

Sharing life in partnership with other churches and ecumenical bodies is the cornerstone of our global life and witness.

Global Ministries Guiding Principles



"In North America, where we have so much, so many 'blessings,' we see material wealth, health, comfort and convenience as everyday symbols of the resurrection. Haitian Christians, the poorest of the poor know [the cross] firsthand and are reminded everyday of suffering, classism, racism, hunger, inequality, social and political oppression, and powerlessness. Yet, they praise God in joyous worship that reveals their need for unity and hope along with all of God's people."

Roy Fleshman

*Phillips Theological Seminary
Council of Theological Students
Group mission pilgrimage to Haiti, 2001*

Southern Asia



Africa

"My overseas trip to Africa spoke to my heart and call to Christian discipleship to this branch of God's people. The overwhelming spirit of hospitality was overpowering, as was the strong and resilient faith of the people in the promises of the Gospel for Good News for the poor."

Rev. Laverne M. Gill

*Webster Church UCC
Dexter, Michigan
Cross-cultural travel seminar
to Ghana, West Africa*

PEOPLE- *to*-PEOPLE



"hands on"
group
pilgrimage
projects

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

Global Ministries
People-to-People Pilgrimage Office
P. O. Box 1986
Indianapolis, IN 46206-1986
(317) 713-2579
e-mail: dom@disciples.org
www.globalministries.org

 **GLOBAL MINISTRIES**

PEOPLE- to-PEOPLE

Global Ministries' People-to-People Pilgrimage Program assists UCC and Disciples congregations, regions and conferences with mission trips, i.e. "hands-on" experiences, group work trips or learning trips. In participating on a mission pilgrimage, a group embarks on a journey of faith and solidarity with our international ecumenical partners. For this reason, such group travel experiences are called "People-to-People Pilgrimages."

A mission pilgrimage is a transforming experience through which groups embrace new people, places and cultures while working on such projects as:

- rebuilding community housing and facilities after devastation from a natural disaster;
- working in a local health care clinic;
- direct irrigation for successful and sustainable crops;
- help with maintenance to educational facilities; and
- collect and repair clothes for an orphanage.

In coordinating a mission pilgrimage, it is of utmost importance to remain both flexible and sensitive to the advice and availability of our partners. It is through the People-to-People and area offices that our partners share with us the work and witness of their local faith communities, and extend the invitation for our mission groups to travel to, and serve in, their countries.

What can I expect from the People-to-People Pilgrimage Program?

You will receive the assistance of a national staff person — the Program Coordinator — throughout the duration of the implementation process. This individual will be available to...

- explore the various possibilities of group activity that would best serve the interests and goals of the group's proposed mission pilgrimage;
- enable groups to draw on the expertise and guidance of our area offices;



Latin America and the Caribbean

" We met, worked, and lived with some of the kindest, most generous and gracious people I have ever experienced... Hopefully we gave something of value to the good people of Guadalupe, El Salvador. For their part, they gave us an education into what it means to minister 'with' someone rather than 'for' or 'to' them."

Rev. Dr. Timothy Diebel

First Christian Church

Des Moines, Iowa

Group mission pilgrimage to El Salvador 2002

East Asia and the Pacific

- initiate communication with our overseas partners in coordinating your mission pilgrimage experience;
- provide reflection and orientation materials to help your group prepare for the cross-cultural experience in mission; and
- facilitate group networking with other congregations, regions, and conferences having been involved in planning similar mission pilgrimages.

We want to go! Now,...what do we do?

People-to-People Pilgrimage Program can help you make your mission pilgrimage a memorable experience! Following are a few of the initial steps to follow in organizing a successful mission pilgrimage experience...

- have a brainstorming session on the goals for your mission pilgrimage.
- make a tentative decision about possible dates of travel, (average length of stay is 10 days) as well as the region or country of interest. It's a good idea to identify at least two or three options for both travel dates and destination; the practicality of these options will eventually be explored cooperatively with the Program Coordinator.

- keep in mind that 8-10 is the ideal group size. Because our international partners know best how many people they can accommodate graciously without over stretching their resources and energy, they will determine the maximum number of pilgrims invited to participate.
- select a group contact person who will begin exploring the possibilities with the Program Coordinator.

Is your congregation, region, or conference already involved?

It's a joy to learn of congregations, regions, and conferences that travel abroad for "hands-on" experiences in mission! If you have already planned a mission pilgrimage through another agency, you are invited to contact the Program Coordinator and share highlights of your planned pilgrimage. This dialogue would allow us to cooperatively explore how your group might work with Global Ministries in the future. Perhaps your pilgrimage could be enhanced by visiting a missionary or representatives of a Global Ministries international ecumenical partner in the country to which you are traveling.

Contact your People-to-People Pilgrimage Program office through the information on the back of this brochure to begin planning a memorable pilgrimage experience!

Middle East and Europe