

BE A GLOBAL MISSION CONGREGATION



DISCIPLES *IDEAS FOR ACTION* AND *COMMITMENT*



GLOBAL MINISTRIES

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

Be a Global Mission Congregation: *Ideas for Action*

We are glad that you have accepted the challenge to be a Global Mission Congregation. You are about to begin a transformative journey as God extends your relationships beyond our national boundaries to the ends of the earth. Here are some steps to consider:

STEP 1: GATHER a team to coordinate the Be a Global Mission Congregation process. Is there an existing mission committee in your congregation or can you gather a few individuals who have a passion for global mission? (See page 3 of the “Be a Global Mission Church” booklet for more initial questions to consider.)

STEP 2: LEARN about Disciples global mission heritage and current mission strategy. How much do you know about what Disciples are doing around the world in global mission? Have you seen the *Connecting Threads* DVD which gives an overview of that work? (See pages 4-6 of the “Be a Global Mission Church” booklet to read a short history of Disciples global mission involvement with some discussion questions.)

STEP 3: EVALUATE your current global mission involvement and discern your congregation’s launching point. What is your congregation already doing in global mission? What are the strengths and weaknesses? What should you continue? What new areas would you like to investigate? (See pages 7-11 of the “Be a Global Mission Church” booklet for more Global Mission Evaluative Questions and the three different launching points which are offered.)

STEP 4: CREATE your package of global mission involvement by completing the checklist of ideas for action which follows. How will your evaluation and new interests shape the ideas that you want to pursue in this next phase of global mission? Here is how to proceed:

- **Start** by checking off the list what your congregation is already committed to doing in global mission. Notice that there is an “other idea” line under each category which enables you to include commitments that are not listed, but that are important to your congregation.
- **Continue** by choosing a few ideas for action that seem to be realistic for your congregation at this point on your journey.
- **Finally**, don’t forget to give yourself a challenge or two that really push you out of your comfort zone and to the ends of the earth.

STEP 5: COMMIT to a specific plan of action in partnership with Global Ministries by completing the commitment statement at the end of this document. Consider working on these ideas for action over the next three years. You will need to establish measurable objectives for the implementation of each idea, including target dates and names of the people who will be responsible for carrying out the objectives. At the end of the three year period, you will want to plan an evaluation and begin another cycle.

Global Ministries would like to recognize your congregation with a certificate presented in person during Sunday morning worship and to celebrate this important step in the life of your congregation. Contact Bob Shebeck 317-713-2571 or bshebeck@dom.disciples.org to talk about possible dates. We look forward to walking with you on this journey.

Checklist of Ideas for Action for a Disciples CONGREGATION

Church name: _____ Date: _____

Church address: _____

Pastor: _____ E-mail & Phone: _____

Mission Chair: _____ E-mail & Phone: _____

A Global Mission Congregation...

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

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

- ___ a. Distribute the monthly Global Ministries mission story (download at www.globalministries.org) as a worship bulletin insert, an article in the congregational newsletter, an all-church e-mail or listserve, a posting or link on your congregation's website...
- ___ b. Incorporate a global component into worship on a monthly basis, such as: a mission moment or PowerPoint, a letter from a missionary, a scripture reading or prayer in another language, sermon illustration, an international hymn, song or other liturgical elements...
- ___ c. Pray weekly for a Global Ministries missionary, international partner church or organization, global issues and concerns...
- ___ d. Other prayer idea:

Staff Contact for 1 a, b & c: Bob Shebeck 317-713-2571 bshebeck@dom.disciples.org

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

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect. Romans 12:2

- ___ a. Emphasize global mission at least once a year with children and youth: church school, Vacation Bible School, youth group, retreat, camp...
- ___ b. Offer a global mission class utilizing the *Connecting Threads Around the World Through Global Ministries* DVD and study guide and/or create and maintain a visible Global Ministries bulletin board.

___ c. Organize an annual global mission educational event using Global Ministries resources and/or a speaker.

___ d. Other educational idea:

Staff Contact for 2 a, b & c: Bob Shebeck 317-713-2571 bshebeck@dom.disciples.org

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

What does the Lord require of you? To act justly and love mercy and to walk humbly with your God. Micah 6:8

___ a. Establish or revitalize a functioning Global Mission and Advocacy committee.

___ b. Educate and mobilize a group in your congregation each year on at least one specific Global Ministries advocacy issue.

___ c. Send at least one member of your congregation to the Ecumenical Advocacy Days in Washington D.C.

___ d. Other advocacy idea:

Staff Contact for 3 a: Bob Shebeck 317-713-2571 bshebeck@dom.disciples.org

Staff Contact for 3 b & c: Angela Balfour 317-713-2550 abalfour@dom.disciples.org

4. RECEIVES the gifts of the global church.

At the present time your plenty will supply what they need, so that in turn their plenty will supply what you need. Then there will be equality. 2 Corinthians 8:14

___ a. Start or renew a communication relationship with your region’s missionary through Global Ministries Missionary Relationship Program.

___ b. Host a missionary visit in your congregation.

___ c. Work with your region or a cluster of congregations, Disciples of Christ and/or United Church of Christ in your area to establish a long-term relationship with one of Global Ministries’ international church partners or organizations.

___ d. Other receiving idea:

Staff Contact for 4 a & b: Julia Brown-Karimu 317-713-2566 jkarimu@dom.disciples.org

Staff Contact for 4 c: Bob Shebeck 317-713-2571 bshebeck@dom.disciples.org

5. GIVES to the work of global mission.

Just as you excel in everything...see that you also excel in this grace of giving.
2 Corinthians 8:7

- ___ a. Create a plan to work towards giving a tithe, such as a target minimum of 10% of your total church budget to Disciples Mission Fund (DMF) and promoting the Special Day Offerings and Week of Compassion.
- ___ b. Sponsor a child through Global Ministries Child Sponsorship Program.
- ___ c. Support global mission through “over and above” gifts to Global Ministries for a special designated project or specific missionary support.
- ___ d. Other giving idea:

Staff Contact for 5 a & c: Jane Sullivan-Davis 317-713-2558 janesd@dom.disciples.org
Staff Contact for 5 b: Linda Lawrence 216-736-3222 lawrencl@ucc.org

6. SENDS its members into the world to share the Good News of Jesus.

How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, Your God reigns! Isaiah 52:7

- ___ a. Encourage church members who travel overseas, to visit Global Ministries missionaries and international partners.
- ___ b. Involve a group from your congregation in a People-to-People Pilgrimage - the Global Ministries group mission trip program.
- ___ c. Send one or more of your congregation’s members as a volunteer missionary to serve with one of Global Ministries’ international partners.
- ___ d. Other sending idea:

Staff Contact for 6 a & c: Angela Balfour 317-713-2550 abalfour@dom.disciples.org
Staff Contact 6 b: Maria Cruzado 317-713-2565 mcruzado@dom.disciples.org

7. GROWS in sharing the story of God’s mission with others.

Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Galatians 6:9

- ___ a. Designate at least one member of your congregation (mission committee chair or member, lay minister, pastor, etc.) to participate in the Ministries and Mission Interpreters (MMI) training offered by Global Ministries and to be actively involved in the MMI network in telling the story and connecting congregations to global mission.

- ___ b. Organize a joint global mission event with another Disciples of Christ and/or United Church of Christ congregation in your area for the purpose of learning and sharing about God's mission together.
- ___ c. Have at least one of your congregation' members involved in supporting your region's global mission efforts, such as: serve on regional mission committee, coordinate a missionary visit to the region, help develop a partnership with an international partner, use the region's communication tools to promote global mission, organize a region/conference Ministries and Mission Interpreters (MMI) training workshop...
- ___ d. Other growing idea:

Staff Contact for 7 a, b, c and d: Bob Shebeck 317-713-2571 bshebeck@dom.disciples.org

List your implementation objectives, target dates and responsibilities here:

Please return a copy of the completed ideas for action checklist to:



*Bob Shebeck
c/o DOM/Global Ministries
PO Box 1986
Indianapolis, IN 46206-1986
317-713-2571
bshebeck@dom.disciples.org*

Be a Global Mission Congregation: *Commitment*

Global Ministries staff commits to walking with your congregation as it seeks to be a Global Mission Congregation within the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Bob Shebeck, Executive of Mission Interpretation and Constituency Relationships, will be your primary contact person as you have questions and seek to discern how God would have you engage in global mission.

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

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

David Vargas
President, DOM and
Co-executive, Global Ministries

Date

Bob Shebeck
Executive, Mission Interpretation
and Constituency Relationships

_____ Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) commits to being and sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ from our doorsteps to the ends of the earth, and also to receiving that same Good News from international mission partners around the world in a reciprocal relationship.

We have prayerfully discerned how God would have us be involved in Christ's global mission in covenantal partnership with Global Ministries and have chosen _____ ideas for action to implement over the next three years.

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

Pastor/Minister

Date

Mission Chair/Board Chair

Church name: _____

Church address: _____

Church E-mail & Phone: _____

Please return a copy of the completed commitment form to:



*Bob Shebeck
c/o DOM/Global Ministries
PO Box 1986
Indianapolis, IN 46206-1986
317-713-2571
bshebeck@dom.disciples.org*