

# BE A GLOBAL MISSION CONFERENCE OR ASSOCIATION



## UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST *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 Conference or Association: *Ideas for Action*

An important note for United Church of Christ Conferences and Associations:

We are excited that your conference or association has decided to undertake the *Be a Global Mission Conference* process. With your intentional support, the congregations of your conference will be able to go farther in their global mission involvement. We have designed this workbook so that congregations and conferences can follow the same basic steps. The first three steps are identical. Just substitute “conference” every time you see the word “congregation” or “church.” When you get to steps 4 and 5, turn to APPENDIX A: *Be a Global Mission CONFERENCE* (which can easily be adapted for associations), where you will find ideas for action specifically designed for conferences. There you can create a package of global mission involvement for your conference and commit to a plan of action in partnership with Global Ministries. We look forward to walking with you through this process!

We are glad you have accepted the challenge to *Be a Global Mission CONFERENCE*.

Before you go any farther, please consider the following:

- **Gather** a team to coordinate the *Be a Global Mission Conference* process. (see step 1 on page 3).
- **Learn** about the United Church of Christ global mission heritage and our current mission strategy. (See step 2 on page 4-5).
- **Evaluate** your conference’s global mission involvement and determine your launching point (See step 3 on pages 6-10).

Now you are ready to **Create** a package of global mission involvement tailored to your region’s interests from the **Checklist of Ideas for Action for United Church of Christ CONFERENCES** on the following pages.

- Remember to start by marking what your conference is already committed to doing in global mission. There is an “other idea” option under each category which enables you to include ideas that are not explicitly listed.
- Choose a few ideas that seem to be realistic for your conference at this point on your journey. Try to apply your ideas for action over all seven categories.
- Don’t forget to give the conference a few challenges that has it interrelate to the ends of the earth.

Consider working on these ideas for action over the next three years. At the end of that three year period, evaluate and then begin to plan another cycle. If you would like to contact a Global Ministries staff person to ask a question about any of these ideas for action, you can go to [www.globalministries.org](http://www.globalministries.org) under *Be a Global Mission Church* and download the *Be a Global Mission CONFERENCE: United Church of Christ Criteria and Commitment Form*. In this document you will find the name and contact information of the staff responsible for each action idea.

These are some benchmarks to target in creating your package of mission involvement in becoming a *Global Mission Conference*:

**Starting in Mission:** choose **3 to 5** ideas for action

**Growing in Mission:** choose **6 to 9** ideas for action

**Celebrating Mission:** choose at least **10** ideas for action

# **Checklist of Ideas for Action for** **UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST CONFERENCES**

## **A Global Mission CONFERENCE ...**

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

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

- \_\_\_ a. Create a global mission page on the conference's website with prayer information and regular updates on the missionaries, mission partners and global mission projects of the conference, as well as a link to [www.globalministries.org](http://www.globalministries.org).
- \_\_\_ b. Use the conference's all-church e-mail distribution list to send out the weekly prayer suggestion found on the Global ministries website, or periodic Global Ministries updates, along with a reminder to download the monthly global mission bulletin inserts from the Global Ministries website.
- \_\_\_ c. Encourage congregations to use the Calendar of Prayer for worship, study, or personal prayers.
- \_\_\_ d. Other prayer ideas:

*Staff Contact a: Marcy Dory at 216-736-3209 or email [dorym@ucc.org](mailto:dorym@ucc.org)*

*Staff Contact b: Jan Aerie at 216-736-3204 or email [aeriej@ucc.org](mailto:aeriej@ucc.org)*

### **2. EDUCATES its members about global issues from preschool age to adult: Romans 12:2**

- \_\_\_ a. Devote a column in the conference newspaper for regular news and reflections from the conference's missionary(ies) or international mission partners, or the mission stories from the Global Ministries website and print materials.
- \_\_\_ b. Invite Global Ministries to participate in your conference annual meeting or other conference gatherings a global mission theme, keynote speaker, worship leader, display, and workshop topics.
- \_\_\_ c. Other educational ideas:

*Staff Contact a & b: Jan Aerie at 216 736 3204 or email [aeriej@ucc.org](mailto:aeriej@ucc.org)*

**3. SEEKS JUSTICE for the “least of these” in the international community:  
Micah 6:8**

- \_\_\_ a. Establish or renew a conference global mission committee/team empowered to coordinate involvement in justice issues and concerns. Encourage local congregations to enter into the *Be a Global Mission Church* process.
- \_\_\_ b. Choose a global advocacy issue for the entire conference and develop a plan to educate and mobilize your congregations around this issue for the year.
- \_\_\_ c. Sign up to send messages to members of Congress and the government on justice issues: [www.ucctakeaction.org](http://www.ucctakeaction.org).
- \_\_\_ d. Other advocacy ideas:

*Staff Contact a: Jan Aerie at 216 736 3204 or email [aeriej@ucc.org](mailto:aeriej@ucc.org)*

*Staff Contact b: Derek Duncan at 216 736 3220 or email [duncand@ucc.org](mailto:duncand@ucc.org)*

**4. RECEIVES the gifts of the global church: 2 Corinthians 8:14**

- \_\_\_ a. Develop a process for regular communication with the conference’s missionary(ies) and have a designated person, or group, responsible for coordinating the missionary visits in the conference.
- \_\_\_ b. Establish or continue a long-term relationship with one of Global Ministries’ International mission partners. Host reciprocal visits and other activities with partners.
- \_\_\_ c. Other receiving ideas:

*Staff Contact a: Julia Brown-Karimu at 317 713 2566 or email [jkarimu@dom.disciples.org](mailto:jkarimu@dom.disciples.org)*

*Staff Contact b Jan Aerie at 216 736 3204 or email [aeriej@ucc.org](mailto:aeriej@ucc.org)*

**5. GIVES to the work of global mission: 2 Corinthians 8:7**

- \_\_\_ a. Make giving to global mission a priority through the Our Church’s Wider Mission and the promotion of One Great Hour of sharing offering and special appeals for national and international disasters.
- \_\_\_ b. Consider a missionary appointment or a special project through Global Ministries for the conference churches to work on together.
- \_\_\_ c. Other giving ideas:

*Staff Contact a & b: Jane Sullivan-Davis at 317 713 2558  
or email [janesd@dom.disciples.org](mailto:janesd@dom.disciples.org)*

## **6. SENDS its members overseas to share the Good News: Isaiah 52:7**

- \_\_\_ a. Send a group from the conference on a People-to-People pilgrimage, Global Ministries' group mission trip program. Consider visiting your conference's missionary and the global partner with whom he or she serves.
- \_\_\_ b. Send at least one person from your conference to be a volunteer missionary to serve with a global or US partner or missionary through WCM or Global Ministries.
- \_\_\_ c. Other sending ideas:

*Staff Contact for a: Maria Cruzado at 317 713 2565*

*or mcruzado@dom.disciples.org*

*Staff Contact global b: Julia Brown Karimu at 317 713 2566*

*or email jkarimu@dom.disciples.org*

*Staff contact for U.S. b: Mary Schaller Blaufuss at 216 736 3214 or email blaufusm@ucc.org*

## **7. GROWS in sharing the story of God's mission with others: Galatians 6:9**

- \_\_\_ a. Organize a meeting with appropriate Disciples region staff or committee to share what your conference is doing in mission, then talk about how you might start or continue mission work together.
- \_\_\_ b. Develop a strategy for a Ministries and Mission Interpretation (MMI) network in the Conference and organize a joint conference/region Ministries and Mission Interpreters (MMI) training for the purpose of equipping the conference mission committee members, as well as the pastors and mission chairs of local congregations throughout the conference.
- \_\_\_ c. Share with Global Ministries staff what your conference is already doing in global mission. Offer other ideas for action which may link that involvement to an existing Global Ministries project, program, missionary, or partner in a particular country.
- \_\_\_ d. Other ideas for growth:

*Staff Contact for a & b: Jan Aerie at 216 736 3204 or email aeriej@ucc.org*

**or by area office for 7 b:**

*Africa: Sandra Gourdet*

*317-713-2551*

*sgourdet@dom.disciples.org*

*East Asia & Pacific: Xiaoling Zhu*

*216-736-3226*

*zhux@ucc.org*

*Latin America & Caribbean: Felix Ortiz*

*317-713-2561*

*fortiz@dom.disciples.org*

*Middle East & Europe: Peter Makari*

*216-737-3227*

*makarip@ucc.org*

*Southern Asia: James Vijayakumar*

*216-736-3228*

*vijayj@ucc.org*

Congratulations! You have made it to the end of this evaluation and planning process for being affirmed as a ***Global Mission Conference***.

As you create your action plan for implementing the ideas for actions that you have chosen, you will need to establish measurable objectives for the implementation of each idea, including target dates and names of the people who will carry out the objectives. You will also want to plan an annual evaluation of your progress.

Please take the time to download from [www.globalministries.org](http://www.globalministries.org) the ***Be a Global Mission Church: United Church of Christ Conference Criteria and Commitment form***. Please complete the form, make a copy for Global Ministries and send it to the address that is provided.

Global Ministries would like to recognize your conference with a certificate presented in person to your conference during a conference annual meeting, board meeting or other appropriate setting. Contact the United Church of Christ point person today at 216 736 3204 or [wcm@ucc.org](mailto:wcm@ucc.org) to talk about possible dates.

Now it's time to roll up your sleeves and go to work on the plan that 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.