Be a Global Mission Church

A workbook for the Disciples and UCC to engage in God’s transforming mission through Global Ministries.

www.globalministries.org
Will you accept the challenge?

Global Ministries would like to accompany you on this journey as you reach out beyond national boundaries to engage in God’s transforming mission with our international partners.

The United Church of Christ and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) have passed resolutions at 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 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 continue in our mission to receive and share the Good News of Jesus Christ by joining with global and local partners to work for justice, reconciliation, and peace.

We are grateful for your partnership in God’s global mission!

Jim Moos
Executive Minister,
Wider Church Ministries
Co-Executive, Global Ministries

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President,
Division of Overseas Ministries
Co-Executive, Global Ministries
Be a global mission Church

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 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

**STEP 4**
Create
your new action plan for engaging in God’s global mission: pages 16 – 22

**STEP 5**
Commit
to carrying out your plan in covenant with Global Ministries: page 23 – 24

Global Ministries Programs:
A list of programs with contact information: pages 25 – 27

An important note for Disciples’ areas/regions and UCC associations/conferences:

We are excited that you have decided to undertake the Global Mission Church process. With your intentional support, the congregations of your area/region or association/conference will be able to deepen their global mission involvement. We have designed this workbook for congregations, but the five steps can easily be adapted to UCC conferences and associations and Disciples’ regions and areas. We look forward to walking with you on your journey to be a Global Mission Region or Conference!
As you begin the *Global Mission Church* journey, consider these leadership questions:

1. Is there an existing committee? Is it working well? Do we need a change of personnel, name, time, budget, etc.?

2. Is anyone missing from our committee? Are there former missionaries or people with international experience who might like to participate? Do we have youth representation?

3. Are there any people with a passion for global mission in our church? Enthusiasm and energy are more important than expertise. People can learn about global mission as they go!

4. How can we involve youth and a diverse cross section of our church?

5. 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 church feel responsible for this initiative?

6. Who in our church is effective in spreading the word through newsletter articles, bulletin boards, bulletin inserts, e-mail updates, website postings, and mission moments?

7. 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!*
Learn about Disciples and UCC global mission understandings and commitments.

As you gather your Global Mission Church leadership team for your first meeting, take some time to talk over the foundational principles that guide our global mission efforts through Global Ministries. You may enjoy learning more about our two denominations’ participation in God’s global mission by looking at the Global Ministries website, www.globalministries.org. Here are some frequently asked questions and answers for discussion:

What is a Global Mission Church?

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 receive and share the Good News of Jesus Christ by joining with global and local partners to work for justice, reconciliation, and peace.

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.”

What is Global Ministries?

Global Ministries is responsible for engaging UCC and Disciples churches in God’s mission beyond our national borders as we discern together God’s action in the world. Our two denominations have a formal partnership through Disciples’ Division of Overseas Ministries (DOM) and the UCC’s Wider Church Ministries (WCM) in the work of Global Ministries – sharing staff in Indianapolis and Cleveland, resources, and programs in our presence and witness with international partners.

How was Global Ministries started?

Discussions began in the 1960s about “joint action and 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 on 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 other 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.

Restoring Dignity, Nourishing Hope: Developing Mutuality in Mission, a book produced by Global Ministries, is written for congregations to explore what it means to be in partnership. In addition to the concept of partnership, the book addresses themes of advocacy, short-term mission trips, community development, evangelism, and interfaith dialogue. Each chapter contains questions so that individuals, adult study classes, and mission committees can use the book for study and reflection. To order, call (800) 537-3394 or go to globalministries.org/restoring_hope.
What are Global Ministries’ current mission priorities?

Vision:
That all of God’s people and creation share in God’s abundant life

Mission:
To receive and share the Good News of Jesus Christ by joining with global and local partners to work for justice, reconciliation, and peace

Core Values:

Presence
Manifesting God’s love by loving in intentional, committed relationships.

Mutuality
Walking in hope with others in God’s mission.

Community
Building interdependence and unity among all God’s children.

Justice
Living out God’s radical love by confronting powers that deny the fullness of life and the integrity of creation.

Peace
Embodying reconciling relationships with God, humanity, and creation.

What is the primary focus of missionary appointments?
Global Ministries appoints mission personnel in places where education, capacity building (leadership and community development), and healthcare are a primary focus. Each missionary appointment is processed in dialogue with the global partner.

What categories of missionaries does Global Ministries send?
Missionaries are supported with salary and benefits and serve a term of three to four years. They are sent when a global partner makes a request for a person to fill a specific need, finances are available for an appointment, and a qualified person to fill the role is identified.

Global Mission Interns serve one to three years with a global partner. Interns must have a relationship to the church with preference given to members of the United Church of Christ and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). This program is open to college graduates under 30 who have a willingness to receive and share gifts with global partners in intentional service.

Long Term Volunteers serve for one to four years in response to a request from a global partner. The volunteer is primarily responsible for all funding, with Global Ministries and the global partner contributing to the support if possible.

Global Service Coworkers serve from two weeks up to one year and are sent on assignments identified by the global partner. Participating in a global partner’s life as a coworker is a great way to connect and learn about our partner’s work during a summer break or a sabbatical.

Associates are members of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the United Church of Christ serving outside the United States with a church, ecumenical institution, or a project involving a ministry that is in accordance with the mission principles of Global Ministries.
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), 15 Division of Overseas Ministries (Disciples) Board members, and 15 United Church of Christ Board (UCCB) members representing Wider Church Ministries and Global Ministries.

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. Two co-executives, one in Indianapolis and one in Cleveland, lead the staff. (See the staff listing at the end of this booklet for more details.)

How is the work with international partners carried out?
Global Ministries’ area offices work relationally with international partners in all aspects of their work. From the selection of missionaries, to the promotion of projects, to the setting of priorities, work is done in partnership. The area offices work in Africa, East Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean, Middle East and Europe, and Southern Asia. The area offices also coordinate partner ministries with Global Ministries programs including People to People Pilgrimages, Resource Development, Child and Elder Sponsorship, and Advocacy.

How is Global Ministries funded?
A percentage of the Disciples Mission Fund (DMF) and the Easter offering from the Disciples, Our Church’s Wider Mission (OCWM) from the UCC, and money through Week of Compassion (WOC) and One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) supports Global Ministries. Funds are also received from various endowments 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.

www.globalministries.org
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.”

Both are available at globalministries.org/mission_study

Now that you have learned about our common global mission, you are ready to begin the evaluation process offered in STEP 3!

Most congregations are already involved in global mission. As you continue on the Global Mission Church journey, take the time to celebrate your past achievements and evaluate the effectiveness of those actions. Use the following questions to review the current global mission involvement and commitment of your church:

1. How are individual members active in global outreach and advocacy? Can we name the people who have a “passion” for global mission in our church? How involved in mission are our youth or our men’s and women’s groups?

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

3. How do we financially support the global mission efforts of our denomination? Are we moving toward a tithe? Are we supporting Week of Compassion/One Great Hour of Sharing? What other overseas financial commitments do we have?

4. In what ways are we active in our region’s/conference’s missionary relationship? Global church partnership?
5. How often does our worship include elements of our global relationships?

6. 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?

7. Have members been on a mission trip or visited Global Ministries’ partners or missionaries in their travels? Have they shared what they have learned with our congregation?

8. Which Global Ministries special projects do we support (through funding, education, and advocacy), such as Child and Elder Sponsorship, disaster response, or refugee resettlement?

9. What other international or ecumenical efforts do we support financially, materially, or with time and energy? Church World Service (CWS), World Council of Churches (WCC), Habitat for Humanity? Heifer Project? Others? When was the last time we evaluated our international mission support? Do these projects match our priorities as a congregation?

10. Where and when is God’s global mission visible in our church building?

11. What understanding of global mission do our children have? Have they met and spoken with a missionary or a mission partner?

12. What nationalities are present in our congregation? What natural global relationships do we already have?

13. Has our church resettled refugees or reached out to international students? Are there other opportunities to connect globally within our community?

14. How do our members live out the inter-connectedness of local and global justice issues and relationships?

Global Mission Evaluative Summary Questions:

1. What did we learn from this evaluation about our church’s global mission involvement?

2. What are the strengths and weaknesses of our global mission efforts?

3. 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 to create a new action plan!
Create your new action plan for engaging in God’s global mission.

It’s time to invent your church’s future! We invite you to create an action plan of global mission involvement based upon your evaluation and tailored to your church’s interests. We have provided an action plan checklist of global mission engagement ideas organized into the seven markers of a **Global Mission Church**. As you read through the checklist:

- **Begin** by selecting what your church has already been committed to doing in global mission that you want to continue. Under each mark of a **Global Mission Church** you may include ideas which are not listed. Be creative!

- **Choose** a few new ideas that are realistic for your church. 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!

- **Write down ways to put each idea into practice and include target dates and names of people responsible.** Plan an annual evaluation of your progress. Be committed!

Expect to implement these ideas for action over three years. At the end of that three-year period, evaluate and then plan to begin another cycle.

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### Global Mission Church Action Plan

**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**

___ Pray weekly for a Global Ministries missionary, international partner church or organization, and global issues and concerns.

___ Include a global component into worship at least once a month, such as a letter from a missionary, a scripture reading, a prayer in another language, a sermon illustration, an international hymn, or song or another liturgical element.

___ Distribute the monthly Global Ministries mission story as a worship bulletin insert, an article in your church newsletter, an all-church e-mail, a posting or link on your church website, etc.

___ Other prayer idea(s):

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www.globalministries.org
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

___ Invite members of your church to subscribe to the weekly Global Ministries email update by going to globalministries.org and clicking on “Sign Up” or “like” Global Ministries on Facebook.
___ 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.
(globalministries.org/resources_youth_and_children)
___ Offer a global mission class using the adult REACH and youth READY curricula. (globalministries.org/reach for adults or globalministries.org/ready for youth.)
___ Create and maintain a visible Global Ministries bulletin board.
___ 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 at www.globalministries.org/events
___ Other educational idea(s):

A Global Mission Church seeks justice 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

___ Participate in UCC and Disciples justice action networks by sending messages to members of Congress and the current administration.
    UCC go to: ucc.org/justice    Disciples go to: djan.net
___ Send at least one member of your church to Ecumenical Advocacy Days in Washington D.C. in the spring. (Visit advocacydays.org for the date of the next conference.)
___ View the Global Ministries Advocacy calendar on the web and choose which important dates you’ll lift up as a congregation in worship.
___ Other advocacy idea(s):

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

___ Publish missionary letters in your church newsletter. These can be found on the Global Ministries homepage.
___ Host a missionary or international guest in your congregation.
    Contact the office of mission personnel or visit globalministries.org/calendar_of_missionary_visits
___ Contact your area/region or association/conference to find out how your congregation can participate in an existing Global Ministries partnership.
___ Other receiving idea(s):

www.globalministries.org
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

___ Sponsor a child or elder through the Global Ministries Child and Elder Sponsorship Program. globalministries.org/child_sponsorship

___ Plan to work toward giving at least a tithe of your total church budget to support mission in your community and abroad.

___ Support the work of Global Ministries by making a special contribution for the work of the ministry, a missionary, or an international partner. Contact the Office of Resource Development for additional information or visit globalministries.org/special_projects.

___ Host an Alternative Christmas fair to benefit the work of Global Ministries.

___ Other giving idea(s):

______________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________

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

___ Encourage church members who travel internationally to visit Global Ministries missionaries and international partners.

___ Plan a group mission trip with your church through Global Ministries’ People-to-People Pilgrimage program. globalministries.org/people_to_people_pilgrimages

___ Send one or more of your church’s members as a volunteer or missionary to serve with one of Global Ministries’ international partners. (globalministries.org/mission_opportunities)

___ Other sending idea(s):

______________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________
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

___ Organize a global mission event with another Disciples of Christ and/or United Church of Christ church in your area to learn and share about God’s global mission.

___ Invite the community to hear a speaker on global advocacy at your church.

___ Other growing idea(s):

Now that you have completed your church’s action plan, it’s time to commit to carrying out that plan in covenant with Global Ministries. You’re ready for STEP 5!

Congratulations! You have made it to the implementation phase 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 churches are on the path. Global Ministries wants to covenant with your church to walk with you on each step of the journey.

Download and print the Church Covenant Statement found at globalministries.org/gmc_covenant. Complete the form and email or mail it to the address provided. We look forward to adding your congregation to the growing list of Global Mission churches!

**What’s Next?**

Global Ministries would like to recognize your church with a certificate to celebrate this important step in the life of your church. Contact Global Ministries by calling (216) 736-3209 for UCC churches and (317) 713-2574 for Disciples churches.

Now it’s time to 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.
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.
Mission Engagement
Global partnerships, e-mail updates, audio/visual/print resources, youth and adult education resources, displays, events, website, worship resources, presence in regions/conferences, etc.

(317) 713-2574 or (216) 736-3209

Advocacy
Advocacy networks, sign-on letters, action alerts.
(216) 736-3220
globalministries.org/justice_and_advocacy

People-to-People Pilgrimages
Group mission trips, hands-on overseas experiences, etc.
(317) 713-2565
globalministries.org/people_to_people_pilgrimages

Africa
(317) 713-2551
globalministries.org/africa

East Asia and Pacific
(216) 736-3226
globalministries.org/eap

Middle East and Europe
(216) 736-3227
globalministries.org/mee

Latin America and Caribbean
(317) 713-2563
globalministries.org/lac

Southern Asia
(216) 736-3205
globalministries.org/sasia

Child and Elder Sponsorship Program
$30.00 to $35.00 monthly with no administrative fee!
(216) 736-3222
globalministries.org/child_sponsorship

Resource Development
Opportunities to support the exciting work of Global Ministries and partners around the world.
(317) 713-2555
globalministries.org/special_projects

Also part of UCC Wider Church Ministries

One Great Hour of Sharing
(216) 736-3215
www.ucc.org/oghs

Volunteer Ministries
(216) 736-3214
www.ucc.org/volunteer

Disaster Ministries
(216) 736-3211
www.ucc.org/disaster

Health and Wholeness Advocacy
(216) 736-3217
www.ucc.org/lgbt

A Disciples Partner Ministry

Week of Compassion
(317) 713-2450
or
(317) 835-1275
www.weekofcompassion.org
Notes:

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Meet the Challenge

Many churches already actively pursue global mission through education, stewardship, and mission trips. For others, the *Global Mission Church* initiative presents a new and different challenge. Wherever your church fits, this workbook can be a new direction or a milepost on the path already being traveled.

The *Global Mission Church* process can be used to propel a church into new activities or to affirm numerous projects already in place. Whether your next step is to find a world map, study globalization, or plan a People-to-People Pilgrimage, we encourage you to make the decision to put a foot forward and take a step further into God’s global mission. Being a *Global Mission Church* will challenge your members to stretch toward a new level of interest in, and commitment to, God’s world.

For mission resources and ideas contact:

**Office for Mission Engagement**
(317) 713-2574
call: dom@disciples.org
P.O. Box 1986
Indianapolis, IN 46206-1986

**Office for Mission Engagement**
(216) 736-3209
call: wcm@ucc.org
700 Prospect Avenue, 7th Floor
Cleveland, OH 44115-1100

www.globalministries.org