A Global Church Partnership Handbook

Guidelines for
Disciples Regions/Areas/Districts
and
UCC Conferences/Associations
in the pursuit of
vital reciprocal relationships
with International Partners
through Global Ministries

Revised October 2009

As you live out your Global Church Partnership with an International Partner, we hope you find the contents of this Global Church Partnership Handbook informative and useful. Please distribute it widely throughout your Disciples Region/Area/District or UCC Conference/Association, and refer to it often as you seek to establish or continue in a covenantal relationship with an International Partner and Global Ministries.

TABLE OF CONTENTS:

Defining a Global Church Partnership……..2

Some Examples of Partnership Goals…….....2

Global Mission Understandings & Commitments……3

Steps in Developing a Global Church Partnership……5

Partnership Ideas for Action:

– A Global Mission Church PRAYS…….....10

– A Global Mission Church EDUCATES…….....11

– A Global Mission Church SEEKS JUSTICE…….....13

– A Global Mission Church RECEIVES……14

– A Global Mission Church GIVES……16

– A Global Mission Church SENDS…….....19

– A Global Mission Church GROWS……22

Reading List…….....22

Global Ministries Program Staff Listing……23

Defining a Global Church Partnership

A Global Church Partnership is a covenantal relationship between three parties: a Disciples Region/Area/District and/or a UCC Conference/Association, Global Ministries and an International Partner. A "joint" Partnership with Disciples and UCC involvement from the very start of a Global Church Partnership in a given geographic area is a great way to make visible the common witness of Global Ministries.

This three-pronged Partnership is usually defined in a document jointly written by all three parties and called a Partnership or Covenant Agreement. In this document, the parameters and protocols of the relationship are clearly stated based upon the input of each participant. Emphasis is placed upon a reciprocal relationship where each Partner has gifts to share and receive. Although financial giving may be included in the covenant agreement, it should never be the central ingredient of the relationship.

In their Global Church Partnership statement, the Ohio Conference summarizes well the spirit of partnership and the power of global relationships to transform all participants: "Once we have broken bread together, knelt together, prayed together, begun to understand each other as communities of faith, then we will undo our old thinking and have a real partnership."

As Partnership participants walk together in mutual accompaniment over a period of time, the face of Christ is revealed in new and dynamic ways and participants grow in their understanding of what it means to *Be a Global Mission Church* in the 21st century. They come to realize in fresh ways what it means to be a part of the Body of Christ in a global sense and how we need one another to be a faithful Church today.

Questions:

- *How does this definition of a Global Church Partnership correspond with your current thinking about global relationships? How is it different?*
- *In defining a Global Church Partnership what insures that the relationship is a reciprocal one among equals?*

Some Examples of Partnership Goals

International Partners, Disciples Regions, and UCC Conferences/Associations have written Partnership Agreements, expressing the following goals and hopes for their Global Church Partnerships:

- We seek to experience the unity of Christ that reaches across cultural, racial, and national boundaries.
- Unity in spirit and service ... to share and to spread the light and love of God in Christ.
- Fellowship.
- That each Partner brings respect and genuine desire to enter the lives of the other, not as a benefactor nor as a recipient, but as equals with strengths and needs that enhance the even growth of the relationship Friendship without material benefits from either party.
- Encourage and help connect Partners - people and congregations - for communication and exchanges.
- Develop lasting friendships.
- Learn About the Other and Ourselves.

- Learn from each other about the spiritual, mental and physical needs of our members, and to grow together in our faithful response to our call to witness and ministry.
- Seek to grow from cultural isolation to an understanding of people in other lands.
- Experience a new way of relating equitably in a world where human relationships too often are marked by inequality and injustice.
- Cross frontiers in order to meet and accept our diversities.
- Understand our differences as an opportunity to enrich each other, and to assume the current challenges in our international, regional and national context.
- Nurture our spiritual vitality through experiences and fellowship with other Christians.
- Deepen the spiritually transformative impact of the Partnership relationship.
- Personal and communal transformation.
- Spiritual Discipline - to purge ourselves of the notion that our global relationships are all about "wealthy-us" giving money to "poor-them."
- Experience the prophetic spirit of the global church that brings vitality and power to our lives.
- The purpose of this Partnership is to expand the ecumenical and missionary horizons of our local churches, to assume responsibility one for another, and to learn reciprocally from each other's faith.

Questions:

- *What goals are similar to the Global Church Partnership you currently have or envision?*
- *What goals would you like to add to this list?*

Global Mission Understandings & Commitments

Essential global mission understandings and commitments of Disciples and UCC are at the heart of every Global Church Partnership. These understandings and commitments have been expressed over the years in various statements and documents, especially the "Standing Rules" of the Common Global Ministries Board (CGMB). As a Global Church Partnership is established or reviewed, it is important to verify the faithfulness to these global mission principles and guidelines.

At the foundation of our efforts in global mission, Disciples and UCC are committed through Global Ministries "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." This mission is carried out through reciprocal relationships with some 270 Partner churches and organizations in over 70 countries. These relationships are developed and nurtured through the Global Ministries staff in five area offices: Africa, East Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean, Middle East and Europe, and Southern Asia. (A staff listing is included at the end of this handbook.)

There are Five Guiding Principles which flesh out this fundamental global mission commitment of Disciples and UCC:

1. Within the covenantal bonds with 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 existing and 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.

Relying on the leading of God's Spirit and responding in faith to the challenge of a rapidly changing world, most recently the CGMB has identified *Critical Presence* as the mission priority and strategic approach that will be emphasized in all phases of our global relationships. *Critical Presence* is understood "to be timely and appropriately meeting God's people and creation at the point of deepest need: spiritually, physically, emotionally and/or economically." As Global Church Partnerships are established it is important that all parties in the Partnership consider what their deepest needs and strengths are and dialogue about how mutual accompaniment through a Partnership Agreement can help meet those needs in our different contexts.

As Disciples and UCC apply the *Critical Presence* priority in all phases of its mission through the work of Global Ministries, we find ourselves accompanying Partners in critical situations and needs through a variety of ministries and modes of presence. Some of those ministries of *Critical Presence* are:

- 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;
- supporting, encouraging and accompanying interfaith relations;
- conflict transformation and resolution;
- places where capacity-building and health care are our primary focus;
- facilitating the engagement of local congregations and other church settings in global mission and ministry; and/or
- exploring and implementing economic alternatives which empower the powerless within the human community, giving priority to the poorest communities and those in turmoil.

In the summer of 2009, both Disciples and UCC passed resolutions at their General Assembly and General Synod respectively concerning our two denomination's commitment to *Being a Global Mission Church*. The 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 UCC resolution underscores the importance of the Global Ministries' "*Be a Global Mission Church*" initiative, asking all settings of the UCC to pursue the Global Mission Church designation.

A Global Church Partnership can provide an excellent opportunity to live out the commitment to *Be a Global Mission Church*. The seven marks of a Global Mission Church can provide a framework in a Disciples Region/Area/District or a UCC Conference/Association for the development of reciprocal goals and objectives in the context of a Global Church Partnership.

A Global Mission Church...

1. **PRAYS** regularly for partners, missionaries and the world.
2. **EDUCATES** its members about global issues from preschool age to adult.
3. **SEEKS JUSTICE** for the "least of these" in the international community.
4. **RECEIVES** the gifts of the global church.
5. **GIVES** to the work of global mission.
6. **SENDS** its members into the world to share the Good News.
7. **GROWS** in sharing the story of God's mission with others.

To learn more about the *Be a Global Mission Church* initiative, you can visit the Global Ministries website at: http://globalministries.org/about-us/be-a-global-mission-church.html Later on in this handbook some specific Partnership Ideas for Action will be highlighted for each of the seven marks of a Global Mission Church

All of the above global mission understandings and commitments are the building blocks for a vital, healthy, mutual relationship within the framework of a Global Church Partnership. Now we can turn our attention towards how such a relationship is initiated and developed.

Questions:

- *What do you think is the most important global mission understanding and commitment?*
- *How do you understand "Partnership"? "Critical Presence"? "Accompaniment"? "Mutuality in Mission"?*
- *How does the Global Church Partnership you currently have or envision live out these fundamental global mission understandings and commitments?*
- *How has your Disciples Region, UCC Conference or local congregation been involved in the Global Mission Church initiative through Global Ministries?*
- *How can the Global Church Partnership you currently have or envision be enriched by these seven marks of a Global Mission Church?*

Steps in Developing a Global Church Partnership

With the above building blocks, it's now time to turn towards the steps involved in developing a Global Church Partnership. The following procedure is recommended to assist each Partnership participant in the process.

1. Contact Global Ministries: The first step in the process is to contact Global Ministries to indicate your interest in developing a Global Church Partnership in your Disciples Region/Area/District and/or UCC Conference/Association. As you think about establishing a Partnership, why not make it a "joint" effort right from the start by including your Disciples or UCC counterparts in your area. This is a great way to make the common witness of Global Ministries more visible. There are several "joint" UCC/Disciples Global Church Partnerships from which to learn. You may have an interest in a certain part of the world. You may even have a specific country in mind. You may have existing relationships with International Partners that you would like to further develop. You may have other motivations and interests. As you begin the process, take note of these initial ideas, but also remain open to suggestions as Global Ministries staff is aware of critical needs for Global Church Partnerships at any given time in different parts of the world and may make a suggestion that is not on your list. Commit to allowing the Spirit to guide the process. Please contact the following people for an initial conversation:

For Disciples:	For UCC:
Bob Shebeck	Jan Aerie
317-713-2571	216-736-3204
bshebeck@dom.disciples.org	aeriej@ucc.org

2. Establish a Partnership Committee: In order to undertake the Partnership process, a group of people representing your UCC Conference/Association or Disciples Region/Area/District will need to prepare documents, make and recommend decisions and implement the Partnership. It's important that the Partnership doesn't become the exclusive project of the committee, but that intentional effort is made right from the start to involve all the congregations of the given judicatory in meaningful ways in the development of the Global Church Partnership. Perhaps there already exists such a suitable committee for this leadership responsibility. Perhaps a new committee will need to be formed consisting of representatives from a variety of standing committees or geographic areas. The committee may require budgeted resources in order to convene.

3. Prepare a Partnership Proposal: As the Partnership committee dialogues with Global Ministries about a possible International Partner interested in establishing a Global Church Partnership, the following supporting documents will be needed:

a. **Theological Statement** (1-2 pages): Indicate why you are interested in a Global Church Partnership. In a written statement discuss your theological rationale for seeking a Partnership relationship. How does your faith and the scriptures shape your understanding of a Partnership relationship with someone different from yourselves in another country and culture? What are your ecumenical, international and multi-cultural perspectives? Why is God calling you to develop a Global Church Partnership at this time in the life of the faith community you represent?
b. **Strengths and Weaknesses Statement** (1-2 pages): First of all identify your needs, weaknesses and vulnerabilities. Too often Christians in North America enter into partnership with the intent of giving or providing. We often forget that the global church is also equipped to address our needs and to serve our weaknesses. If we allow ourselves to be humble and good listeners, partnership can strengthen church growth, liturgy, youth activities, Christian education, social justice, stewardship and many other areas. After listing your weaknesses, spend some time identifying your special strengths and how Partnership might benefit your Global Church Partner. Think beyond money and material resources. What gifts do you bring to the table as you enter into a Partnership relationship?
c. **Profile** (1-2 pages): Describe your Disciples Region/Area/District or UCC Conference/ Association. Offer information regarding your size, membership, location, mission, special ministries, context, organization, special meetings and constituencies. Help the International Partner get a picture of who you really are.

4. Submit a Partnership Proposal for Approval: At this point in the process, an International Partner has been identified by one of the five area executives of Global Ministries and has been agreed upon by the Disciples Region/Area/District or UCC Conference/Association Partnership committee. Upon receiving your completed request and supporting documents, a Global Ministries area executive will write to the International Partner Church on your behalf. The materials you prepare will be sent electronically if possible, and by snail mail if not. It may take some time (sometimes months!) for the International Partner to consider your request and make a decision. Factors influencing the process may include: language (perhaps translation will be necessary), schedule of meetings, work, and other commitments of the International Partner. You will be informed of the response and decision as soon as the area executive is notified by the Partner. As the International Partner is considering the proposal it is also important that your board of directors, annual meeting, regional assembly or other decision-making body does the same. It is necessary that your leadership structures be fully aware and supportive of your Partnership request. In addition to approving, you might want to request some financial assistance for implementing the Partnership in a budgeted line item. The amount will depend

on several factors such as the resources available to the Partner, distance between you and your Partner, and your own resources.

5. Draft a Partnership Agreement or Covenant: When the Partnership proposal has been approved by all three parties: International Partner, Global Ministries and the Disciples Region/Area/District or UCC Conference/ Association, the Global Church Partnership dance can begin! It is important that each party pays attention to the rhythm and step of the other, sometimes leading, sometimes following the lead of the other. At all points in the Partnership dance, communication is important. It's important not to impose our own standards of communication on others. In our e-mail world, we want an instant response to our question. Sometimes International Partners don't dance to that tune. They may have another concept of time in giving their response. They may require a face-to-face presence. We must always be generous and considerate in our communication with one another. Now the task of drafting a Partnership agreement or covenant in which all parties have input, is at hand. Who should take the lead on this? Your Global Ministries area executive will help you answer that question and facilitate the give and take in the drafting of the document. Often times it will be up to you to make an initial proposal and allow Global Ministries and the International Partners to respond, adding some of their own ideas and thoughts. This process will take some time. A face to face meeting with the International Partners would be the ideal time to finalize a draft document and sign the document together. Sometimes this can be achieved through a Partnership visit. In most cases, the Partnership agreement will be worked on long distance through an e-mail dialogue. In its final form, this document should be a one page summary statement where the parameters of the Partnership are clearly stated in the following areas:

a. **Parties in the Partnership:** As emphasized previously the three-pronged relationship should be clearly highlighted in the opening paragraph.
b. **Length of the Partnership:** Five years is a reasonable time during which both partners can meet and come to know one another. It is important that this date be respected, to allow each partner the opportunity to evaluate the relationship and move into other relationships without creating a sense of abandonment (or "divorce"). An option of extension for another five year period can be noted in the agreement.
c. **Theological purpose of the Partnership:** A succinct statement of the purpose of the Partnership should be included. A key idea or scripture can be proposed from the Theological Statement that was written, and language can be drafted which includes input from all three parties. This emphasizes that the Partnership is first and foremost a commitment of faith.
d. **Partnership Goals and Strategies:** Mutually agreed upon goals and specific strategies for accomplishing those goals should be listed with some approximate timeframes and target groups for involvement noted.
e. **Financial obligations:** It is extremely important to clearly state that all projects and programs will be decided upon by mutual agreement by all parties involved in the Partnership. Approved Global Ministries projects are posted on the Global Ministries website at: http://globalministries.org/get-involved/special-giving-opportunities/ Any new project proposal by International Partners will need to follow the approval process through the appropriate Global Ministries area office. The Global Ministries area executive will communicate with the International Partner to confirm that the project has been identified and prioritized by them. We want to avoid negative interference in the process and life of our International Partners. Since International Partners often operate in dire financial situations, it is important for them to state their priorities at any given time. All financial contributions should be sent through the Global Ministries Office of Resource Development PO Box 1986, Indianapolis, IN 46206-1986 or Global Ministries Office of Financial Development, 700 Prospect Ave. 7th floor, Cleveland, OH 44115-1100, with the designation specified. One hundred

percent of the funds will go to the designated intent. Please respect the umbrella partnership between the International Partner and Global Ministries and feel free to discuss any financial questions with Global Ministries Resource/Financial Development staff.

6. Begin Implementing the Partnership Agreement: Now that the three parties have been introduced and linked, you are encouraged to shape and form the Partnership. Refer to the numerous ideas throughout this Global Church Partnership Handbook. We recommend that in the early stage there be an exchange of delegations (perhaps 4-6 people for 5-10 days). The Global Ministries People-to-People Pilgrimages office will help you prepare your visit. During your visit to your Partner and your Partner's visit to you (in which you may want to help financially), we suggest you talk about those things you both want to accomplish in, and through, the Partnership agreement. Focus on building the relationship and involving all your constituency in the process. A Global Church Partnership should never be the "pet" project of a few people, but the shared ministry of the whole church on the journey of being a Global Mission Church. Phil Wilson, founder of African American AIDS Policy & Training Institute, gives us an important reminder as we seek to live out a Global Church Partnership: "Africa *(and other parts of God's world)* does not need more charity, noblesse oblige, or great white hopes. What it does need is real partnerships, equal two-way, and respectful."

7. Keep Global Ministries informed: Once your Partnership agreement is signed, the Global Ministries area executive who has worked with you through the process will be less present in the dialogue which will take place directly with the International Partner. It is, however, important to keep the Global Ministries area executive in the loop. It is a good practice to copy the area executive on e-mail correspondence. This will insure that Global Ministries is informed of important Partnership activities and progress. It is also encouraged that you provide periodic updates/reports and stories of lives touched through the Partnership. These types of written pieces and also multi-media pieces, can be shared with the wider church through the Global Ministries website. Be sure there's a link to your Partnership web page from the Global Ministries web site!

8. Schedule Periodic Partnership Reviews and Evaluations: It's important to periodically review your Partnership agreement independently and with Global Ministries and the International Partner. You will want to plan an intermediate evaluation, and an evaluation at the conclusion of the designated time period in the partnership agreement. The joint review or evaluation might take the form of a conference call, email chat room or postal exchange, or, if the technology is available, a video-conference through Skype or some other platform. Here is a guide for your evaluation:

General:
- What are we grateful for in this Partnership?
- What have we given and received from one another?
- Where is Christ's presence evident to us?
- What do we see as next steps to this Partnership?

Partnership Agreement:
- How have we lived out the Partnership agreement?
- What has been positive? Negative?
- Does the Partnership agreement need to be modified in any way?

Relationships:
- Are there any tensions or misunderstandings?
- Are we communicating with Global Ministries?

- Are communication channels with the International Partners working?
- Are our relationships Companionships? Paternalistic? Acts of solidarity? Creating dependency? Liberating? Trusting?

Goals:
- What goals have we accomplished?
- What goals are not accomplished?
- What new goals or modifications should we make?

Leadership:
- Who are the leaders of this Partnership?
- How is the Region/Conference staff involved?
- Are youth and young adults involved?
- Are people of color involved?
- Is there rotation of responsibilities?
- Is anyone experiencing "burn-out"?
- Is there "new-blood" in your Partnership Committee?
- Is the Partnership "personality-based" or does it have a structural foundation with solid support from all?

Opportunities:
- Is there a focus on mutuality?
- Are the opportunities for involvement in both directions?
- Are we praying for one another regularly?

Interpretation:
- How are you sharing news and enthusiasm with congregations in the Region/Conference?
- Are you using your Region/Conference newsletter?
- Are you using web connections?
- Are you visible at Region/Conference events?
- Are you sharing news with Global Ministries and the whole church?

Budgets
- Share and review Partnership budgets for both Partners.
- Review the parameters for giving.
- Are there any financial questions that need to be addressed?

Projects:
- Identify areas of interest that have arisen and those that require further investigation.
- Are both Global Ministries and the International Partner's governing body and leadership aware of each project?
- Whose project is it? Whose priority is it? Who initiated it? Is it one-sided or shared? Who energizes it?
- Who does the project benefit: the giver, the receiver, or both?
- Will the project continue under new leadership?

Advocacy:
- What advocacy work is underway?
- What other advocacy opportunities are there?

Partnership Ideas for Action…
A Global Mission Church
PRAYS

One of the first steps in living out any Global Church Partnership is determining how we can pray for one another. As a system of sharing and receiving prayer requests is developed and implemented, congregations develop a spiritual bond with the International Partners in weekly worship and in the everyday life of the faith community. In the sharing of joys and concerns, we discover our common humanity and dependence on God and we grow in our understanding of God's work in the world. Here are some prayer ideas for action:

Exchange Prayer Lists:

- Invite your partner to pray for your Region/Conference. Send a prayer list for them to use.
- Ask your International Partner for a prayer list. Share it widely and use it frequently.

Be Intentional in Prayer:

- Pray for your Global Church Partnership and the people involved regularly.
- Pray for Global Ministries missionaries and the International Church Partners they serve, especially in the area of your Partnership. Use the Weekly Prayer posted on the homepage of www.globalministries.org
- Pray, and encourage others to pray on issues and concerns in your Partner's country and region.

Be Creative in Prayer:

- Encourage Partnership-related prayers during concerns of the people in worship, during meetings of different church groups, and in the personal devotions of members.
- From time to time, share this prayer activity with those for whom prayers are being said, e.g. missionaries, International Partners, political prisoners. You might send advance greetings to let the person or group know which day they will be mentioned and held in prayer. Or send a card with a notation something like, "Wanted you to know I'm/we're holding you and your work in prayer today."
- Use your congregation's and Region's or Conference's e-prayer list frequently for Partnership-related prayer concerns.

Special Sundays:

- Establish a "Global Partnership Sunday" and invite churches throughout the Conference, Region and partner church to participate.
- Invite Global Ministries staff to participate in worship. Highlight international religious days that are important for everyone in the Partnership, e.g. World Communion Sunday (1st Sunday of October), World AIDS Day (December 1st), World Day of Prayer, Week of Christian Unity (January)…

Multi-cultural and Multilingual Liturgy and Song:

- Incorporate international songs, prayers, stories, and liturgies into worship.
- Learn the Lord's Prayer in a language indigenous to your Global Church Partner's area.
- Pass "The Peace of Christ" in the language of your partner.

- Use liturgical items from your Global Church Partner's region, such as paraments, stoles, candles, worship table cloths, banners, crosses, offering or communion plates, or baskets. Consider exchanging liturgical items with your Global Church Partner.
- Ask folks who visit your partner, or who host visitors, to write worship resources based on their experiences.

Mission Moments:
- Include regular mission moments, written and spoken, in worship.
- Use the Global Ministries monthly mission bulletin story which can be downloaded from the homepage of www.globalministries.org
- Share worship through audio tapes, PowerPoints, digital video...
- Use Skype to have a live conversation with your partners during worship!

Partnership Ideas for Action…
A Global Mission Church
EDUCATES

Helping church members of all ages learn about your partner church is another important step in developing a Global Church Partnership. Try to regularly share information about the culture, people, land, other religions, and our international partner denomination and organizations, and missionary personnel in the country of your Partnership. Highlight your Global Church Partnership during key gatherings in your Disciples Region/Area/District or UCC Conference/Association. Find ways to make it come alive in the Sunday School, the choir, the Social Justice committee, the youth group, the women's and men's groups, worship committees, and in the church council diaconate/elders boards. Here are some education ideas for action:
Keep the Partnership Visible:
- Decorate bulletin boards: include photos, letters, maps, a flag, country information, and quotations about mission.
- Highlight the partnership in bulletin inserts, newsletter articles, Church web sites…
- Decorate your sanctuary with Partnership items: banners, photos, craft work.
- Frame a copy of the Global Church Partnership agreement or covenant statement and hang it in the narthex or other prominent location. Accompany it with a photo.

Sunday School Involvement:
- Learn and play a game from your Partner's country.
- Write letters to your Partner's Sunday School children.
- Get a recipe for a local specialty to cook and serve the item at coffee hour or at a special event.
- Learn and sing a song from your Partner's country. Ask for the words to "Jesus loves me" and try it!
- Sponsor a child in your Partner's country or region through Global Ministries' Child Sponsorship Program.
- Hang your Partner country's national flag. Help children make flags to hang up or take home.
- Use the Global Ministries Connecting Threads DVD in a seven session global mission adult and/or youth class.

Special Activities:

- Host a Mission Fair - highlight different aspects of life in your Partner's country.
- Have a Youth Mission Day.
- Create a Country Network on Facebook or some other social networking tool: Connect Regions, Conferences, national staff, seminaries, UCC and Disciples of Christ staff, and any other church groups which are connected to the same country, and possibly the same international Partner church, in some way. Use this network to both send and receive information about your partner church and country.

Share in Word and Language:

- Learn greetings in the language of your Partners. Use them often.
- Ask folks who travel to your Partner, or who host visitors, to write reflections based on their experiences. Share these through newsletters and your Partnership web page. Send material to Global Ministries so it can be shared with the wider church.

Bible Study:

- Develop or find a Bible study series on an issue your partner faces. Have churches from both Partners use the series.
- Reflect on the Biblical and theological calls to global solidarity and witness.
- Focus on international mission or missiology.
- Study global issues from a faith perspective.
- Read and reflect on the following passages which speak to companionship and Partnership and are highlighted in Global Church Partnership agreements:
  1. That they may all be one. John 17:21
  2. Bear one another's burdens. Galatians 6:2
  3. You shall not oppress a stranger, you know the heart of a stranger. Exodus 23:9
  4. You are no longer strangers or foreigners, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of the household of God. Ephesians 2:19
  5. What does the Lord require of you? To act justly and love mercy and to walk humbly with your God. Micah 6:8
  6. For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body though many, are one body, so it is with Christ... indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. I Corinthians 12:12, 14
  7. When they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them ... he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread. Luke 24: 13-37

The Internet:

- Start by exploring the Global Ministries website www.globalministries.org Find the country where your Partnership is located and share the information that you find there.
- Check out the Church to Church Partnership page http://globalministries.org/get-involved/church-to-church-partnerships/
- Develop your own Partnership web page:
- Create link from your website to www.globalministries.org
- Encourage youth and children to help build the site.
- Create links to other informative web sites that have pertinent information and resources for your Global Church Partnership.

Correspond by E-mail or Letter:

- Share “the obvious” with your Partners, e.g. written descriptions and photos of a church service, a funeral, a baptism, a wedding, a day in your culture, your family, your hometown-schools, homes, post office, shops, etc.
- Send letters, photos, newspaper articles ...
- Share your reflections on current USA events.
- Not all cultures emphasize the written word, so don’t expect an equal amount of correspondence from your partner.
- Letters may include requests for money or items. Refer these to the Partnership committee and Global Ministries, so that all requests are handled fairly and openly. In some cultures, a thank-you is accompanied by a new request, with no expectation that a response will be sent.

Partnership Ideas for Action…
A Global Mission Church
SEEKS JUSTICE

Often times when we talk with International Partners and ask them what Americans can do for them, the response is usually something like: “Please advocate for justice on this particular issue which has a direct impact on our lives in our part of the world….” So as you enter into a Global Church Partnership you will want to have conversations about advocacy issues important to your International Partner. Chose one area, or one issue, related to your partner’s country or region and actively initiate advocacy, or respond to requests for advocacy, from the Global Ministries Education and Advocacy staff. Topics to consider might include: the HIV/AIDS pandemic, international debt relief, Middle East peace, Extra-judicial killings, US involvement in Colombia, climate change, global warming, and violence against women and children in war-torn areas such as the Democratic Republic of Congo, etc. Here are some advocacy ideas for action:

Learn About Justice Issues:

- Find out what issues Global Ministries Education and Advocacy staff are highlighting by going to: http://globalministries.org/get-involved/justice-and-advocacy/
- Refer to the UCC “Public Policy Briefing Book” which highlights information on justice and peace issues facing the USA and the world.
- Make sure you are receiving the weekly Global Ministries e-mail updates which highlight current advocacy and justice issues.
- Join an advocacy network and stay informed!
- Attend “Advocacy Days” in Washington DC each March.

Facilitate Advocacy in Your Context:

- Provide resources to individuals and groups.
- Encourage participation and action in your congregation.
- Provide addresses of government officials and sample letters to sign-on.
- Include information and action alerts in your Region/Conference and your congregation's newsletters and web site.

Partnership Ideas for Action…
A Global Mission Church RECEIVES

One of the main objectives of a Global Church Partnership is to receive the gifts of the global church. As we are in relationship with someone from another part of the Body of Christ, we come to realize that we need the gifts of that part of Christ's Body. In the context of your Global Church Partnership, you will want to plan on receiving a visit from a representative of the International Partner church or organization. There are two programs housed in the Global Ministries Mission Personnel Office which can help in facilitating this type of visit. The *Missionary to the U.S. and Canada Program* is designed to facilitate the itineration of a member of an International Partner church or organization in a Disciples Region or UCC Conference for a given time period. The *Missionary in Residence Program* helps youth from Partner churches to be involved in Disciples and UCC summer camps. For more information on these two programs contact the Mission Personnel Office in Indianapolis.

Another way to complement and enhance your Global Church Partnership is through establishing a Missionary Relationship with a person serving in your partner country, and then receiving a visit from that missionary when they visit churches in the U.S. and Canada during their home assignment. Here are some Partnership ideas for action that will help you receive the gifts of the global church:

Suggestions for Hosting an International Partner:

- Contact the Global Ministries Mission Personnel office to indicate your interest in the *Missionary to the US/Canada Program* (adults itinerating in Region and/or Conference) or the *Missionary in Residence Program* (young people in camps)
- Plan the visit around a Disciples Regional Assembly or UCC Annual Meeting to maximize exposure.
- Set up a geographic meeting (Association, Area or District) so that the Partner can meet and engage with clusters of churches.
- Discern in advance what gifts and skills Partners could share with your Region or Conference that would help you grow in new directions.

Suggestions for Establishing a Missionary Relationship:

- Contact the Global Ministries Mission Personnel office to see if there is a missionary serving in your partner country, and whether a Missionary Relationship is possible.
- When the Mission Relationship is confirmed, establish guidelines -- write your expectations for the relationship and then ask the missionary to share his/her expectations as well.
- Determine the number of letters you will write to your missionary during the year (please send them newsletters or articles).
- Select the person(s) responsible for corresponding with the missionary and reporting back to the congregation. Some congregations ask each church school class to take one month during which they are responsible for writing.
- Pray regularly for the missionary and those with whom he/she works.
- Consider creative ways for sharing news from your missionary in a variety of church group settings: Church School, worship, newsletters, group meetings.
- Set aside space to display letters and pictures from your mission area.
- Supplement letters from your missionary with area information available from Global Ministries, from the library, or Internet.

- If you wish to take a work trip to the missionary's country of service please contact: People-to-People Pilgrimage Office: P.O. Box 1986, Indianapolis, IN 46206-1986. Phone: 317-713-2579. The staff can take into consideration the resources available to the missionary and his/her host church, as well as helping you organize the event.
- A missionary serving as a teacher might arrange for some of their students to occasionally write to your youth.
- If the missionary has e-mail, arrange for a time to share information with the congregation for a special church event. Maybe a live connection on Skype is possible. Please give the missionary ample time to prepare.

Suggestions for Hosting a Missionary Visit:

- Invite a missionary to accompany you to a local homeless mission, migrant camp, battered women's shelter, children's shelter, etc. When you return to the church, prepare a meal together and debrief about what you saw, experienced and felt. The missionary can make connections with his/her experience, guiding discussion and closing with worship.
- Meet with youth. Missionaries can make a great impact on youth and their thinking about the church, the world, and how they can be involved.
- Have a mission event. Serve a meal typical to the country where the missionary lives. Use Global Ministries placemats. Invite members to bring international centerpieces. Include songs in another language. Put the nation's flag on each table. Give ample time for the missionary to share his/her story.
- Hold a mission fair. Have booths, each including what church school classes are studying about the country or issues faced by the people - information available from your church headquarters, the local library, newspapers, or magazines. Invite the missionary to be the keynote speaker.
- Include the missionary in worship. Invite the missionary to do the children's sermon during worship, preach, or give a stewardship/communion meditation.
- Involve missionaries in Conferences, Retreats, Annual Meetings, Regional Assemblies. Invite missionaries to provide leadership on mission, human rights and community development from a Christian perspective, or lead a spiritual development retreat.
- Plan informal gatherings at a church member's home on a weeknight, or for lunch. Large numbers are not important. Those who are interested will come.
- Invite the missionary to area church events, Regional/Conference committee meetings or events, citywide ministerial meetings.
- Invite the missionary to meet and brainstorm with your outreach/mission committee and to pray with your prayer group.
- Include the missionary in your evangelism team visits as you call on prospective members or visit those who are in jail.
- Meet with these church groups/task forces: church school classes, women's and men's fellowship groups, church governing board, youth groups, seniors' groups, groups addressing hunger, poverty, health, education, human right, refugee and immigration issues.

Partnership Ideas for Action….
A Global Mission Church
GIVES

In Global Church Partnerships, each partner has something to share. Each gives and receives. The gifts given and received by UCC and Disciples congregations have been many over the years. As we talk about gift giving, it is necessary to emphasize from the beginning, the importance of Disciples and UCC commitments to Disciples Mission Fund (DMF) and Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM). Without sustained support of these general offerings of our two denominations, it would be extremely difficult to maintain the current commitments and level of involvement with our International Partners around the globe which we now share. This is why we first encourage Disciples and UCC congregations to work towards giving 10% of their budget as a basic commitment to DMF or OCWM. We also encourage Disciples Regions and UCC Conferences to make giving to global mission a priority through the formulas they approve and follow for DMF and OCWM giving. Because "over and above" gift giving is often a part of a Global Church Partnership, it is equally important to clearly state the parameters and protocols for financial contributions through Global Ministries to approved programs or projects of International Partners in the Partnership agreement or covenant. The usual protocol is as follows:

- International Partners share their project priorities with their Global Ministries area executive.
- These projects are approved by the area executive and communicated to the Global Ministries Resource Development Office.
- A project profile is written and posted on the Global Ministries website: http://globalministries.org/give/
- Any funds for an approved project should be designated as such and sent through the Global Ministries Resource/Financial Development Office.
- At the appropriate time, 100% of those funds are sent electronically to the International Partner.
- Often times, Global Ministries area offices make bank transfers at periodic times during the year regrouping several transactions to a given International Partner so as not to accumulate unnecessary bank fees.
- All funds are accounted for by the International Partners through regular reporting.
- Periodic reports on the progress of projects are given upon request by the Resource Development Office.

Here are some other ideas for action in the area of giving:

Continue Your Regular Mission Giving:

- Strive to tithe to the wider church through DMF and OCWM remembering that connections we have had with international partner churches started as many as 200 years ago and will continue into the future through the work of Global Ministries.
- Participate in Week of Compassion (DOC) or One Great Hour of Sharing (UCC), and include education about the ministry this money provides throughout the year. Highlight projects and relief efforts in your Partner's region.
- Support the other Special Day offerings promoted by our two denominations.

Theology and Impact of Giving and Receiving

- Take time to study and reflect on the numerous perceptions of money: biblical, cultural, social, and political. Formulate your own theology of giving and receiving
- Read and discuss the following reflection, Empty Hands, by Frederick R. Wilson: When people approach one other with their hands full of gifts for each other, they cannot even shake hands or embrace in greeting, much less exchange their gifts, so long as their hands are full. First they must set these gifts aside in order to greet each other with empty hands. Given our constant struggle against the insidious temptations to incur gratitude and gain influence over others with our gifts, what better place on which to put these gifts when we approach each other than the altar at the foot of the Cross? Once we have each brought our gifts forward to that altar and placed them there as a genuine thank-you offering, we are then able to turn our backs on them and for that moment our hands are empty. We are now free to greet one another as sisters and brothers in Christ, to embrace, to walk and work together in witness and service, to laugh and cry together in joy and sorrow experienced in solidarity - and then to take from that same altar each according to our need The altar will have purified the gift of the inevitable lingering traces of manipulation and hunger for control. Each sister, each brother, becomes both a giver and a receiver after they have met and embraced one another with empty hands. (from Empty Hands, World Council of Churches Geneva, Switzerland, 1982)
- Read and discuss the following biblical reflection: "And they laid the cross on him, and made him carry it behind Jesus. Luke 23:26. The cross is a sign of solidarity. When we take up one another's crosses, God and human are working together. Solidarity means sharing the struggle of our partners, not fixing their problems. Simon didn't solve Jesus' problem, but he did make the load lighter. The load is lightened not primarily with money but with mutual friendship, prayer and expressions of love and concern - and assurances that partners are never alone. (Vermont Conference UCC)
- Ensure mutual respect in financial giving.
- Move from charity to justice; share gifts that are empowering and that don't create dependency.

Identifying Special Giving Projects:

- Identify an "over and above" giving project from those identified by Global Ministries which will benefit your Global Church Partner, the denomination or the region.
- Consider a range of possibilities: e.g. raising funds to support a feeding scheme; supporting a seminarian; providing travel scholarships for a visit; sponsoring a child, participating in a work trip.
- Work with Global Ministries Resource/Financial Development Office to determine which financial gifts and projects fit into the vision of both your Global Church Partnership and Global Ministries.
- Find out what new projects have been prioritized by our International Church Partners and area executives. Many of these are listed on the web at http://globalministries.org/get-involved/special-giving-opportunities/
- In many cases, Global Ministries can provide you with promotional material.
- Consider what projects your Partner might undertake that would benefit your Conference or Region. Share these ideas with your Global Church Partner.
- Remember that time and energy can be incorporated into a meaningful "gift."

Relief and Response Gifts:

- When disaster strikes in your Partner's country or region, find out how to receive and distribute emergency information throughout your Conference/Region. Contact Global Ministries to find out the best way to respond through One Great Hour of Sharing, Week of Compassion or a special appeal.

- Notify everyone in your Partnership network about the disaster response need.
- Sponsor a refugee family in your own community, from your Partner's country or the region.

Giving Guidelines for International Travelers:

- Be aware that as a guest in a host church you are the receiver, not the bearer, of gifts. Truly, the need is great and the resources are scarce. You might feel compelled to put your hand in your pocket, even if you are not asked. Learn to accept the hospitality and friendship of your host graciously. Be open to the many gifts they offer you - their insight to the Christian faith, their strength in adversity, their joy in living. Your willingness to receive what they have to offer is the highest compliment you can pay them.
- No matter how great the need may appear to be, do not let the impulse of the moment prompt you to offer assistance. Your visit is not meant to be an occasion for establishing direct financial links between you or your group and a local individual, institution, or congregation. Global Ministries works with our International Partners to establish healthy and helpful means of sharing resources. What we as North Americans may intend as a spontaneous expression of generosity on our part - we who have so much - may be demeaning to those who do not have our abundance. Your host, like most people in other cultures, will highly value your willingness to learn about them and understand them. An open, friendly and humble attitude will be more appreciated than a display, even well meaning, of your abundance.
- Respond courteously without making a commitment at any time. Do not promise something you cannot deliver, then or in the future, to get out of an embarrassing situation. The person making the request probably does not expect an immediate response from you. Furthermore, some conversation about the circumstances prompting the request may be in order with some general expression on your part of understanding and sympathy regarding the need. You may want to say that you would like to talk with some other persons about this - your group leader, some host church leaders, a Global Ministries staff person, a missionary, etc.
- Always consult with a Global Ministries staff person or someone who knows the local situation well about the request(s) you may receive, or regarding any monetary gift(s) you may be moved to give. Visitors must be very careful about selective generosity. A gift to a particular person, group, or congregation can create difficulties for the local church or community leadership. Most of all, in a situation where the economy has deteriorated, you might be disempowering the people by solving an immediate problem that is the product of a larger economic problem for which they need to find alternatives. You may also be unintentionally promoting a dependency on external assistance. Moreover, those who request assistance may not be those who most need assistance, for some people are better at, and more willing to request help than others. Partner churches and programs usually know who is in most need in their midst, and have priorities for the use of any assistance that may come their way. Once you are home, if you wish, the Global Ministries Resource/Financial Development Office will work cooperatively with the respective area office in channeling any monetary gift you would like to make, in such a way as to avoid any hint of disempowerment and/or dependency.

Partnership Ideas for Action…
A Global Mission Church
SENDS

Exchanges of people are an important aspect of Global Church Partnerships. You might want to plan an initial pilgrimage to visit your Partner to develop and sign together your Partnership agreement. When planning a visit to your Partner church, contact Global Ministries staff in the People-to-People Pilgrimage Program office for assistance and ideas. The People-to-People coordinator works with both Global Ministries area offices and the officials of the International Partner organization to which your Global Church Partner belongs. As your Global Church Partnership develops there might be an opportunity for individuals with certain skill sets and gifts to go and serve in volunteer assignments with your International Partner. By contacting the Mission Personnel office, you can find out about short and long-term volunteer opportunities with your International Partner, as well as any fully supported assignments which might be available. Here are some other action ideas for sending

Ideas for People-to-People Pilgrimages:

- Exposure Trips: Visit your Global Church Partner on a mission exposure trip focusing on in-depth cultural, religious and educational experiences. Consider including opportunities for classes and discussions of social, political, cultural, religious, and economic realities
- Theme Trips: Plan a trip "with a theme," such as a medical mission, a trip to teach in a Vacation Bible School, a shared pastors' retreat, or a work trip. A group of medical personnel might visit medical facilities and providers, perhaps sharing in workshops together on topics of mutual interest.
- Youth Trips: Youth delegations and exchanges can focus on friendship and learning. Youth will meet one another and share in cultural, religious, and social experiences together.
- Solidarity Trips: Global Church Partners might travel together on a trip to stand in solidarity with another international church partner in a situation of political turmoil, e.g. participate in a World Council of Churches sponsored trip to the Middle East.
- Joint Work trips: Global Church Partners may meet in a third country of their region and share in a work project. For example, partners can participate in the El Salvador Reconstruction Project, living and working side-by-side. A work trip might include a visit with the international church partner in the third country
- Holy Land Pilgrimages: Global Church partners may journey together to Palestine, Israel and/or Turkey to visit with international church partners and missionaries, and to share in a pilgrimage to religious sites.

Orientation:

- Orientation is critical to a successful international People-to-People pilgrimage. It is a time when a group can grow together as members, get to know one another, and learn about the partner and the partner's country. The People-to-People office will provide some basic orientation materials. If possible, it is helpful to have each participant (or at least the leader) go through the Ministries and Mission Interpretation training by Global Ministries. Contact the Mission Interpretation staff to get information about the next training near you.
- *People, Places and Partnerships*: this workbook provides tips on planning and undertaking a meaningful international mission trip. Sections include what to pack, health concerns, how to relate to people, and how you can report back about your experience. Provide each participant with a copy. (Available at $3.00 per copy.)

- Plan regularly scheduled orientation meetings for the group participants at least 6 to 12 months before the trip dates.
- Do a "trial" work project together at a church other than the one(s) trip participants are from-involve a third party and highlight the need for flexibility!
- Take care of logistics, paper work and documents. Collect EVERYTHING in advance. Make copies.
- Include cross-cultural elements - at least four hours worth. These exercises let a leader see how the group works/functions together.
- Have each team member research a palticular aspect of the country (religion, politics/government, economics, culture, food, geography, etc.) for a brief presentation. This involves everyone, divides the learning among the group, and makes it fun.
- Packing exercise - Each person must be able to carry their own bags. They can't depend on wheels, as there won't always be smooth surfaces. Walk around the block with full bags-including everything. Discuss what can be left behind.
- Identify a "Person of Confidence" in your partner church. You will need someone to whom you can direct cultural and social questions.

Involve the Whole Church:

- Involve youth and children through activities.
- For those who can't go along, offer the opportunity to sponsor a trip participant through prayer and financial support.
- Create a trip blog and post daily journal entries and photos during the trip and make sure all church members have a link to the blog before you leave.

Pre-Travel Resources for Reading and Research

- Explore and use a variety of resources. Many of these items are available through the People-to-People office in Indianapolis.
- Read a common text and discuss as a group. Chalice Press, Pilgrim Press and Cokesbury provide numerous resources on mission, our global connections and Christianity around the world.
- Study a book by a missionary or a citizen of the country of your partnership, or about your partner's country.
- Use children's books from your partner's country.
- Christian Women's Fellowship staff can provide material for the annual international study curriculum
- Center for Disease Control has information on health and shots. http://wwwn.cdc.gov/travel/
- Provide a reading list to trip participants.
- *Having an Excellent Adventure: A Handbook for Responsible Travel*: Friendship Press, New York. This is a helpful guide for planners and travelers, providing numerous activities and articles.
- *Entering a Second Culture*, by Susan Monte-Soldwisch, 1998, contains a series of exercises for use in an orientation program.
- *Multi-Cultural Hymn Reference List* for both the Chalice Hymnal and the New Century Hymnal.
- *Experiment in International Living Leaders Manual*, EIL, Brattleboro, VT, 802-257-7751 eil@worldlearning.org

Trip Practices and Disciplines

- Include a reflection/debriefing time each night.

- Each person might lead devotions one day, choosing readings (scripture or other), songs and prayers. Have a person be the "chaplain of the day."
- Daily reflection time is important for debriefing issues within the team and in the daily run of life wherever you are.
- Use a prayer book such as, *Prayers to Protest; Poems that Center and Bless Us*, by Jeanne Lohmann, Pudding House Publishers.
- Designate a group musician and a song leader, bringing along music.
- Learn one song by heart to sing wherever you are and to share with your host. (Often a group will be asked to "present" at a gathering.)
- Include music in your group's daily devotions.
- Learn a hymn or song in the language of your partner.
- Flexibility is the key quality required of all participants on any mission pilgrimage.

Journaling:

- Order from the People-to-People Pilgrimage office enough copies for each trip participant of *Seeing the face of Christ in our global partners: Mission Pilgrimage Journal.*
- Provide time on a daily basis for journaling.
- Start your journals during the orientation period.
- Share your reflections with your local congregation and the wider church. Please send any reflections, poems, prayers, sermons, trip reports, photos, and any other partnership-related material you think others will benefit from seeing, to Global Ministries to share on the web and through printed sources.
- Write in a bound notebook. Write on loose paper. Write on a computer. Use a blog format. Write on anything that lasts. Figure out some way to keep your writing together.
- Distinguish between observations and inferences. A good place to start is with your first reactions to what you have observed. What feelings are evoked? Do you feel: Surprise? Like? Dislike? Anger? Joy? Bewilderment? Awe? Inspiration? Disgust? Energy? Fear? Hope? Describe, if you recall, why you feel as you do. Express any questions or confusions that come to mind as best you can.
- Sketches can be included in a journal entry for those artistically inclined, but shouldn't completely supplant interpretative words. Photographs can be added later, or immediately if the technology is available.
- In a group experience, much growth takes place through sharing. This can take the form of reading selected passages from one's own journal in a group setting. It can also take the form of a summary written report, distilling the contents of several or many journal entries.

Sharing After a the Pilgrimage:

- Ask trip participants to write and share worship resources (prayers, litanies, children's messages) based on their experiences.
- Share news of the trip, including photos, through newsletters and your Partnership web page.
- Send material to Global Ministries so your experiences can be shared with the wider church.

Partnership Ideas for Action…
A Global Mission Church
GROWS

A Global Church Partnership enables all participants to grow in their understanding of God's global mission. One way to make a commitment to grow is to become a Ministries and Mission Interpreter (MMI) for Global Ministries in your Disciples Region or UCC Conference.

A Ministries and Mission Interpreter (MMI) is a person who:

- has a passion for learning about God's mission
- tells the story of Global Ministries in our churches, Regions and Conferences
- motivates and trains others to be involved in global mission
- links the interest of an individual or congregation with resources and opportunities through Global Ministries
- works within existing Region/Conference committees and communication networks
- builds and participates in the national MMI network

An MMI serves by:

- utilizing Global Ministries resources, videos, websites and staff in one's own continuing mission education
- inter-relating with Region or Conference staff, boards, and mission or outreach committees
- making mission visible at Association/District meetings, Conference annual meetings and Disciples regional assemblies
- presenting mission stories in individual conversations, small groups, worship or special programs
- sharing articles with church or denominational websites, newsletters, or list serves
- finding ways to fit mission into Conference/ Region ministry goals and structures

If you are interested in serving as an MMI in your Region or Conference, contact the Mission Interpretation staff to learn about the next training opportunity.

Reading List

- Global Ministries Area Offices can provide a list of reading materials for a general introduction to their Area or for specific countries.
- *Beyond the White Noise: Mission in a Multicultural World*, by Tom Montgomery-Fate, Chalice Press "A 'must' for group leaders who are racially/culturally white North Americans. "
- *Having an Excellent Adventure: A Handbook for Responsible Travel*, Friendship Press, NY, 1992. A helpful guide for trip planners and travelers with numerous activities and articles. The 20-minute video, *Planning an Excellent Adventure*, accompanies the how-to workbook. Available from Presbyterian Publishing House (800-2272872 ext.!)
- *The Learning Spirit: Lessons from South Africa*, by Ana Gobledale, Chalice Press, 1994. Reflections from a missionary living in apartheid-era South Africa.
- *"Beyond Good Intentions: Short-term Mission Trips,"* by Paul Jeffrey, Christian Century, Dec. 12, 2001, pages 5-7.
- "The Cost of Short-term Missions," by Jo Ann van Engen, The Other Side, Jan. 2000, pages 20-23.

- *Survival Guide for Overseas Living: For Americans Planning to Live and Work Abroad*, by Robert Kohl. Provides helpful ideas and exercises to ease a move into a new culture.
- *Transforming Mission: Paradigm Shifts in Theology of Mission*, David J. Bosch, Orbis Books, 1991.
- *Mission & Ministry in the Global Church*, Anthony Bellagamba, Orbis Books, 1992

Global Ministries Program Staff

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

Our Addresses:

DOM/Global Ministries
130 East Washington Street
P. O. Box 1986 (46206)
Indianapolis, IN 46204
(317) 713-2575
dom@disciples.org

WCM/Global Ministries
700 Prospect Avenue
7th Floor
Cleveland, OH 44115-1100
(216) 736-3202
wcm@ucc.org

Our Leaders:

David A. Vargas (Indy)
President, DOM
Co-executive, GM
(317) 713-2577
dvargas@dom.disciples.org

Cally Rogers-Witte (Clev)
Executive Minister, WCM
Co-executive, GM
(216) 736-3201
rogersc@ucc.org

Missionary Opportunities:

(fully-supported missionaries, Global Mission Interns, long-term volunteers, missionary relationships, missionaries to the U.S./Canada, missionary-in-residence, associates)

Julia Brown Karimu, Executive (Indy) (317) 713-2566
jkarimu@dom.disciples.org

Short-term Volunteer Opportunities:

(assignments range from three weeks to one year)

LaMarco Cable (Indy) (317) 713-2574
lcable@dom.disciples.org

Mission Interpretation, Education and Constituency Relationships:

(global church partnerships, Global Ministries updates and audio/visual resources, Ministries and Mission Interpreters Training, staff pairing with regions/conferences, General Assembly/Synod displays, etc.)

Bob Shebeck, Executive (Indy)
(317) 713-2571
bshebeck@dom.disciples.org

Jan Aerie, Executive (Clev)
(216) 736-3204
aeriej@ucc.org

Advocacy and Education:

LaMarco Cable
Program Associate (Indy)
(317) 713-2574
lcable@dom.disciples.org

Derek Duncan
Program Associate (Clev)
(216) 736-3220
duncand@ucc.org

People to People Pilgrimages:

(group mission trips, hands-on overseas experiences, etc.)

Maria E. Cruzado, Coordinator (Indy) (317) 713-2565
mcruzado@dom.disciples.org

Global Ministries Webpage:

Marcy Dory, Program Associate (Clev) (216) 736-3209
dorym@ucc.org

Africa:

Sandra Gourdet, Area Executive (Indy) (317) 713-2551
sgourdet@dom.disciples.org

East Asia and Pacific:

Xiaoling Zhu, Area Executive (Clev) (216) 736-3226
zhux@ucc.org

Middle East and Europe:

Peter Makari, Area Executive (Clev) (216) 736-3227
makarip@ucc.org

Latin America and Caribbean:

Felix Ortiz-Cotto, Area Executive (Indy) (317) 713-2563
fortiz@dom.disciples.org

Southern Asia:

James Vijayakumar, Area Executive (Clev) (216) 736-3228
vijayj@ucc.org

Child Sponsorship Program:

($25.00 to $30.00 monthly and there is no administrative fee!)

Linda Lawrence, Program Administrator (Clev)(216) 736-3222
lawrencl@ucc.org

Treasury Services:

Nancy Pickell
DOM Treasurer (Indy)
(317) 713-2557
npickell@dom.disciples.org

Ann Kiernozek
WCM Treasurer (Clev)
(216) 736-3206
kiernoza@ucc.org

Resource Development (Indy), Financial Development (Clev):

(opportunities to financially support Global Ministries' presence and witness)

Jane Sullivan-Davis
Executive (Indy)
(317) 713-2558
janesd@dom.disciples.org

David Coatsworth
Executive (Clev)
(216) 736-3205
coatswod@ucc.org

Sarah Riester, Program Associate (317) 713-2564
sriester@dom.disciples.org

David Owen, Associate (512) 743-6945
(deployed in Austin, TX)
dowen@dom.disciples.org

Other Partnered Ministries:

Week of Compassion, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Amy Gopp, Executive Director (Indy) (317) 713-2450
agopp@woc.disciples.org

Brandon Gilvin, Associate Director (Indy) (317) 835-1275
bgilvin@woc.disciples.org

One Great Hour of Sharing, United Church of Christ

Susan Sanders (216) 736-3210
Team Leader (Clev)
sanderss@ucc.org

Phyllis Richards (216) 736-3215
Program Associate (Clev)
richardsp@ucc.org

Mary Schaller Blaufuss (216) 736-3214
Executive, Volunteer Ministries (Clev)
blaufusm@ucc.org

Florence Coppola (216) 736-3211
Executive, National Disaster Ministries (Clev)
coppolaf@ucc.org

Mike Schuenemeyer (216) 736-3217
Executive, Health and Wholeness Advocacy (Clev)
schuenem@ucc.org

Jennifer Riggs
Director of Refugee and
Immigration Ministries (Indy)
(317) 713-2643
jriggs@dhm.disciples.org

Mary Kuenning Gross
Executive
Refugee Ministries (Clev)
(216) 736-3212
grossm@ucc.org

Notes: