What is a Global Mission Church? Seven action statements with Scripture references define what we are encouraging congregations, regions, districts, conferences and associations to be as they consider their global makeup as a church.

A Global Mission Church...

1. **PRAYS** regularly for partners, missionaries and the world.

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

2. **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

3. **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

4. **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

5. **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

6. **SENDS** its members into the world to share the Good News of Jesus.

   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
7. **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*

These seven marks of a *Global Mission Church* are used in the *Be a Global Mission Church* booklet to organize all the ways a congregation can be involved in global mission. In the booklet we provide a process that a congregation can work through to create a plan of action for their global mission involvement.

**Five Steps to Becoming a Global Mission Church**

As a congregation accepts the challenge to be a Global Mission Congregation, here are the steps to walk through in the *Be a Global Mission Church* booklet:

**STEP 1: GATHER** a team to coordinate the Be a Global Mission Congregation process. Is there an existing mission committee in your congregation or can you gather a few individuals who have a passion for global mission? *(See the “Be a Global Mission Church” booklet for more initial questions to consider.)*

**STEP 2: LEARN** about the Disciples or UCC global mission heritage and current mission strategy. How much do you know about what Disciples/UCC are doing around the world in global mission? Have you seen the *Connecting Threads* DVD which gives an overview of that work?

**STEP 3: EVALUATE** your current global mission involvement and discern your congregation’s launching point. What is your congregation already doing in global mission? What are the strengths and weaknesses? What should you continue? What new areas would you like to investigate? *(See the “Be a Global Mission Church” booklet for more Global Mission Evaluative Questions and the three different launching points which are offered.)*

**STEP 4: CREATE** your plan of global mission involvement by completing the checklist of ideas for action organized under the seven marks of a *Global Mission Church*. How will your evaluation and new interests shape the ideas you want to pursue in this next phase of global mission? Here is how to proceed:

- **Start** by checking off the items on the list to which your congregation is already committed. Notice that there is a line for “other ideas” under each category which enables you to include commitments that are not listed, but which are important to your congregation.
- **Continue** by choosing a few ideas for action that seem to be realistic for your congregation at this point on your journey.
- **Finally**, don’t forget to give yourself a challenge or two that really push you out of your comfort zone and to the ends of the earth.
**STEP 5: COMMIT** to a specific plan of action in partnership with Global Ministries by completing the commitment statement. Consider working on these ideas for action over the next three years. 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. Refer to Appendix 4 for commitment forms. At the end of the three year period, you will want to plan an evaluation and begin another cycle.

Global Ministries would like to recognize your congregation with a certificate presented in person during Sunday morning worship, if possible, and to celebrate this important step in the life of your congregation. Contact Bob Shebeck 317-713-2571 or bshebeck@dom.disciples.org or Jan Aerie 216-736-3204 or aeriej@ucc.org to talk about possible dates. We look forward to walking with you on this journey and hearing the stories of how you have implemented the *Be a Global Mission Church* process in the context of your congregation, region or conference.

**Be a Global Mission Region or Conference**

We are also encouraging Disciples regions or districts and UCC conferences or associations to consider entering into the *Be a Global Mission Church* process. With intentional support at this level of the denomination, congregations can go further in their global mission involvement. The *Be a Global Mission Church* booklet was designed so that everyone would follow the same basic steps. The first three steps are identical for congregations, regions and conferences. The word “region” or “conference” can simply be substituted every time you see the word “congregation”. When you reach steps 4 and 5 (creating a plan and making a commitment) regions and conferences can find ideas for action and commitment specifically designed for them at www.globalministries.org under the *Be a Global Mission Church* webpage. Refer to Appendix 4 for commitment forms.

**Program Profiles for the Ideas for Action**

We have included in Appendix D-5 “Program Profiles” for many of the ideas for action listed under the seven marks of a *Global Mission Church*. These profiles offer all the information needed to help your congregation engage in the specific projects that have been chosen through the process. In many cases these “Program Profiles” will simply be a short summary of the brochure that explains a specific program in detail. Take the time to look at all the Global Ministries brochures to correlate the ideas for action in the booklet and the program that is explained.
Global Church Partnership Program

Walking with Christians and people of other faiths from around the world can enhance the life, faith and witness of your church. There are a variety of ways which your congregation can share faith and experiences with our international partners.

"You are no longer strangers or foreigners, but fellow citizens with God’s people and members of the household of God." Ephesians 2:19

Global Ministries lives mission in partnership. God's mission invites us to join hands with our international partner churches, and to walk together as companions with our sisters and brothers around the world. Lists of international partner churches by regions of the world are available on the website.

Conferences and associations of the United Church of Christ and regions of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) build close relationships with missionaries through covenanted relationships. Many also walk closely with an international partner church through the Global Church Partnership program.

The partnership handbook found on the web is a complete workbook for church groups to define and describe an ideal partnership and take the proper steps to formalize the partnership.  

A list of current Global Church Partnerships arranged by conference and region is available on the web: http://globalministries.org/get-involved/church-to-church-partnerships/GLobal-Church-Partnerships.pdf

Global Partnerships aim:
1. To put a face on mission.
2. To build enthusiasm and "ownership" for global mission.
3. To give a clear picture of what support of Our Church’s Wider Mission and Disciples Mission Fund is accomplishing.
4. To educate church membership about current global issues.
5. To strengthen the conferences, regions, and congregations for mission education.
6. To encourage personal and congregational commitment to global mission

Walking together in partnership
As we seek to be more inclusive of the wider church in international ministries, Global Ministries has identified local partnerships/companions as a vibrant and faith-filled opportunity for our regions and conferences. In partnerships we walk together with our brothers and sisters around the world, and in this companionship the face of Christ is revealed to us. Some partnerships have been active for many years. As conferences and regions continue to develop partnerships, trip exchanges often happen utilizing the resources of the People-to-People Pilgrimage program, groups visit one another to share life experiences. You may read and see photos of recent and upcoming partnership pilgrimages written by participants on the website.
"When they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them... ...he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread..." Luke 24: 13-37

You may want to consider the following suggestions:

- Exchanges of delegations
- Work camps for youth
- Shared Bible study
- Shared worship through audio and video taping
- Specific project support
- Advocacy on related issues
- Language training
- Individual and group correspondence
- Development of audiovisual resources
- Special days of prayer

Global Ministries staff would like to support your global partnership interests and would make available our contacts and connections with the worldwide church so that your conference, region, association and local congregation can fulfill the call of unity in the one body of Christ. For more information, contact Jan Aerie at 216-736-3204 or aeriej@ucc.org (UCC) or Bob Shebeck at 317-713-2571 or bshebeck@dom.disciples.org (Disciples)
WHEREAS, throughout the past two centuries, for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the United Church of Christ, global presence and witness have been the core of God’s mission through the church; and

WHEREAS, since 1996 Global Ministries has been a unique common witness of the Division of Overseas Ministries, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and of Wider Church Ministries, United Church of Christ; and

WHEREAS, Global Ministries continues to walk with 270 global partners in some 68 countries discerning together priorities of critical presence and action with the sole purpose of timely and appropriately meeting God’s people and creation at the point of deepest need: spiritually, physically, emotionally and/or economically; and

WHEREAS, in keeping that critical presence priority, over 150 persons in mission are currently serving as missionaries, volunteers, interns and associates in 50 countries, and missionaries sent by our global partners are welcomed to serve in the United States and Canada in fulfillment of our commitment to mutuality in mission; and

WHEREAS, a congregation engaged in ministry globally is a vital and faithful church, one that is dynamic and growing in strong local and global relationships, bringing abundant blessings, creating understanding and building communities of justice and service; and

WHEREAS, Global Ministries seeks to facilitate the engagement of congregations and other expressions of the church more intentionally in global mission; and

WHEREAS, God’s call to mission is already embodied and celebrated in all expressions of the church in relationships, service, mission presence, justice witness, worship and advocacy; and

WHEREAS, partnership means receiving the gifts and learning from the experiences of others in our world, building greater effectiveness through collective efforts and mutually recognizing and encouraging each other in ministry; and

WHEREAS, God’s mission imperative for the Church is to be evangelical, to share the Good News (Gk. “evangel”) of Jesus Christ, witnessing, loving, and serving from our doorsteps “to the ends of the earth” (Acts 1:8) so “that they may all be one” (John 17:21); and

WHEREAS, in 2001 the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) identified four priorities for the church (the formation of 1,000 new congregations; the transformation of 1,000 current congregations; the calling and forming of new leaders and the continuing re-forming of current leaders; becoming an anti-racist/pro-reconciling church), none of which address mission beyond the national boundaries of the United States and Canada; and

WHEREAS, we are Disciples of Christ, a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world, who participate in God's mission for the world, working with partners to heal the brokenness of creation and bring justice and peace to the whole human family;
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) meeting in Indianapolis, Indiana July 29-August 2, 2009 claims 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; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the General Assembly calls upon congregations and regions to implement the Global Mission Church process as detailed in the Be a Global Mission Church program materials from Global Ministries; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that congregations as well as regions seeking the designation “Global Mission Congregation” or “Global Mission Region” be encouraged to study, explore, and live out that commitment by:

- **praying** regularly for partners, missionaries and the world,
- **educating** its members from preschool to adult about global issues,
- **seeking** justice for the “least of these” in the international community,
- **receiving** the gifts of the worldwide Church,
- **giving** to the work of global mission through Disciples Mission Fund and “over and above” gifts,
- **sending** its members into the world to share the Good News,
- **growing** in sharing the story of God’s mission with others; and

FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED that the General Assembly calls for a commitment to hear the cries of people around the world; to find the energy and enthusiasm to reach out and respond with grace; to proclaim the joys as well as denounce the suffering of God’s people; to seek wisdom and guidance in building global connections in the life of all settings of the church; to be immersed in the church’s work for the healing of the nations.

Division of Overseas Ministries

[A resolution of the Common Global Ministries Board, through the Division of Overseas Ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) to the General Assembly in 2009]

The General Board recommends that the General Assembly ADOPT Business Item No. 0916. (Debate time: 24 minutes)
General Synod 2009 Global Mission Church Resolution
The Executive Council recommends this resolution be sent to a committee of the General Synod.

A CALL TO BE GLOBAL MISSION CHURCHES
IN THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
A Prudential Resolution
APPROVED

Submitted by: Wider Church Ministries

Summary

This resolution requests that the United Church of Christ underscore the priority of the Church to be involved in mission around the world through faith, justice and advocacy. Churches involved in global mission will be recognized for their commitment to reach out and respond to needs in the world by being designated as “Global Mission Churches.”

Biblical and Theological Rationale

God’s mission imperative for the Church is to be evangelical, to share the Good News (Gk. “evangel”) of Jesus Christ, witnessing, loving, and serving from our doorsteps “to the ends of the earth” (Acts 1:8). 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. Wider Church Ministries and Global Ministries partners with churches, conferences and associations on the journey of faithful mission. A global mission church is a vital church. Churches equipped for mission are flexible and growing. Global mission churches have strong local and global relationships, and know that mission involvement brings abundant blessings.

The character of a global mission church is expressed in scripture, attesting to the diversity of faithful and vital witness that demonstrates the transformative power of the Good News:

“Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer” (Romans 12:12); and
“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); and
“What does the Lord require of you? To act justly and love mercy and to walk humbly with your God” (Micah 6:8); and
“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); and
“Just as you excel in everything...see that you also excel in this grace of giving” (2 Corinthians 8:7); and
“How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who say to Zion, ‘Your God reigns!’” (Isaiah 52:7); and
“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)

Christ calls for a commitment to hear the cries of people around the world; to find the energy and enthusiasm to reach out and respond with grace; to proclaim the joys as well as denounce the suffering of God’s people; to seek wisdom and guidance in building global connections in the life of all settings of the church; and to be immersed in the church’s work for the healing of the nations.
Local churches as well as UCC conferences seeking the designation “Global Mission Church” (or “Global Mission Conference”) will be encouraged and guided in study, exploration, dedication, and growth in order to live out that commitment by:

- praying regularly for partners, missionaries and the world,
- educating its members about global issues from preschool to adult,
- seeking justice for the “least of these” in the international community,
- receiving the gifts of the worldwide Church,
- giving to the work of global mission,
- sending its members into the world to share the Good News, and
- growing in sharing the story of God’s mission with others.

The Resolution

**Whereas** throughout the past two centuries, for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the United Church of Christ, global presence and witness have been at the core of God’s mission through the church; and

**Whereas** since 1996 Global Ministries has been a common witness of the Division of Overseas Ministries, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and of Wider Church Ministries, United Church of Christ, an ecumenical endeavor unique among American Protestant denominations which today continues to walk with 270 global partners in some 68 countries discerning together priorities of critical presence and action with the sole purpose of timely and appropriately meeting God’s people and creation at the point of deepest need: spiritually, physically, emotionally and/or economically; and

**Whereas** in keeping with the critical presence priority, over 150 persons in mission are currently serving as missionaries, volunteers, interns and associates in 50 countries, and missionaries sent by our global partners are welcomed to serve in the United States and Canada in fulfillment of our commitment to mutuality in mission; and

**Whereas** the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the United Church of Christ, in a joint effort with various ecumenical initiatives in the United States and Canada and others throughout the world including the National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA and the World Council of Churches, continue to seek ways to respond to God’s people and creation who are in need of wholeness and transformation, calling us to renew our commitment to God’s mission of reconciliation and unity which is both local and global; and

**Whereas** both denominations were founders of and still actively participate in bringing leadership to the ecumenical service organizations known as Church World Service and Action by Churches Together, providing sustainable self-help and development, disaster relief, and refugee assistance in some 80 countries; and

**Whereas** a local church engaged in ministry globally is a vital and faithful church, one that is dynamic and growing in strong local and global relationships, bringing abundant blessings, creating understanding and building communities of justice and service; and

**Whereas** Global Ministries seeks to facilitate the engagement of local churches and other settings of the church more intentionally in global mission; and
Whereas God’s call to mission is already embodied and celebrated in all settings of the church in myriad expressions of relationship, service, mission presence, justice witness, worship and advocacy; and

Whereas partnership means receiving the gifts and learning from the experiences of others in our world, building greater effectiveness through collective efforts and mutually recognizing and encouraging each other in ministry;

Therefore, let it be resolved that the Twenty-seventh General Synod, meeting in Grand Rapids, Michigan, June 26-30, 2009, promotes and encourages all settings of the church to claim and implement the Global Mission Church designation; and

Be it further resolved that the Twenty-seventh General Synod invites all settings of the United Church of Christ—National, Conferences, Associations and local churches, UCC Conferences, and all age groups of the church, especially youth and young adults as well as adults, to utilize the assessment and implementation tool resources, such as Be a Global Mission Church; and

Be it finally resolved that the Twenty-seventh General Synod declares itself a “Global Mission Church,” and recognizes such designation as one of the priorities of the church; and, furthermore, the Twenty-seventh General Synod encourages local churches all settings of the United Church of Christ to claim the identity of being a Global Mission Church.

FUNDING
Funding for the implementation of this resolution will be made in accordance with the overall mandates of the affected agencies and the funds available.

IMPLEMENTATION
Local churches, Associations and Conferences of the United Church of Christ, The Office of General Ministries, Wider Church Ministries, Justice & Witness Ministries and Local Church Ministries are requested to implement this resolution.
Disciples and UCC Be a Global Mission Church
Covenant Statement

Congratulations! Your congregation has accepted the challenge to Be a Global Mission Church. Global Ministries would like to accompany you on the journey. Please complete the following Covenant Statement:

Church Name:__________________________________________________________ Date:__________________

Church address:________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________________

Church phone and e-mail:________________________________________________________________________

Pastor:__________________________________________ E-mail:_______________________________________

Mission Chair:____________________________________ E-mail:_______________________________________

Our congregation commits to Being a Global Mission Church. We have prayerfully discerned how God would have us engage in God’s mission beyond our national boundaries in covenantal partnership with Global Ministries. And we have created an action plan based upon the following commitments to implement over the next three years:

1. **PRAY** regularly for partners, missionaries and the world.
2. **EDUCATE** our members about global issues from preschool age to adult.
3. **SEEKS JUSTICE** for the “least of these” in the international community.
4. **RECEIVE** the gifts of the global church.
5. **GIVE** to the work of global mission.
6. **SENDS** our members into the world to share the Good News of Jesus.
7. **GROW** in sharing the story of God’s mission with others.

We have empowered the appropriate people in our congregation to lead us in carrying out each aspect of our action plan. We will maintain communication with Global Ministries as we live out our commitment to Be a Global Mission Church.

____________________________ _______________ ________________________________
Pastor/Minister     Date   Mission Chair/Board Chair

Global Ministries staff commits to walking with your congregation as it seeks to Be a Global Mission Church. Each staff contact will be responsive to your inquiries to help your congregation take the necessary steps to engage in a particular program area. The work of Global Ministries’ five area offices will also facilitate connections with international partner churches and organizations. Upon completion of this covenant statement, Global Ministries will recognize your church with a certificate. Your congregation will also be listed on the Global Ministries website. We pledge our on-going support in your global mission efforts.

_____________________________ ________________ ________________________________
David Vargas or Cally Rogers-Witte Date   Jan Aerie or Bob Shebeck
Co-executives, Global Ministries     Executives, Mission Interpretation

**DISCIPLES send a copy of the completed form to:**
Bob Shebeck
c/o DOM/Global Ministries
PO Box 1986
Indianapolis, IN 46206-1986
317-713-2571 or bshebeck@dom.disciples.org

**UCC send a copy of the completed form to:**
Jan Aerie
c/o WCM/Global Ministries
700 Prospect Ave., 7th floor
Cleveland, OH 44115-1100
216-736-3204 or aeriej@ucc.org
Disciples and UCC Be a Global Mission Region or Conference Covenant Statement

Congratulations! Your Region or Conference has accepted the challenge to Be a Global Mission Region or Conference. Global Ministries would like to accompany you on the journey. Please complete the following Covenant Statement:

Region/Conference: __________________________________________ Date: __________________

Our Region/Conference commits to Being a Global Mission Region or Conference. We have prayerfully discerned how God would have us engage in God’s mission beyond our national boundaries in covenational partnership with Global Ministries. And we have created an action plan based upon the following commitments to implement over the next three years:

1. **PRAY** regularly for partners, missionaries and the world.
2. **EDUCATE** our members about global issues from preschool age to adult.
3. **SEEKS JUSTICE** for the “least of these” in the international community.
4. **RECEIVE** the gifts of the global church.
5. **GIVE** to the work of global mission.
6. **SENDS** our members into the world to share the Good News of Jesus.
7. **GROW** in sharing the story of God’s mission with others.

We have empowered the appropriate people in our Region/Conference to lead us in carrying out each aspect of our action plan. We will maintain communication with Global Ministries as we live out our commitment to Be a Global Mission Region or Conference.

Conference/Region Minister __________________ Date __________________ Conference/Regional Moderator __________________

Conference/Region contact person: __________________________ Title: __________________

Phone: __________________ E-mail: __________________

Global Ministries staff commits to walking with you as you become a Global Mission Region or Conference. Each staff contact will be responsive to your inquiries to help you take the necessary steps to engage in a particular program area. The work of Global Ministries’ five area offices will also facilitate connections with international partner churches and organizations. Upon completion of this covenant statement, Global Ministries will recognize your Region/Conference with a certificate. You will also be listed on the Global Ministries website. We pledge our on-going support in your global mission efforts.

David Vargas or Cally Rogers-Witte __________________ Date __________________
Co-executives, Global Ministries

Jan Aerie or Bob Shebeck __________________
Executives, Mission Interpretation

**DISCIPLES send a copy of the completed form to:**
Bob Shebeck
c/o DOM/Global Ministries
PO Box 1986
Indianapolis, IN 46206-1986
317-713-2571 or bshebeck@dom.disciples.org

**UCC send a copy of the completed form to:**
Jan Aerie
c/o WCM/Global Ministries
700 Prospect Ave., 7th floor
Cleveland, OH 44115-1100
216-736-3204 or aeriej@ucc.org
Be a Global Mission Conference or Region: Ideas for Action

An important note for Conferences and Regions:
We are excited that your Conference/Region has decided to undertake the Be a Global Mission Conference or Region process. With your intentional support, the congregations of your conference/region will be able to go farther in their global mission involvement. We have designed this worksheet so that congregations and regions/conferences can follow the same basic steps. The first three steps are identical. Just substitute “conference/region” every time you see the word “congregation” or “church.” When you get to steps 4 and 5 you will find ideas for action specifically designed for regions and conferences. There you can create a package of global mission involvement for your conference/region and commit to a plan of action in partnership with Global Ministries. We look forward to walking with you through this process!

We are glad you have accepted the challenge to Be a Global Mission CONFERENCE or REGION. Before you go any farther, please consider the following:

- **Gather** a team to coordinate the Be a Global Mission Conference or Region process. (see step 1 on page 3).
- **Learn** about your denomination’s global mission heritage and our current mission strategy. (See step 2).
- **Evaluate** your conference/region’s global mission involvement and determine your launching point (See step 3).

Now you are ready to **Create** a package of global mission involvement tailored to your conference/region’s interests from the Checklist of Ideas for Action.

- Remember to start by marking what your conference/region is already committed to doing in global mission. There is an “other idea” option under each category which enables you to include ideas that are not explicitly listed.
- Choose a few ideas that seem to be realistic for your conference/region at this point on your journey. Try to apply your ideas for action over all seven categories.
- Don’t forget to give the conference/region a few challenges that has it interrelate 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 begin to plan 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 CONFERENCE or REGION 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 mission involvement in becoming a Global Mission Conference or Region:

- **Starting in Mission**: choose 3 to 5 ideas for action
- **Growing in Mission**: choose 6 to 9 ideas for action
- **Celebrating Mission**: choose at least 10 ideas for action
Child Sponsorship Program

Connecting with the World Through a Child

The Global Ministries Child Sponsorship Program is committed to aiding children at risk by providing a practical way for individuals and churches to extend a helping hand. This global children’s ministry is working to safeguard the future of children around the world. A pledge commitment provides support for a child to be housed, clothed, fed, and provided with basic health care until 18 years of age.

The Global Ministries Child Sponsorship Program relates to cooperating agencies identified by our five geographic regional offices. The program began in the 1950s and became a part of Global Ministries in 2000.

Sponsorship fees

The cost of sponsoring a child varies from center to center according to the services provided and the cost of living in that country. Sponsorship cost ranges from $25.00 to $30.00 monthly and there are several payment options available. There is no administrative fee! All donations collected go directly to meet the child's need. We invite you to become part of the Child Sponsorship Family. Sponsoring an individual child or by making a special donation for a particular child sponsorship site is a wonderful way to become involved in global mission work.

How does it work?

New sponsors receive a brief biography and photo of an assigned child. You determine your personal financial commitment for the support of your child. We encourage sponsors to write to their children to learn more about him/her and their life. It is our hope you will receive at least two letters/reports per year from your child.

For more information, visit www.globalministries.org, or contact:

**Linda Lawrence** - Program Administrator 216-736-3222 lawrencl@ucc.org
People-to-People Pilgrimage Program
10 Easy Steps for bringing a mission trip to life

1. Be inspired to visit somewhere.
2. Go to www.globalministries.org and click on Country
   - What’s happening in this place? Do we have mission personnel there? Do we have projects we support? Does your Conference or Region have a relationship with this country/place?
3. Check with the Area Executive
   - How many people do you want in your group? Who will join you?
     a. Your Church
     b. Your Region/Conference/Association
5. Communicate with the mission personnel and agencies you plan to visit.
   - Learn about them and their work. Seek their advice about what to see and do.
   - What are the goals for this trip?
   - Cultural, Scenic beauty, mission work by our GM personnel and partners
6. Calculate the cost of the trip
   - International and Domestic Airfare, internal travel
   - Meals and lodging
   - Entrance fees, Tours
   - Translator, if needed
7. Plan the itinerary
8. Publicize the trip
   - Church newsletters/bulletin boards
   - Conference/Region mailings, meetings, and Mission Boards/Committees
   - National publications
   - List-serves
   - Word-of-mouth
9. Compile a list of interested travelers
   - Communicate with them regularly
   - Ask them to commit to the trip by a certain date
   - Share with them information about airline tickets, passports, visas, travel insurance, medical concerns
   - Schedule times for group gatherings, if possible
   - Suggest reading/viewing materials
   - Set up a web-blog for travelers to communicate with each other
   - Arrange for travelers to be blessed by their sending church, and
     Identify a mission project the group will support.
     Information on GM Mission Projects may be found at http://www.globalministries.org/involvement/rd.htm
10. Go on the trip!
    - Meet just before for orientation training and after you return for debriefing and sharing.

For more information, contact Maria Cruzado, 317-713-2565, mcruzado@dom.disciples.org
Global Volunteer Opportunities

Creating a volunteer opportunity is a process, which may take more than six months. In that process, Global Ministries attempts to match an individual’s skills and interests with a need or opportunity one of our international partners may have. Please plan accordingly for this time of dialogue and discernment as you consider your available dates. International partner churches/agencies, and Global Ministries are not always able to financially assist volunteers in overseas service. Overseas volunteers are usually expected to fund their work and living expenses. In some cases, the host institution may provide housing or meals, but this is not always possible.

For more information about, short-term volunteer experiences (less than 1 year) please contact LaMarco Cable at 317-713-2550 or lcable@dom.disciples.org.

If you are interested in a long-term volunteer experience (more than 1 year), please contact Julia Brown Karimu at 317-713-2566 or jkarimu@dom.disciples.org.

Volunteer Opportunities in the U.S.

The UCC and Disciples provide opportunities for people to share their gifts of service and witness to others. You are invited to ministries of service that reflect God’s love by responding to the needs of the world and involving yourself in efforts to challenge injustices.

Programs for individuals provide a variety of opportunities for service in diverse settings, serving terms of two weeks to a year or more. Opportunities are open to adults of all ages, skilled and unskilled, who are eager to serve and have a willingness to learn and, at the same time, wish to gain a better understanding of self. Though there are minimum age requirements, there is no upper age limit. Young and older adults are equally encouraged to participate.

Group mission trips, short term trips for church groups and youth in the U.S. and Puerto Rico, are also available. Group mission trips include opportunities for disaster relief and justice education.

For more information, contact:

**Disciples**

Carl Zerweck III – Director, Office of Disciples Volunteering 317-289-5061
czerweck@dhm.disciples.org

Brenda Taylor – Administrative Assistant 317-713-2642
btaylor@dhm.disciples.org

**UCC**

Mary Schaller Blaufuss - Executive 216-736-3214
blaufusm@ucc.org

Tonya Pettigrew – Administrative Assistant 216-736-3215
pettigrt@ucc.org
Missionary Relationship Program

The Missionary Relationship Program provides an opportunity for your congregation to gain greater understanding of mission around the world. By developing a relationship with a missionary, your congregation can personalize mission, and provide a church family for a missionary. Receiving the gifts of prayer and shared spirituality from the missionary can give new insights into God’s mission and appreciation for the whole family of God.

To Establish a Missionary Relationship

- Consider a geographic area or specific type of mission your congregation is interested in learning about. (*In Mission, a Calendar of Prayer* for the United Church of Christ and the Mission Personnel Directory provide information about our missionaries.)
- Select a missionary, or request assistance from the Missionary Relationships Program Office to select a suitable missionary relationship partner.
- Notify the Missionary Relationships Program Office regarding the person(s) you are proposing to be your missionary relationship partner.
- The Missionary Relationships Program Office will confirm your request to the missionary and formalize the relationship.
- A confirmation letter will be sent to the congregation, the missionary, and your Conference or Regional office.

Missionary relationships are renewable every two years with the consent of the missionary and the congregation. If at the end of a term you wish to learn about another area of mission, the Missionary Relationships Program Office will be happy to assist you in establishing another missionary relationship.

Suggestions for maintaining a missionary relationship:

Your missionary relationship partner can do much to enhance your congregation’s awareness of mission. A clear understanding of what you hope to gain from a missionary relationship is important.

To ensure a successful missionary relationship you may want to:

- Establish guidelines -- write your expectations of your missionary partner and then negotiating with him/her to share his/her expectations as well.
- Determine the number of letters you will write to your missionary partner during the year (please send them newsletters or articles).
- Select the person(s) responsible for corresponding with your missionary partner and reporting back to the congregation. Some congregations ask each church school class to take one month during which they are responsible for writing.
- Pray regularly for the missionary and those he/she works with.
- Consider creative ways for sharing news from your missionary partner in a variety of church group settings: Church School, worship, newsletters, group meetings.
- Set aside space to display letters and pictures from your mission area.
- Supplement letters from your missionary partner with area information available from Global Ministries, or from the library or Internet.
If you wish to take a work trip to the missionary’s country of service please contact:
People to People Pilgrimage Office: Maria Cruzado, P.O. Box 1986, Indianapolis, IN 46206-1986. Phone: 317-713-2579. The staff can take into consideration the resources available to the missionary and his/her host church as well as helping you organize the event.

A missionary serving as a teacher might arrange for some of their students to write occasionally to your youth.

If the missionary has e-mail, arrange for a time to share information with the congregation for a special church event. Please give the missionary ample time to prepare.

Host a mission fair/event at your church and invite other churches in your area.

Remember: A missionary relationship carries no financial obligation. Developing a relationship increases awareness of our church’s global involvement and can result in increased DMF or OCWM giving, which provides the foundation for the work and mission of the entire church, as well as support of missionaries.

For more information contact:

Julia Brown Karimu, Executive Mission Personnel Office PO Box 1986 Indianapolis, IN 46206-1986 (317) 713-2566 jkarimu@dom.disciples.org
Missionary Visit in Your Conference or Region

Goals for a missionary visit:

- Help "put a face" on mission.
- Learn about another part of the world.
- Show what mission $ are doing.
- Connect with an international partner.
- Grow in understanding interconnectedness.
- Help take the next step in mission involvement.
- Create "ownership" of Global Ministries.
- Develop global mission churches.

What is the policy on missionary visits?

- Develop on-going communication with the missionary prior to the visit in your conference/region.
- Double the amount of time missionaries will spend visiting local congregations (from 2 to 4 months).
- Encourage longer stays in a conference/region utilizing the missionaries in new ways as an extension of the conference/region staff.
- Promote cooperation between UCC and DOC in planning the missionary visit.

10 Steps to planning a successful missionary visit in a conference/region:

Step 1: Get to know one another

- Get to know the missionary (ministry, gifts, passions, expertise…) through e-mail.
- Let the missionary get to know your Conference/Region (goals, priorities, challenges, projects…)
- Make the missionary known in your Conference/Region through your various communication channels.

Step 2: Set the visit dates

- A year to 6 months in advance work with the Coordinator of the Missionary Relationship Program to set the visit dates.
- Discuss the logistical details of housing, transportation, meals, etc.

Step 3: Designate a missionary visit coordinator

- Designate a joint coordinator who takes requests from both UCC and DOC congregations (alternate visits between UCC and DOC coordinator)
- Or split the time up and have a coordinator for each denomination.
Step 4: Map out the visit plan

- Determine the "home-base" possibilities with the missionary.
- Identify geographic groupings (associations/clusters) of churches in Conference/Region who might want a visit
- Sketch in 5 day (1 weekend) or 10 day (2 weekend) visit blocks with rest days in between the blocks.

Step 5: Publicize the visit

- Make known the available dates and skills of the missionary to the congregations through all available Conference/Region communication channels.
- Encourage congregations to host joint gatherings or mission-fest weekends.
- Everyone wants a Sunday; utilize existing weekday gatherings; be creative.

Step 6: Fill in the visit calendar

- Based on the predetermined plan with the fixed blocks of time in certain areas plug in the requests
- Pick up the phone and call churches in a given area to get them on the schedule
- Try to schedule clergy meetings, committee meetings, youth groups, women’s/men's groups, etc. during the open week days.

Step 7: Share the schedule with the missionary

- Update the missionary on a regular basis concerning the evolution of the visit schedule.
- Help the missionary understand the context and expectations in each planned event.

Step 8: Meet, brief, and involve the missionary upon arrival in Conference/Region

- Help the missionary to understand where they are; ministry context; culture; dos and don’ts.
- Help them to feel a part of your staff during their stay; provide office space.
- Utilize their gifts and skills for projects that your Conference/Region wants to develop.

Step 9: Provide oversight and support during the visit

- Designate a supervisor, ways to communicate and meeting times.
- Travel with the missionary or check in with the missionary from time to time.

Step 10: Evaluate the visit

- Make sure each church visited fills out a church evaluation form.
- At the end of the visit, fill out the Conference/Region evaluation.

Get the missionary’s feedback on the visit; continue the relationship in order to build momentum for the next visit.