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.

In the summer of 2009, the United Church of Christ and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) passed resolutions at our 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!

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**Be a Global Mission Church!**

Cally Rogers-Witte  
Executive Minister, WCM  
Co-Executive, Global Ministries

David Vargas  
President, DOM  
Co-Executive, Global Ministries
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 – 28

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 have designed worksheets for the process which can be found by going to www.globalministries.org and accessing the ”Be a Global Mission Church” webpage on the ”About Us” pull down menu. We look forward to walking with you on your journey to Be a Global Mission Region or Conference!
As you begin the *Be a Global Mission Church* journey, consider these leadership questions:

1. Is our local church/congregational 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 local church/congregation?

4. Is there anyone in our local church/congregation or geographical 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 local church/congregation? Enthusiasm and energy are more important than expertise. Folks can learn about global mission as they go!

6. How can we involve youth and a diverse cross section of our local church/congregation 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 local church/congregation feel responsible for this new initiative?

8. Who in our local church/congregation 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!
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) and our two denominations’ 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 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 the Guiding Principles of Global Ministries?

There are five Guiding Principles which emerge from a fundamental mission commitment to a shared life in Christ, and to an ecumenical global sharing of resources and prophetic vision of a just, sustainable, and peaceful world order, joining with God’s concern for the poor and oppressed:

1. Within covenantal bonds with other partner churches and ecumenical bodies throughout the world, we commit ourselves in Christ to share life, resources and needs.

2. As part of the ecumenical church and in response to particular historical and geographical contexts, we affirm our commitment to share persons in mission.

3. We commit ourselves to discovering and sharing exciting new ways to sing the song of faith...hearing, telling and participating in the story of God’s love in Jesus Christ.

4. Relying upon God’s grace, we commit ourselves to share in God's healing of God’s continuing creation.

5. Recognizing the freedom of God’s spirit to act in diverse ways, we commit ourselves to engage in dialogue, witness and common cause with people of other faiths and movements with whom we share a vision of peace, justice and the integrity of creation.

What model of mission does Global Ministries implement?

Global Ministries is committed to implementing a partnership model of mission. We walk with global partners as equals realizing that global mission is reciprocal in nature. Our global partners have quality leadership with vision and plans for carrying out God’s mission in their part of the world. We accompany them on their journey and respond to their requests as we are able.
Who are our international partners?

Autonomous churches historically related to the Disciples and UCC, as well as a variety of other denominations, ecumenical organizations, councils of churches, indigenous churches, educational and healthcare institutions, and sustainable development and human rights organizations join us in partnership.

How many partners does Global Ministries have?

There are over 270 partner churches and organizations in about 70 countries around the world.

What is Global Ministries’ current mission priority?

Relying on the leading of God’s Spirit and responding in faith to the challenge of a rapidly changing world, Global Ministries adopted a strategic approach in April 2004, emphasizing Critical Presence in all phases of its mission. We understand Critical Presence “to be timely and appropriately meeting 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 acompañamiento (being there in various forms and modes of presence) with people in critical situations, which may include:

- pastoral ministries related to fear and hopelessness where people are desperate for meaning;
- dangerous or life-threatening situations related to social, economic, or political realities;
- partners living in countries wherein the Christian faith is a minority faith;
- interfaith relations;
- conflict transformation and resolution; and
- areas where Global Ministries can offer a distinctive presence.
When does Global Ministries send missionaries?

A missionary is sent when international partners request a missionary presence for a specific need that meets the Critical Presence criteria, finances are available for the appointment, and a qualified candidate is found.

What is the primary focus of missionary appointments?

Under the Critical Presence priority, Global Ministries seeks to appoint mission personnel in places where capacity-building (leadership and community development leading to self-sufficiency) and healthcare are a primary focus. Each missionary appointment has a Critical Presence rationale developed in dialogue with the global partner being served.

How many missionaries does Global Ministries send?

In addition to the 80 or so Disciples and UCC People-to-People pilgrimage group mission trips each year, there are nearly 150 persons in mission at any given time serving on behalf of the Disciples and UCC in close to 50 countries in the following categories:

- Approximately 50 fully supported missionaries (3-4 year terms with possibility of renewal; some are funded through One Great Hour of Sharing);
- Around 10 global mission interns (young adults out of college funded through Week of Compassion);
- 10 or more long-term volunteers (terms of one year or longer);
- 20 or more short-term volunteers (for terms of 3 weeks to one year); and
- 60 overseas associates (Disciples and UCC persons in mission appointed and paid by international partners).

Global Ministries also receives persons in mission through a “Missionary in Residence” program where young people from our global partners serve in UCC and Disciples camps during the summer. A “Missionaries to the U.S. and Canada” program also exists to help conferences/regions welcome a member of a partner church in their area for a specific time of service or itineration.
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, 20 Division of Overseas Ministries (Disciples) board members and 20 Wider Church Ministries (UCC) board members.

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) funds Global Ministries. Funds are also received from various endowment funds 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. Utilize the 7 video segments (7-20 minutes each) and an 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 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 local church/congregation:

1. 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?

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

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 local church/congregation? How involved in mission are our youth? men’s and women’s groups?
4. Are we active in our region’s/conference’s missionary relationship? Global church partnership?

5. Do we utilize 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, or well, do our Mission and Advocacy Committee(s) present issues and concerns to engage the local church/congregation?

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. Do our children know what global mission is? Have they met and spoken with a missionary or a person from another country, such as a mission partner?
13. What nationalities are present in our 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? Are they willing to share what they have learned with our local church/congregation?

15. Has our local church/congregation resettled refugees or reached out to international students?

16. Do our members consider the inter-connectedness of local and global justice issues and relationships?

17. 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 local church/congregation global?

Global Mission Evaluative Summary Questions:

1. What did we learn from this evaluation about our church’s/congregation’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 and create a new action plan!
It’s time to invent your church’s/congregation’s future! We invite you to create an action plan of global mission involvement based upon your evaluation and tailored to your local church’s/congregation’s interests. We have provided an action plan checklist of global mission engagement ideas which are organized around the seven marks of a global mission church. As you read through the checklist:

• Begin by selecting what your local church/congregation 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 local church/congregation. 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 a yearly evaluation of your progress. Be committed!

Expect to implement these ideas for action for 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 Local Churches/Congregations

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

___ 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. 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).

___ d. Other prayer idea(s):

__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________

www.globalministries.org
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 local church/congregation 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.

___ 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 local church/congregation 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.

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

___ d. Other advocacy idea(s):

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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.

___ 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.

d. Other receiving idea(s):

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

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 per cent per year until you get to a particular goal percentage. Work to promote the Special Day Offerings, disaster appeals, and Week of Compassion or One Great Hour of Sharing.

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

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

d. Other giving idea(s):
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 contact information of partners in a specific country.)

___ b. Plan a group mission trip with your local church/congregation through Global Ministries’ People-to-People Pilgrimage program.

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

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

c. Support your global mission efforts by having at least one of your local church’s/congregation’s members serve on the region’s/conference’s mission committee; coordinate a missionary visit to the region; 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 local church’s/congregation’s action plan, it’s time to commit to carrying out that plan in covenant with Global Ministries. You’re ready for STEP 5!
STEP 5

Congratulations! You have made it to the end 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 local churches/congregations are on the path. Global Ministries wants to covenant with your local church/congregation and walk with you on each step of the journey.

Please take the time to download and print the **Disciples and UCC Be a Global Mission Church Covenant Statement** found at www.globalministries.org under the “About Us” 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 local church/congregation to the growing list of global mission churches!

**What’s Next?**

Global Ministries would like to recognize your local church/congregation with a certificate presented in person, if possible, during Sunday morning worship and to celebrate this important step in the life of your local church/congregation. Contact Bob Shebeck, at bshebeck@dom.disciples.org or 317-713-2571 (Disciples) or Jan Aerie, at aeriej@ucc.org or 216-736-3204 (UCC) to discuss possible dates or options.

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 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.
Contact us.
We are ready to serve you from our offices in Indianapolis (Indy) and Cleveland (Clev)

Our Addresses
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or
Elizabeth Carrasquillo  Melina Higbee
Executive Assistant  Executive Assistant
elizabethc@dom.disciples.org  higbeem@ucc.org

Missionary Opportunities
Fully-supported missionaries, Global Mission Interns, long-term volunteers (1 yr plus), missionaries to the U.S./Canada, missionaries-in-residence, associates and the Missionary Relationship Program.

Julia Brown Karimu, Executive (Indy)
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Short-term Volunteer Opportunities
Assignments range from three weeks to one year.

LaMarco Cable (Indy)
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lcable@dom.disciples.org
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.

Bob Shebeck, Executive (Indy)  Jan Aerie, Executive (Clev)
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bshebeck@dom.disciples.org   aeriej@ucc.org

Advocacy and Education
Advocacy networks, sign-on letters, action alerts.

LaMarco Cable               Derek Duncan
Program Associate (Indy)    Program Associate (Clev)
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People to People Pilgrimages
Group mission trips, hands-on overseas experiences, etc.

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Child Sponsorship Program
$25.00 to $30.00 monthly with no administrative fee!
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Resource Development (Indy), Financial Development (Clev)
Opportunities to financially support Global Ministries’ presence and witness

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David Coatsworth
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David Owen, Associate (deployed in Austin, TX)
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Also part of the UCC Wider Church Ministries

One Great Hour of Sharing, United Church of Christ
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Phyllis Richards, Program Associate (Clev)
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Volunteer Ministries
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National Disaster Ministries
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Health and Wholeness Advocacy
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A Disciples Partner Ministry

Week of Compassion, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
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