



BE A GLOBAL MISSION CHURCH

INTRODUCTION

Global Ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the United Church of Christ invites you to become a Global Mission Church! This is an opportunity to reach out beyond national boundaries and engage in God's transforming mission with the international community.

The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the United Church of Christ have passed resolutions at the Disciples General Assembly and UCC's General Synod affirming our two denominations' commitment to being a Global Mission Church. This workbook is a tool to help all expressions of our two churches faithfully live out that commitment to God's global mission with the accompaniment of Global Ministries.

The Global Mission Church initiative can propel a congregation into new global relationships or affirm engagements already in place. Whether your next step is to pray regularly for a mission co-worker, advocate for justice alongside global partners, or plan a People-to-People pilgrimage, being a Global Mission Church will challenge you to grow in your commitment to God's world.

We are grateful for your partnership in God's global mission and we look forward to walking with you in claiming your identity as a Global Mission Church. Together, we are meeting God's people and creation at the point of deepest need as we accompany our global partners in life-giving ministry.

GATHER AND LEARN

Gather a small group together to go through this study. This could be a mission committee, outreach committee, church council, Sunday School class, Elders, Deacons, Pastors... anyone really! Together, you will discern your congregation's commitment to global mission and desire to become a Global Mission Church through Global Ministries. Please note that only congregations affiliated with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the United Church of Christ can receive this designation.

We do recommend letting your pastor know that you are planning to start this study and make sure they are kept informed about the process.

REFLECT

- What connections do I have to the international community?
- What regions, countries, or cities have always interested me?

As individuals share about connections and interests, try to write them down on a dry erase board or a large sheet of paper for everyone to see. If you're extra prepared, you may even want to get a [scratch-off map](#) to use in this activity.

Read **1 John 4:7** together. Pray together that you may discern as a group the ways in which God is calling you to walk in ministry with God's people around the world.

DISCUSS

- What church leadership might you include to help discern being a Global Mission Church?
- Are there any individuals and groups in the church that could be involved in this process, too? (Former mission co-workers, youth, mission/outreach committee, people excited about global mission?)
- What do we already know about Global Ministries?

LEARN

- Read the [Global Ministries 101](#) document together. Share what you learned. Did anything surprise you? Did anything inspire you?
- Commit as a group to memorize the five core values before the next meeting.

PRAY

Holy One, thank you for bringing us together as we discern ways that we can walk alongside your people all over the world. Show us the ways in which we are uniquely equipped to share in community, presence, mutuality, justice, and peace as we work toward a world in which all of your people and creation share in your abundant life. Thank you for loving us and showing us how to love. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.

EVALUATE MISSION INVOLVEMENT

REFLECT

Read Matthew 5:1-16 two times using two different readers. Have the group listen deeply for what words or phrases stood out to them during the readings.

Read the scripture one more time, perhaps even in another language if someone in the group speaks another language. Ask the group to imagine this blessing going out to people all over the world – in places like Ecuador and Sri Lanka and Lebanon and Ghana and Japan.

PRAY

Holy One, we are grateful for the many ways you share your love with your people. Open our eyes to the many ways we receive and share love with your blessed children all over the world. Help us to discern together how we can be a city on a hill and let your light shine through us. Amen.

DISCUSS

Many churches are already involved in global mission. As you continue on the path to be a Global Mission Church, take the time to celebrate your mission involvement.

- How is our church involved globally?
- How do we financially support the global mission efforts of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the United Church of Christ? This may include the Disciples Mission Fund/Our Church's Wider Mission, Week of Compassion/One Great Hour of Sharing, disaster appeals, gifts to Global Ministries, etc. What other overseas connections do we have through giving?
- In what ways are we active in connections with mission co-workers and global partners, including connections through the Region/Conference?
- Do we use resources from Global Ministries, such as weekly prayers, worship materials, videos, advocacy resources, etc.? Do we use global elements in worship?
- How often are global concerns shared with the church?
- Which Global Ministries special projects do we support (through funding, education, and advocacy), such as Child and Elder Sponsorship, climate justice, and refugee care?
- What understanding of global mission do our children have?
- What nationalities are present in our congregation or local community? How have we engaged with the cultures present in our church and community?
- Have church members been on a mission trip to another country? Have members visited Global Ministries' partners or mission co-workers in their travels?
- Have we, as a Disciples congregation, for example, ever sponsored a global mission event with a UCC church (or vice versa) to make the "common witness" of Global Ministries more visible?
- In what other ways is our church global?

LEARN

- What did we learn from this evaluation about our church's global mission involvement?
- What do we want to continue and strengthen in our church?
- What new areas do we want to consider in this next phase of our global mission involvement?

PRAY

Look up this week's [Weekly Prayer](#). This can also be found on the [Global Ministries homepage](#). Read this prayer and mission moment to close your time together.

CREATE A PLAN

We invite you to celebrate and grow your involvement in global mission! Create a plan that includes what your church is already committed to doing, what you plan to continue doing, and ways to grow your church's involvement in global mission. While we offer suggestions and ideas, we encourage you to be creative in responding to God's call. In addition, be realistic and consider implementing your ideas over the next year. Plan an evaluation of your global mission involvement every year and renew your commitment annually.

I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. Philippians 1:3-5

PRAYING with partners and mission co-workers is an important way to engage in God's global mission.

- Pray weekly using the [Global Ministries Weekly Prayer](#) written by a mission co-worker.
- [Global Worship Resources](#) - Incorporate a global component into worship at least once a month, such as a mission moment, a letter from a mission co-worker, a scripture reading or prayer in another language, a sermon illustration, an international hymn, song or other liturgical element.
- Share the [monthly Global Ministries mission story](#) as a worship bulletin insert, an article in your church newsletter, an all-church e-mail, or link on your church website, etc.

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

EDUCATING church members about global concerns.

- Invite members of your church to [subscribe to the weekly Global Ministries Weekly Update email](#) and follow Global Ministries on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), [YouTube](#), and [LinkedIn](#).
 - Emphasize God's [global mission with children and youth](#) in Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, youth group, retreats, or at camp.
 - Offer a global mission bible study or Sunday School using [resources from Global Ministries](#).
 - Participate in Global Ministries [webinars and virtual educational opportunities](#).
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What does the Lord require of you? To act justly and love mercy and to walk humbly with your God. - Micah 6:8

SEEKING JUSTICE for all of God's children honors the spirit of Ubuntu – I am because we are.

- Establish or revitalize an active global mission committee.
- Educate and mobilize your church members each year on at least one [Global Ministries advocacy](#) issue.
- Participate in UCC and Disciples justice action alert networks by sending messages to members of Congress and the current administration.
[UCC Justice and Peace Action Network](#)
[Disciples Justice Action Network](#)
- Send at least one member of your church to [Ecumenical Advocacy Days](#) in Washington D.C. in the spring.

For I am longing to see you so that I may share with you some spiritual gift to strengthen you - or rather so that we may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith, both yours and mine. - Romans 1:11-12

RECEIVING the gifts of the global church reminds us that we are not alone in our walk with God and that new perspectives enrich our faith journeys.

- Start or renew a relationship with a mission co-worker through [Global Ministries' Mission Co-worker Relationship Program](#) and publish [writings from mission co-workers](#) in your church newsletter.
- Connect with Global Ministries regional initiatives (for example: the Southern Asia Initiative or Caribbean Initiative)
- Host an in-person or virtual [mission co-worker visit](#) in your church.
- Establish a long-term relationship with one of Global Ministries' partners through the [Global Church Partnership](#) program.

I do not mean that there should be relief for others and pressure on you, but it is a question of a fair balance between your present abundance and their need, so that their abundance may be for your need, in order that there may be a fair balance. - 2 Corinthians 8:13-14

GIVING helps to align your money with your values.

- Sponsor a child or elder through the [Global Ministries Child & Elder Sponsorship Program](#).
- Plan to work toward giving at least a tithe, such as a target minimum of 10% of your total church budget to the Disciples Mission Fund or the UCC's Our Church's Wider Mission.

- Work to promote special offerings, disaster appeals, and giving for Week of Compassion or One Great Hour of Sharing.
- Support global mission through gifts to Global Ministries for a special project or toward the work of a mission co-worker

While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off. - Acts 13:2-3

SENDING members to meet global partners engages in the core value of Presence.

- Plan an international group mission trip with your church through the [Global Ministries People-to-People Pilgrimage program](#).
- Send one or more of your church's members as a [mission co-worker](#) to serve with one of Global Ministries' international partners.

You then, my child, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus, and what you have heard from me through many witnesses entrust to faithful people who will be able to teach others as well. - 2 Timothy 2:1-2

SHARING the story of God's global mission celebrates your congregation's commitment to global mission and invites others to join.

- Organize a global mission event with another Disciples and/or United Church of Christ congregation in your area to learn and share about God's global mission.
- Enhance your global mission efforts by having at least one of your church members serve on the regional or conference mission committee.
- Help develop a partnership with an international partner in your region or conference.
- Promote global mission in your church's newsletter and website and encourage your conference or region to do the same.

COMMIT

Once you have completed the evaluation and planning process, you are ready to commit to being a Global Mission Church. Global Ministries celebrates this commitment with you!

Download the [Global Mission Church Covenant Statement](#) online. Complete the form and email or mail a copy to the address provided on the form. We will add the name of your church to the growing list of Global Mission Churches and celebrate this important step in the life of your church.

Next, start implementing your ideas for celebrating and growing in global mission involvement. Remember, Global Ministries walks with you on this journey. Please be in touch with us for ways we can support and accompany your church.

PRAY

We invite you to pray this prayer in unison.

God, we thank you...

for the opportunities we have to reach out to the world around us and hear what others in the wider world have to say as they bear witness of You in their lives

for the people in our church who seem to always have the wider world upon their hearts and in their vision

for our church's commitment to global mission

and for the lives of those who have gone before us dedicating their time, talents and gifts in sharing Your love with others.

God, we ask you to...

continue to show us where You are calling us now, as individuals and as a church, to make a commitment to grow

help us as a church to hear the cries of lament and praise of people around the world

grant us energy and enthusiasm to reach out our hands, to receive and respond with grace

use our voices to proclaim the joys, as well as to denounce the suffering of Your people

grant us wisdom and guidance as we build global connections in the life of our church, ensuring that this may contribute to the building of Your realm

and bless the work of Global Ministries

in Jesus' name. Amen.

LINKS

GLOBAL MISSION CHURCH

- Global Mission Church page – https://www.globalministries.org/get_involved/global_mission_church/
- Global Mission Church Covenant Statement – <https://www.globalministries.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/GMC-Congregations-Revised-2021.pdf>
- Global Ministries 101 - <https://www.globalministries.org/resource/global-ministries-101/>

RECEIVE THE LATEST UPDATES

- Subscribe to Global Ministries Weekly Update email - <https://www.globalministries.org/join/>

GLOBAL MINISTRIES SOCIAL MEDIA

- Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/GlobalMinistries.DOC.UCC>
- Twitter - <https://twitter.com/globalmins>
- Instagram - <https://www.instagram.com/globalministries/>
- YouTube - <https://www.youtube.com/user/globalministries>
- LinkedIn - <https://www.linkedin.com/company/global-ministries-doc-ucc>

WORSHIP RESOURCES

- Monthly Mission Bulletin Stories - https://www.globalministries.org/topic/bulletin_en/?post_type=resource
- Weekly Prayer - <http://www.globalministries.org/weeklyprayer>
- Global Worship Resources - <https://www.globalministries.org/worship-resources/>

EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

- Mission co-worker stories - <https://www.globalministries.org/topic/missionstory/>
- Resources for Children and Youth - https://www.globalministries.org/resource/resources_youth_and_children/
- Global mission bible study or Sunday School resources - <https://www.globalministries.org/learn>
- Webinars and virtual education opportunities - <https://www.globalministries.org/virtual-events/>

ADVOCACY RESOURCES

- Global Ministries Justice and Advocacy - https://www.globalministries.org/get_involved/justice_and_advocacy/
- UCC Justice and Peace Action Network - <https://www.ucc.org/justice-and-peace-action-network/>
- Disciples Justice Action Network - <http://www.disciplesjustice.net/>
- Ecumenical Advocacy Days - <https://advocacydays.org/>

GET INVOLVED

- Mission co-worker relationships - https://www.globalministries.org/?page_id=21342
- In-person or virtual mission co-worker visits – https://www.globalministries.org/missionary_visits/
- Global Church Partnerships - https://www.globalministries.org/get_involved/church_to_church_partnerships/
- Child & Elder Sponsorship - https://www.globalministries.org/child_sponsorship/
- People to People Pilgrimages (Group Trips) - <https://www.globalministries.org/people-to-people-pilgrimages/>
- Mission co-worker opportunities - https://www.globalministries.org/get_involved/mission-opportunities/
- Download the [Global Mission Church Covenant Statement](#) online. Complete the form and email or mail a copy to the address provided on the form. We will add the name of your church to the growing list of Global Mission Churches and celebrate this important step in the life of your church.