

# BE A GLOBAL MISSION CHURCH



## UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST CONGREGATION CRITERIA AND COMMITMENT FORM



### GLOBAL MINISTRIES

A common witness of the Division of Overseas Ministries, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), and Wider Church Ministries, United Church of Christ

# Be a Global Mission CHURCH: Criteria

Global Ministries invites your congregation to create a package of global mission involvement tailored to your interests:

- **Start** by checking off what your congregation is already committed to doing in global mission through Global Ministries.
- **Continue** by choosing some ideas for action that seem to be realistic for your congregation at this point on your journey.
- **Lastly**, 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, then plan to begin another cycle. 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 a UCC CONGREGATION\*\*\*

Church name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Church address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Pastor: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail & Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Mission Chair: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail & Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

### A Global Mission CHURCH...

#### 1. **PRAYS** regularly for mission 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](http://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. 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. Learn about local HIV/AIDS work and find connections from it to global efforts.

## **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

\_\_\_ 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](http://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. 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 add (OCWM), 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. 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. *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, such as: 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. Other ideas for growth

### **Additional Comments:**

Please return a copy of the completed criteria checklist to:  
Jan Aerie  
700 Prospect Ave E  
Cleveland, OH 44115  
[aeriej@ucc.org](mailto:aeriej@ucc.org)  
216 736 3204

# Be a Global Mission CHURCH: Commitment Form

The Global Ministries staff commits to walking with your congregation as it seeks to be a Global Mission Church within the United Church of Christ. Jan Aerie, Executive of Mission Education and Interpretation, will be your primary contact person as you seek to discern how God would have you engage in global mission.

Each staff contact will be responsive to your inquiries to help your congregation take the necessary steps to engage in particular program areas. The work of Global Ministries' five area offices will also facilitate connections with international church partners.

Upon completion of this commitment form, Global Ministries will recognize your church with a Certificate of Recognition during an in-person presentation (if possible) This certification will be listed on the Global Ministries website. We pledge our on-going support in your global mission efforts.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Cally Rogers-Witte  
Executive of WCM and  
Co-executive, Global Ministries

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jan Aerie, Executive  
Mission Education and  
Interpretation

\_\_\_\_\_ United Church of Christ commits to living and sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ from our doorsteps to the ends of the earth, and also to receiving that same Good News from international partners around the world in a reciprocal relationship.

We have prayerfully discerned how God would have us be involved in global mission in partnership with Global Ministries and have chosen \_\_\_\_ ideas for action to implement over the next three years. We commit to be a congregation (starting in; growing in; celebrating) mission.

We have empowered the appropriate people in our congregation to lead us in these actions, and to ensure the necessary on-going contact and follow-up for each action. We will maintain open communication with Global Ministries' staff as we seek to live out our commitment to being a Global Mission Church.

\_\_\_\_\_

Pastor

\_\_\_\_\_

Date

\_\_\_\_\_

Mission Chair/Board Chair

Church name: \_\_\_\_\_

Church address: \_\_\_\_\_

Church E-mail & Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

*Please return a copy of the completed commitment form to:*

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700 Prospect Ave. E  
Cleveland, OH 44115  
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