

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

Checklist of Ideas for Action for REGIONS and CONFERENCES

A Global Mission CONFERENCE/REGION ...

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

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

___ a. Create a global mission page on the regions/conference's website with prayer information, and regular updates on the missionaries, mission partners and global mission projects of the region/conference, as well as a link to www.globalministries.org.

___ b. Use the region/conference's e-mail distribution list to send out the weekly prayer suggestion found on the Global Ministries website, or periodic Global Ministries updates, along with a reminder to download the monthly global mission bulletin inserts from the Global Ministries website.

___ c. Encourage congregations to use daily global devotionals for worship, study, or personal prayers.

___ d. Other prayer ideas:

Staff Contact a: Marcy Dory at 216-736-3209 or email dorym@ucc.org

Staff Contact b: Jan Aerie at 216-736-3204 or email aeriej@ucc.org

2. *EDUCATES* its members about global issues from preschool age to adult: Romans 12:2

___ a. Devote a column in the region/conference newspaper for regular news and reflections from the region/conference's missionary(ies) or international mission partners, or the mission stories from the Global Ministries website and print materials.

___ b. Invite Global Ministries to participate in your region/conference's annual gathering or other region/conference gatherings a global mission theme, keynote speaker, worship leader, display, and workshop topics.

___ c. Other educational ideas:

Staff Contact a & b: Jon Barnes at 317 713 2571 or email jbarnes@dom.disciples.org

3. SEEKS JUSTICE for the “least of these” in the international community:

Micah 6:8

- ___ a. Establish or renew a conference global mission committee/team empowered to coordinate involvement in justice issues and concerns. Encourage local congregations to enter into the *Be a Global Mission Church* process.
- ___ b. Choose a global advocacy issue for the entire region/conference and develop a plan to educate and mobilize your congregations around this issue for the year.
- ___ c. Sign up to send messages to members of Congress and the government on justice <<<<< issues: www.ucctakeaction.org. *****
- ___ d. Other advocacy ideas:

Staff Contact a and b: *Derek Duncan at 216 736 3220 or email duncand@ucc.org*

4. RECEIVES the gifts of the global church: 2 Corinthians 8:14

- ___ a. Develop a process for regular communication with the region/conference’s missionary(ies) and have a designated person, or group, responsible for coordinating the missionary visits in the region/conference.
- ___ b. Establish or continue a long-term relationship with one of Global Ministries’ International mission partners. Host reciprocal visits and other activities with partners.
- ___ c. Other receiving ideas:

Staff Contact a: *Cathy Nichols at 317 713 2566 or email cnichols@dom.disciples.org*

Staff Contact b: *Jan Aerie at 216 736 3204 or email aeriej@ucc.org*

5. GIVES to the work of global mission: 2 Corinthians 8:7

- ___ a. Make giving to global mission a priority through the Disciples Mission Fund, Our Church’s Wider Mission and the promotion of Week of Compassion and One Great Hour of sharing offering and special appeals for national and international disasters.
- ___ b. Consider a missionary appointment or a special project through Global Ministries for the region/conference churches to work on together.
- ___ c. Other giving ideas:

Staff Contact a & b: *Jane Sullivan-Davis at 317 713 2558 or email janesd@dom.disciples.org*

6. SENDS its members overseas to share the Good News: Isaiah 52:7

___ a. Send a group from the region/conference on a People-to-People pilgrimage, Global Ministries' group mission trip program. Consider visiting your region/conference's missionary and the global partner with whom he or she serves.

___ b. Send at least one person from your region/conference to be a volunteer missionary to serve with a global or US partner or missionary through Global Ministries.

___ c. Other sending ideas:

Staff Contact for a: Maria Cruzado at 317 713 2565 or mcruzado@dom.disciples.org

Staff Contact global b: Cathy Nichols at 317 713 2566 or email cnichols@dom.disciples.org

Staff contact for U.S. b: Mary Schaller Blaufuss at 216 736 3214 or email blaufusm@ucc.org

7. GROWS in sharing the story of God's mission with others: Galatians 6:9

___ a. Organize a meeting with appropriate region/conference staff or committee to share what your region/conference is doing in mission, then talk about how you might start or continue mission work together.

___ b. Develop a strategy for a Ministries and Mission Interpretation (MMI) network in the region/conference and organize a joint conference/region Ministries and Mission Interpreters (MMI) training for the purpose of equipping mission committee members, as well as the pastors and mission chairs of local congregations throughout the region/conference.

___ c. Share with Global Ministries staff what your region/conference is already doing in global mission. Offer other ideas for action which may link that involvement to an existing Global Ministries project, program, missionary, or partner in a particular country.

___ d. Other ideas for growth:

Staff Contact for a & b: Jon Barnes at 317 713 2571 or email jbarnes@dom.disciples.org
or by area office for 7 b:

Africa: Sandra Gourdet 317-713-2551 sgourdet@dom.disciples.org

East Asia & Pacific: Xiaoling Zhu 216-736-3226 zhux@ucc.org

Latin America & Caribbean: Felix Ortiz 317-713-2561 fortiz@dom.disciples.org

Middle East & Europe: Peter Makari 216-737-3227 makarip@ucc.org

Southern Asia: James Vijayakumar 216-736-3228 vijayj@ucc.org

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

As you create your action plan for implementing the ideas for actions you have chosen, you will need to establish measurable objectives for the implementation of each idea, including target dates and names of the people who will carry 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 Conference or Region Commitment form**. Please complete the form, make a copy for Global Ministries and send it to the address that is provided.

Global Ministries would like to recognize your conference/region with a certificate presented in person during an annual gathering, board meeting or other appropriate setting. Contact:

Jan Aerie (UCC)
700 Prospect Ave
Cleveland OH 44115
216 736 3204
aeriej@ucc.org

Jon Barnes (Disciples)
PO Box 1986
Indianapolis, IN
317 713 2571
jbarnes@dom.disciples.org

Now it's time to roll up your sleeves and go to work on the plan that 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.