

STRATEGIC PLAN for FOREIGN MISSION OVERVIEW and RATIONALE

Approximately 99% of all foreign mission giving is used for work directed toward countries and peoples where the gospel is already present and in most cases already advancing. The remaining 1% of foreign mission giving is directed toward what is referred to as Unreached People Groups -- peoples where there is virtually no access to the gospel and where the people have little chance of hearing the gospel unless someone intervenes. These unreached people groups make up 29% of the world's population and amount to 2.11 billion people.

FPCJ currently invests 90% of our foreign mission giving to work in countries and among people groups where the gospel is already present and in most cases already advancing. The remaining 10% is focused toward ministry among unreached people groups.

As we have evaluated and prayed about the Great Commission that Jesus gave his disciples in Matthew 28:18-20 to go to all nations, we believe that we should begin to increase our focus on people groups and countries where there is currently little or no gospel presence and no opportunity for them *“to be brought forth by the word of truth”* (James 1:18).

Our recommendation to the Session is for FPCJ to continue to support our current missionaries and their efforts at current levels and at the same time begin to increase our efforts to take the gospel to the unreached people groups of the world. We realize this will require additional money and that we will need to motivate ourselves and our congregation to give more to fund these new efforts. We also believe the old adage that “money follows vision” and that our congregation will see the excitement and catch the vision of intentionally taking the gospel to places where it has never gone before.

This mission statement reflects our continued commitment to our current missionaries as well as our plan to increase our focus on ministry among the unreached people groups of the world.

**STRATEGIC PLAN FOR MISSION
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI
2016**

I. OVERALL PURPOSE OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI

First Presbyterian Church is called to glorify God, to proclaim the gospel, and to promote God's kingdom by standing as a Reformed witness to Jackson, the surrounding community, and the world.

"The mission of the church is to go into the world and make disciples by declaring the gospel of Jesus Christ in the power of the Spirit and gathering these disciples into churches, that they might worship the Lord Jesus and obey his commands now and in eternity to the glory of God the Father."

What is the Mission of the Church? DeYoung 62

Matthew 28:18-20 And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Matthew 24:14 And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.

Mark 13:10 And the gospel must first be proclaimed to all nations

Luke 24:46-48 Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.

John 20:21 Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you."

Acts 1:8, 11 "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." ... This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

II. MISSION STATEMENT FOR THE MAJOR OUTREACH ACTIVITIES OF FPCJ: LOCAL MISSION, MISSION TO NORTH AMERICA, AND MISSION TO THE WORLD

FPCJ seeks to be obedient in fulfilling the Great Commission of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, through prayer, evangelism, church planting, church development, and the training and equipping of church leadership locally, in the United States, and across the world. We will encourage our congregation to be involved with our mission efforts through personal prayer, financial giving and direct participation.

III. STRATEGIC GOALS

- A. Biblical evangelism through the faithful sharing of the Gospel of Jesus Christ so that through the power of the Holy Spirit, souls will enter into the Kingdom of God.
- B. Discipling those who come to faith in Christ
 - 1. Preaching to new believers over an extended period of time.
 - 2. Teaching and discipleship
 - a. Instructing new believers in the scriptures, theology, Christian living, and the function and structure of the Church.
 - b. Supporting Reformed Bible colleges and seminaries in the education of pastors.
 - c. Training laymen for leadership in local churches.
 - d. Supporting Reformed University Ministries and other Reformed campus ministries:
 - i. To disciple covenant children during college and university years.
 - ii. To share the gospel with others on the campuses.
- C. Church planting and development
 - 1. To establish reformed and presbyterian churches as a sufficient number of people come to faith in Christ and are disciplined, and as leaders are trained to serve as pastors, elders and deacons.
 - 2. To assist in the development and revitalization of existing churches.
- D. Local Outreach and Evangelism
 - 1. To engender an understanding of and love for the Gospel throughout the congregation that results in members proclaiming the Gospel, impelled by a love for the lost and a desire to see God glorified.
 - 2. To see conversions through all the ministries of the church and by the words and lives of the members of the congregation.

IV. PRIORITIES

- A. To build upon the strength of our church and the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA): reformed theology and apologetics and ordinary means of grace ministry.
- B. To focus on evangelism, discipleship, church planting, church revitalization, and Reformed University Fellowship efforts.
- C. To increase our efforts toward advancing the gospel among unreached people groups (appendix A).
- D. To work with educational and training programs that provide theological and practical preparation for existing and new pastors.
- E. To send short term mission teams from FPCJ in pursuit of four goals: strengthening relationships between our church and our supported missionaries; encouragement of and service to our missionaries and those they are seeking to reach with the gospel; exposure of FPCJ members to foreign mission as part of the effort to raise up the next generation of missionaries; and the development of a better understanding of the particular work of our missionaries. (appendix G)
- F. To be open to the leading of the Holy Spirit toward other ministries.

V. OBJECTIVES AND IMPLEMENTATION

- A. Foreign Mission Objectives
 - 1. Continue to support current missionaries and ministries that are consistent with the mission priorities of FPCJ.
 - 2. Ensure that the theology and practice of supported ministries are within the Reformed tradition, or that a Reformed understanding will be brought to the ministry.
 - 3. Support missionaries that are involved in direct field work, such as evangelism, church planting, discipleship, and local theological training of national pastors and leaders.
 - 4. Support mission partnerships that are consistent with our mission objectives.
 - 5. Provide opportunities for members of FPCJ to participate directly in foreign mission efforts.
- B. Mission Support Guidelines
 - 1. Financial support is intended to be at a sufficient level to decrease the time and stress of fund raising activities for the missionary and allow for a closer relationship with FPCJ and increase accountability.
 - 2. Utilize our Mission Values Guidelines to evaluate new ministries and missionaries and to determine eligibility for support from FPCJ (appendix B), using information acquired from the New Missionary Application (appendix D).

3. Utilize our Support Guidelines for Foreign Mission flow chart to determine support level for approved ministries and missionaries (appendix C).
4. Support will be calculated as a percentage of the missionary's total need as defined by their sending agency.
5. No missionary will be given more than 4% of the total FPCJ MTW budget.
6. No partnership will be given more than 15% of its annual budget.
7. Total funding for all partnerships will not exceed 15% of the FPCJ MTW budget.
8. Total funding for all FPCJ supported missionaries living outside of their mission area will not exceed 10% of the FPCJ MTW budget.

C. Foreign Mission Evaluation

1. The MTW Committee will evaluate each missionary, ministry and partnership annually using the Annual Missionary Report and Annual Report for Partnerships (appendices E and F).
2. FPCJ must receive the Annual Report from each missionary and partnership by December 1st so the MTW Committee will have sufficient time for evaluation. Missionaries and partnerships may use the FPCJ or MTW Annual Report form for this purpose.
3. Failure to submit an Annual Report by December 1st will result in suspension of funding unless there is a substantially valid reason for the delay.
4. A missionary or partnership that has any change to their status, mission or physical location must report the change to the FPCJ Minister of Mission and Outreach as soon as such a change may occur.
5. Financial support for a missionary or partnership that has had a change to their status, mission or physical location will ordinarily be suspended and the missionary or partnership must reapply if there is a desire to continue support.
6. Financial support for any missionary shall be suspended after 12 months of Home Ministry Assignment (HMA). Extenuating circumstances will be considered by the MTW committee. If the missionary has not returned to the field within 18 months, he must reapply as a new missionary.

- D. At the end of the year 2019 there will be a formal evaluation of progress toward accomplishment of the mission, goals, and objectives specified in the FPCJ "Strategic Plan for Mission," and the results will be reported to the Session

Appendix A

SPECIAL FOCUS COUNTRIES AND UNREACHED PEOPLE GROUPS

I. SPECIAL FOCUS COUNTRIES (currently approved and supported by FPCJ):

1. China
2. Peru
3. Ukraine
4. United Kingdom
5. Malawi (ABC)
6. Uganda (ABC)

II. UNREACHED PEOPLE GROUPS:

A. SPECIFIC UNREACHED PEOPLE GROUPS:

1. Muslim
2. Hindu
3. Buddhist
4. Tribal
5. Other Ethnic Religions or Unreligious

B. GEOGRAPHICAL REGIONS OF MUSLIM UNREACHED PEOPLE GROUPS

1. Asia Pacific (Indonesia Partnership)
2. Middle East/North Africa
3. Sub-Saharan Africa
4. India/Bangladesh/Pakistan
5. Europe
6. Expatriates/Refugees in other Geographical Areas

Appendix B

MISSION VALUES GUIDELINES

Membership at FPCJ *Application: A 15, 16, 17, 18, 19*

- 5 – active member in good standing for five years or longer
- 3 – active member in good standing for two to five years
- 1 – active member in good standing for less than two years

Unreached Target-Group Focus *Application: C 1, 2, 3; D 2*

- 10 – Unreached people group – Muslim focus in their native country
- 8 – Unreached people group – non-Muslim-- in their native country
- 6 – Unreached people group – refugee/expatriate outside of USA
- 4 – Unreached people group – refugee/expatriate within USA
- 2 – Reached people group outside of USA

Ministry Focus *Application: C 5; D 1-5*

- 5 – Training nationals for church planting/multiplication strategy
- 4 – Engaging in church planting/multiplication strategy
- 3 – Training nationals in evangelism and discipleship
- 2 – Engaging in evangelism and discipleship
- 1 – Other (administrative, support, mercy, etc)

Theological Education *Application: F; A 19; E 1-6*

- 5 – Ordained minister with Masters of Divinity from a reformed seminary
- 4 – Unordained with Masters of Divinity from a reformed seminary
- 3 - Bible College degree or Bible major
- 2 - Certificate for completion of online Theological Education
- 1 – MTW training or completion of church training courses offered to members

Ministry or Missionary Experience *Application: C 13, 14, 15, 16; F; G*

- 5 – Full time foreign missionary; proven effectiveness and leadership, multiple terms
- 4 – Full time USA ministry; proven effectiveness and leadership
- 3 – Full time foreign mission experience; non leadership role
- 2 – Multiple short-term foreign mission experiences
- 1 – One short-term foreign mission experience

Commitment to service *Application: C 4*

- 5 – two terms (8 years) or longer to unreached people group
- 4 – at least one term (4 years) to unreached people group
- 3 – two terms (8 years) or longer to reached people group
- 2 – at least one term (4 years) to reached people group
- 1 – less than one term (4 years) to unreached people group

MISSION VALUES SUMMARY

Candidate Name: _____

Date _____

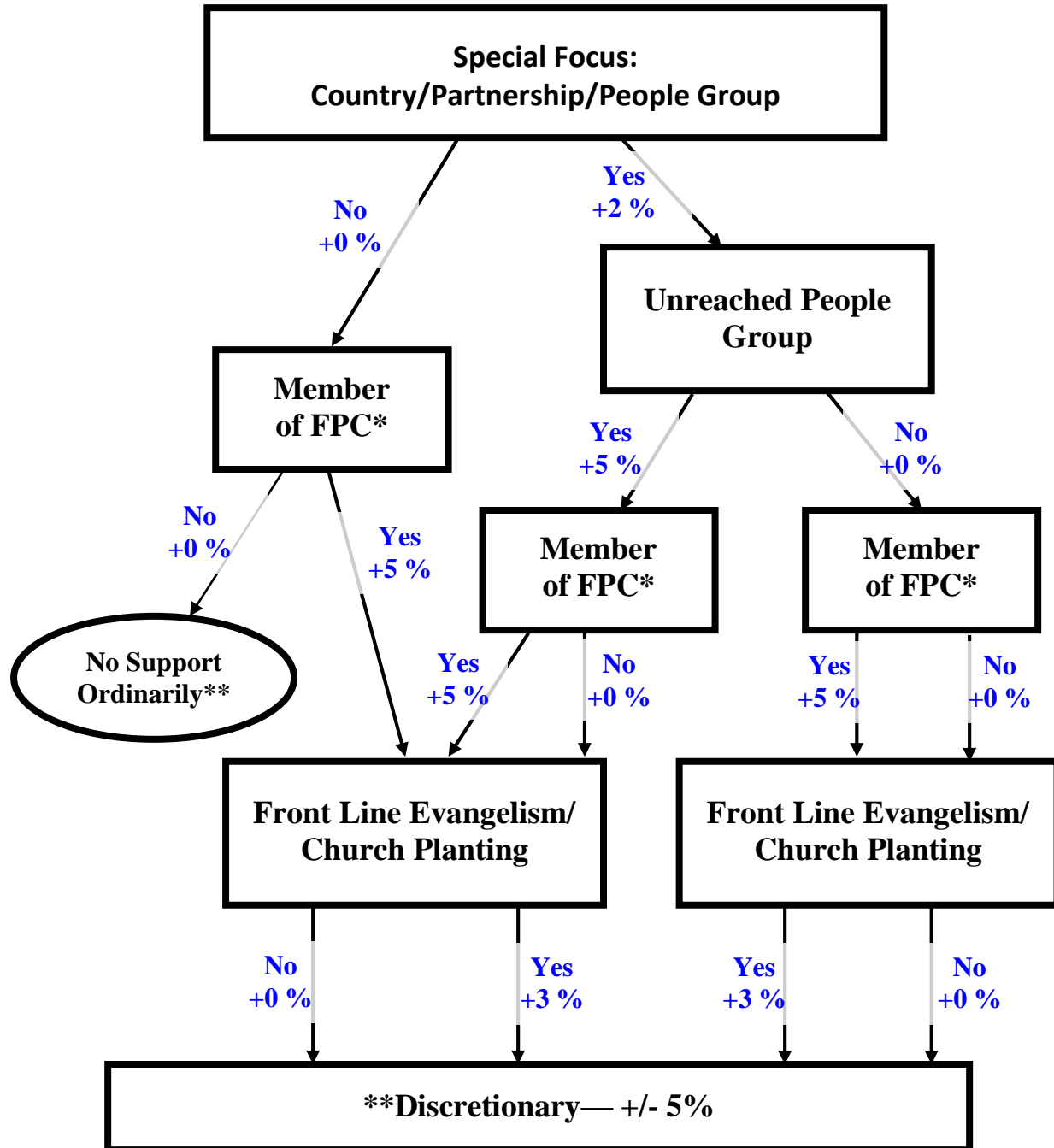
Value	Score	Notes
FPCJ Membership		
UPG Target-Group Focus		
Ministry Focus		
Theological Education		
Ministry Experience		
Commitment to service		
TOTAL		

Maximum score of 35. Ordinarily, target score above 25 to be approved for support.

Actual funding level determined through Appendix C, Support Guidelines for Foreign Mission

Appendix C

SUPPORT GUIDELINES FOR FOREIGN MISSION



*FPCJ Member: must be an active member in good standing at FPCJ for at least 5 years to qualify.

**Discretionary adjustments are on a case by case basis and would increase or decrease ordinary support by up to 5%. Increases would include such as: urgent field or ministry need, or special skills and decreases would include such as: phasing out a missionary, less strategic mission (or missionary permanently based in the United States). Discretionary adjustments must be reevaluated each year.

Appendix D

NEW MISSIONARY APPLICATION

General Instructions: This form is for missionaries, church planters, and campus ministers applying for financial support from First Presbyterian Church, Jackson. If you are looking for financial support for a project, program, or partnership, please ask for the "Special Project Application" form. Also, this form is designed to be completed either by hand or on the computer via Microsoft Word. Please use the Arrow Keys, Tab Key, or Mouse to navigate between the fields. The document is protected for convenience only and may be unlocked easily for further editing without a password.



Please Insert a Family Photo either by Clicking on the Image once and then by using the "Insert Picture" Command or by Right-Clicking on the above Image and Pasting a Copied Photo.

A. Current Contact & Personal Information

1. Applicant (*Full name*): _____
2. Date of Birth: _____
3. Marital Status: _____
4. Spouse (*Full name*): _____
5. Date of Birth: _____
6. Mailing Address: _____
7. Address while on Assignment (*if different*): _____
8. Direct Phone: _____
9. Other Phone: _____
10. Primary Email: _____
11. Web ID & Type: _____
12. Website / Blog: _____
13. Best Method of Contact (*Please indicate Either Phone, Mail, Email, Web, etc.*): _____
14. Are you a US citizen? _____ If "No", what country are you a citizen? _____
15. Current Church Membership (*With denomination, if applicable*): _____
16. Years of Current Church Membership: _____
17. Are you a member in good standing? _____
18. Are you active in your church? In what areas or ways? _____
19. Please Check all that apply to you: ☐ Licensed ☐ Ordained By which presbytery? _____

B. Family/Dependent Information

Name	Date of Birth	Marital Status	Living Location

Family Remarks (if necessary): _____

C. General Mission Information

1. What people group are you preparing to serve? _____
2. In what country or region are you preparing to serve? _____
3. Where will you live while on assignment (*Address if available*)? _____
4. How many years or terms are you preparing to serve? _____
5. In what capacity will you be serving (*Ex. Church Planter, Educator, etc.*)? _____
6. Name of the work in which you will be serving (*Ex. Belhaven RUF, MTW East Asia, etc.*): _____
7. Who is your Sending Church: _____
8. Sending Church's Location: _____
9. Pastor's Name & Telephone Number: _____
10. Missionary Sending Agency _____
11. Agency Contact Person & Telephone Number: _____
12. If church planting in the U.S., are you committed to stay within the Presbyterian Church of America (PCA) Denomination? Please Explain: _____
13. Is this your first time serving as a missionary? _____ If "No", please tell us about your previous service: _____
14. Where will you plan to live while on furlough (*Foreign missions only*)? _____
15. Have you attempted to serve with another sending agency? _____ If "Yes", please explain: _____
16. What specific training and ministry experience do you have that equips you for this role? _____

D. General Ministry Information

1. What will be your particular ministry responsibilities? And, if applicable, for your spouse? _____
2. With whom or what specific group of people will you be working? _____
3. If on a team, describe your particular role and how the team will function. If alone, describe the oversight/ accountability that will be in place to support your ministry: _____
4. Will you have to learn a new language to effectively carry out your ministry? If so, which one? _____

5. As you understand it, what will ministry for you look like: {a} on a typical day? {b} in a typical week?

E. Doctrinal & Spiritual Information

1. What is your commitment to the Westminster Confession of Faith? And how does/will your commitment influence your ministry?

2. What is your view concerning extraordinary gifts (*prophecy, healings, tongues, etc.*)? And would you or do you practice them? Explain:

3. In the context of redemption, please briefly comment on the Person and Work of: {a} God the Father, {b} God the Son, & {c} God the Holy Spirit:

4. Briefly comment on your view of the authority of Scripture:

5. In your own words, please summarize the Gospel message and provide a couple of crucial texts from the witness of Scripture:

On a separate piece of paper or in an attached document, please provide an account and/or description of your:

1. Personal Testimony of Faith
2. Call to Christian Service

F. Education & Professional Background Information

School Attended	Year Graduated	Major	Degree

Remarks (*if necessary*): _____

Occupation/Activity Prior to Service: _____

Years of Prior Occupation: _____ Location of Prior Occupation: _____

G. Reference Information

Personal Reference: _____ Relationship: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email: _____

Pastoral Reference: _____ Relationship: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email: _____

Reference (Other): _____ Relationship: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email: _____

H. Financial Information

Please be sure to attach a copy of your annual budget along with your application. A detailed annual budget in US dollars must be provided for consideration of applicant's request for financial support.

1. What will be your annual need as provided by your sending agency? _____ Monthly: \$ 0.00
2. Does this annual need include additional expenses (i.e. one-time or ongoing ministry expenses)? Please indicate the amount of the total listed and describe in brief the thought behind including this amount in your annual need. _____

3. What amount or percent have you raised presently? _____
4. Do you presently have any personal debt? If so, what type & amount? _____
3. Do you have any debt as a result of missionary service? If so, what amount? _____

I. Summary Information

Thank you for completing the First Presbyterian Church Mission Application. We will process your request in a timely manner.

Please make sure to attach to your application a copy of the following documents:

1. Personal Testimony of Faith
2. Call to Christian Service
3. Annual Budget
4. Latest Prayer / Update Letter
5. Current Family Photograph, if not already inserted within this document

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us at 601.973-9125. May the Lord bless the work of your hands for the glory of Christ.

Sincerely,

First Presbyterian Church Mission & Outreach Committee

Appendix E

ANNUAL MISSIONARY REPORT

This form is designed to help our Mission Committee better understand and partner with you. We commit to read, discuss, and pray over the information you present us in your report. Thank you for your cooperation and partnership in the Gospel. May God bless you and cause your ministry to be increasingly fruitful all for Christ's glory!

Please Note: PCA Mission to the World (MTW) missionaries may submit a copy of their "Annual Ministry Review" and/or "Update for PCA Missionaries on the Field" as a substitute for this report. Also, this report has been designed to be completed either by hand or on the computer with Microsoft Word. If you are having trouble filling out this document go to the view tab and select edit. The document is protected for convenience only and may be unlocked easily with the password "outreach".

Contact & Ministry Information

Primary & Spouse: _____

Please provide us with your most current contact information
Please note the following information may be printed in our bulletin and weekly newsletter, please indicate if you would like it to remain private.

Physical Address: _____

Mailing Address (if different from above): _____

Email Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Website/blog: _____

Best Method to Reply: _____

Serving Location: _____

In what capacity do you serve?: _____

Sending Agency: _____

Agency Address: _____

Agency Phone Number: _____



Please include an up to date picture in portrait format for our publications.

Please Insert a Family Photo either by Clicking on the Image and then by using the "Insert Picture" command or by Right-Clicking and Pasting a copied photo.

Have there been any ministry changes or are there any upcoming/scheduled changes for your ministry? (*Mission Agency, location of assignment, ministry goals, primary duties/responsibilities, roles, etc.*) Please List or Indicate "None": _____

What would be a brief summary of some of highs and lows of this past year's ministry? (*Goals met/missed, relationships forged/disrupted, sudden changes, etc.*): _____

Next planned home missionary assignment dates (or dates for a Jackson visit): _____

Family/Dependent Information

Any updates with your family? Please list your family members with their ages as well as with any updates (*Births, matters for prayer, living in Jackson, etc.*): _____

Spiritual Information

Please comment briefly on your personal and your family's devotional life: _____

Any recent changes in your doctrinal standards/belief? Please list or indicate "None": _____

What are some specific prayer requests First Presbyterian Church may pray for you and your ministry over the next year? _____

Financial Information

What is your monthly need as set by your Mission Agency? _____

What monthly amount do you presently have raised to date? _____

What amount do you still need to raise (*Monthly Need - Amount Raised*)? \$0.00

If your monthly need has increased/decreased from last year, please help us understand the change:

Do you have a deficit from the previous year? If so, what amount? Please also provide some details concerning this deficit. _____

How many churches regularly support you and what percentage of your current support comes from churches? _____

How many individuals regularly support you and what percentage of your current support comes from them? _____

Summary Information

How might First Presbyterian Church better serve and partner with you during this next year?

Would you be interested in hosting a short-term mission team from our church? _____
If "Yes", what details could you provide? _____

Time frame of the trip? _____
How large of a team would be you prefer? _____
What kind of ministry would you propose for the team? _____

Should we keep your information (or mark your file) as **Confidential** or **Sensitive**? _____ If "Yes", which type of information would you like for us to keep confidential? *(Please also indicate if you have particular restrictions concerning electronic media.)*

Do you have any mailing restrictions? Are you able to receive packages at your above address? Please provide a shipping address: _____

Any other information or comment you would like to share with us? _____

Thanks for time in completing this form and for your partnership in the Gospel. May the Lord continue to bless your ministry! If you have any questions for us please contact us:

Mission & Outreach Department
First Presbyterian Church
1390 North State Street
Jackson, MS 39202
P: 601-973-9125 / F: 601-973-9119
Email: missiondepartment@fpcjackson.org

Appendix F

ANNUAL REPORT FOR PARTNERSHIPS SUPPORTED BY FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI

I. General Information

- A. Name of partnership
- B. Name and title of person completing the annual report for the partnership
- C. Street address:
- D. Mailing address:
- E. Email address:
- F. Phone number
 - 1. Home
 - 2. Office
 - 3. Other
- G. FAX number
- H. Mission agency
 - 1. Presbyterian Church in America
 - 2. Other

II. Information on Partnership

- A. Goals and objectives

B. Brief summary of the highs and lows of the past year's ministry, including whether or not objectives were met for the year

C. Scheduled changes over the next twelve months

1. Goals and objectives

2. Personnel

3. Other

III. Financial Information

A. Provide most current financial statement

B. Monthly support

1. Monthly need set by mission agency

2. Average monthly support income in past year

C. Amount of deficit, if any

1. Plans to retire the deficit

2. Amount needed monthly to meet current need

D. Anticipated change in required monthly support over the next 12 months

1. Amount

2. Effective date

IV. Summary Information

A. How can First Presbyterian Church of Jackson, Mississippi better minister to you this year?

B. Would you be interested in having a short-term mission team visit you, and, if so, what type work would you need to have done?

C. How many prayer letters did you send to First Presbyterian Church, Jackson, Mississippi last year?

1. Hard copy
2. Email

V. Other Information You Would Like To Share

Signature of director

Date



Appendix G

Short-Term Mission Trip Information Packet



Welcome! On behalf of First Presbyterian Church of Jackson (FPCJ), we appreciate your interest and willingness to participating in a Short-Term Mission Trip. We are excited about the opportunity God is affording you to serve in a Short-Term Mission capacity. The packet in your hands contains much of the information needed to know how to best prepare for your Mission Trip. So enjoy your reading...

[General Trip Information](#) | [FPCJ Trip Policy](#) | [Trip Preparation](#) | [Support Raising](#)

GENERAL TRIP INFORMATION

Short-Term Mission Application

Each participant is required to complete the Short-Term Mission Application to attend any one trip with First Presbyterian Church of Jackson (FPCJ). The form provides to FPCJ a listing of vital information needed for our records as well as the various agencies with which we partner, such as Mission to the World (MTW). For those who have already attended a trip, we offer a slightly shorter form, called the Re-Application form. Please read all instructions prior to printing the forms as you will likely save yourself some paper! (See the forms for more.)

Interviews

After you have submitted an application, we will set up an interview for you with one of our elders to talk about the trip. During the interview, you may expect to be asked about your application, details concerning your Christian Experience (conversion, walk, etc.), and about the perspective trip. Our Outreach office will coordinate a date and time for your interview as soon as possible. Team leaders are invited to attend and participate in the interviews of their prospective team members. If an applicant has been on a FPCJ mission trip within the past two years, he/she will likely not require another interview.

Passport

If you either do not have a passport or yours is expired, you will need to have started this process yesterday for International Trips. There are several ways to obtain a passport and below are just two:

- One of the more preferred methods is to go through the downtown Post Office, where you will need to bring along with your application two passport photos of specific dimensions (2 x 2 inches), a certified birth certificate, and your driver's license. Be sure also to bring along your wallet as the cost for the processing your application is not free.
- Another viable option is to fill out the application online through the U.S. Department of State at <http://travel.state.gov/passport>. The link may become dated, so please consult the appropriate official government site for more information.

GENERAL TRIP INFORMATION (continued)

Health & Medical Information

Part of the Short-Term Mission Trip is to start out healthy and to have received the appropriate medical care prior to participating. As part of this we require the following:

- *All Routine Immunizations/Shots Must Be Current* – Please consult your primary care physician or the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (www.cdc.gov) for more information.
- *A Current Tetanus Shot* – (Though this is included in the immunizations above, we mention again for emphasis) A tetanus shot is current if received within the past 10 years.
- *A Completed Release Form* – This form is a part of the application and will be kept on record at the Outreach office in addition to a copy given to your team leader for emergencies.
- *Necessary Prescriptions & Allergy Medications* – (It may seem foolish even to have to mention, but a reminder is important). In addition, we suggest that you carry a copy of any prescription medicines that you need to fill while on the trip in the event of an emergency.
- *A Primary Medical Insurance Policy* – Whether you are participating in a MTW or FPCJ Short-Term Mission Trip, you are assumed under a temporary, secondary medical insurance policy. This policy, however, only acts as a secondary coverage, meaning you must have a primary medical insurance policy prior to attending any one trip. Please call the Outreach office for more information.

Financial Information

The cost of the trip is determined by estimating all expenses incurred during a trip such as airfare, accommodations, supplies, and meals. It does not include personal spending money or fees for passports. Without exception, each participant is required to pay the full amount of the trip prior to departing.

Though it may first enter into your mind to write a check to cover the amount of the trip, we encourage both the participant and the parents/legal guardians of a minor to consider raising support for the trip. The process of raising support is an opportunity to exercise faith for everyone involved and aids in the preparation in both the heart and mind for the trip. Please see our Support Raising Section below for more information and/or suggestions.

Concerning payment, the church accepts either cash or check. Checks should be made payable to First Presbyterian Church with the Name of the Participant and the Trip Destination listed on the memo line (Ex. "George Jones, Peru"). To assist the members of FPCJ, our church has a standing offer, as needed, of providing 50% of the financial support for first time attendees and 25% for those who have been on a previous trip.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF JACKSON
SHORT –TERM MISSION TRIP POLICY

1. **Purpose** - The purpose of these teams/projects is to glorify the triune God through fulfillment of the Great Commission which God the Father has given to God the Son (Isaiah 49:6), and His Son to the Church. (Matthew 28:18-20 & Acts 1:8).

Subordinate to that purpose are at least four goals; strengthening relationships between our church and our supported missionaries; encouragement of and service to our missionaries (providing manpower for particular endeavors, sharing an expertise such as instruction in Christian education or women's ministry, demonstrating our interest in their ministry, etc); exposure of individuals from FPCJ to foreign missions as part of the effort to raise up the next generation of missionaries; and the development of a better understanding of the particular work of our missionaries.

Each Team Leader is to present a long-term strategy for his team's mission trip to be approved by the MTW Committee.

2. **Team Size** - The minimum size for a team will be three members of FPC, including a staff member who might be serving as Team Leader. The maximum size for a team is twenty. A larger group may be arranged as an exception, but there must be one team leader for every twenty persons. The appropriate team size within this range should be determined by consulting with the local missionary.
3. **Minimum Age** - The minimum age for a team member is a rising junior in high school. Participants younger than this may be allowed if accompanied by a parent. In such situations, it is the responsibility of the parent to be sure that both the child and the parent are contributing members of the team.
4. **Participation** - Each year, all team members and leaders will go through the full application and approval process. This will include the completion of an application, interview with a member of the Session, and approval both of the team leader and the Session.
5. **Support** – The standing agreement is that the church will pay up to 50% of cost for those going on their first trip and 25% of cost for subsequent trips. The team leader's expenses will be covered 100%. No solicitations for funds can be made to members of First Presbyterian Church by letter. Team members will be required to raise full support or will not be able to participate. Any funds collected which are not used will be held in an account for each individual for use on a future FPC short term trip.
6. **Alcohol Use & Smoking** - The use or purchase of alcohol is prohibited. Participants who use or purchase alcohol will be sent home at their own expense. On some adult projects, the MTW team leader has the authority to grant an exception to this rule for participants 21 and older. Drinking wine or beer with a meal is part of the culture in some locations. No smoking will be allowed on either youth or adult projects.

TRIP PREPARATION

Becoming Truly Prepared...

It is not an overstatement to say that the preparation for the mission trip is often more challenging than the trip itself. Sure, you will likely be exhausted from the lack of sleep and busyness of the trip, but the Lord often provides a measure of His grace through the encouragement of friends and family and His Word to help you move past these obstacles rather quickly.

Much of the difficulty in preparation is that it comes in the midst of your typical busy schedule at home. There are meetings to attend, paperwork to fill out, deadlines to hit, bags to be packed, and so on. Often the things we need most, that would prepare us the best for trip, just don't seem make the list on our typical day.

Let us consider just three of "these" things briefly:

- **Prayer** - Please accept this challenge from the famous Scottish preacher, Eric Alexander, who in reflecting upon the Apostle Paul's words in Romans 1:9-10 said, "I am really challenged by the Apostle Paul's ease with which he says, 'God is my witness how constantly I remember you in my prayers'...That's the kind of prayer life I covet". Oh, would that God testify to the volume and frequency of our prayers, not only for this trip, but also our lives in general. Might this trip be the catalyst in which God would bring about the blessedness of leaning wholly upon Him in prayer.
- **His Word** - How great are our cries out to Him during our times of trial and how greatly we long to hear Him speak to us, for Him to give us that much needed encouragement when we are dry and parched. The amazing thing is that He, even greater than our desire, so longs to answer His children when they cry out to Him. Greater still is how He has and will continue to speak to us through His Word. He has given us His Word that we may hear it and be encouraged. May we know His Word and take Him at His Word. May we rest assured that what God has promised, He is also able to bring to pass (Joshua 21:45, Romans 4:21, & 2 Thessalonians 5:24).
- **His people** - The team meetings are not only designed to work out the kinks of the operations of the trip, they are designed for the building and the fostering of relationships. Being "alone" has never been a "good" thing, even before the fall of Adam and Eve. And it is no mystery that Christ for good reason instituted the Church as the vehicle in which He would pour out His blessing upon His people. During this trip might we grow to appreciate His people, and so to come to a greater understanding of how loving one another truly is the fulfillment of the whole law (Galatians 5:14).

These above three "things" are more than just spiritual or mental preparations for the trip; they constitute the core substance of your preparation for the trip. To ignore them will likely hinder, and if not sabotage, your experience and ministry while on the trip. Please consider incorporating a routine schedule of prayer, study, and fellowship into your weekly life. Please speak honestly with your team leader about what is expected and what is reasonable concerning preparing for your trip.

Additional Considerations

- *Practice walking a person through the Gospel Message* – You do not need an "official" outline, just a Biblical one. There are several out there. But before you go memorizing their structure, wrestle through coming up with one yourself. The exercise will be far more beneficial as you will force yourself to know the truth and communicate it to others. On the whole, you will attempting to express:
 - What does the Bible say about God, man, and sin?
 - What is the hope of man to escape the wrath of God?
 - What does faith in Jesus Christ look like?
- *Outline your Christian experience* – How did the Lord move in your life to bring you to Himself? What were the circumstances and your feelings involved? What does your life look like now that you are in Christ?

TRIP PREPARATION (continued)

Additional Considerations (continued)

- *Consider keeping a journal* – We highly recommend that you start a daily journal. You will want to continue this through the project as you make notes about the people you meet, new things you see, cultural differences you observe and experience, areas of struggle and confusion as well as new insights into God's Word. It will provide a great framework to see how God uses you on this trip.
- *Think through what impression you would like to leave upon others* – Are you a...
 - Guest of the culture? – So, think about how you behave, react, interact, what expectations you have, and what pleases or irritates you when you have guests.
 - Student of the culture? – Then, you are there to study and learn.
 - Servant of the culture? – You will serve those whom you encounter. Think about how a servant would approach a situation.

SUPPORT RAISING

The goal of a support raising is to gather a group of people who will participate with you in sharing the Gospel during your trip. This is the key—participation. Participation is the most important part in support raising and it is often left outside the process. This group will participate with you in either one or two ways: Prayer and Financial Contribution. You and the others on your team will actually be the ones going and serving, but they will have the benefit of reaping the harvest of Gospel fruit both in your life and the lives to whom you ministered. Once the trip has completed, your task, then, will be share the wonderful things you learned and experience gained through your service to Christ.

It is always a good thing to remember that God is the ultimate source of all that we need and that people are giving to God. Though we may own a couple hundred animals, it is our Lord who “owns the cattle on a thousand hills” (Psalm 50:10). Moreover, God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that you may always have enough of everything and may provide in abundance for every good work (2 Corinthians 9:9). With these encouragements in mind, take time to pray through the whole process of raising support, beginning with right now.

A good way to communicate with your sponsors is by writing and distributing a support letter. In this one page letter (recommend keeping it brief), you would inform family and friends of your desire to serve on this mission trip and give them an opportunity to participate. Here are some guidelines to follow when writing your letter:

- | | |
|---|--|
| • A general description of trip | • A list of your support needs |
| • What you hope to accomplish | • How they can participate through prayer |
| • What you hope to learn | • How they should process their checks |
| • The project sponsor (i.e. MTW & FPCJ) | • How much you would appreciate them being part of your team |
| • The trip dates | |

In general, support checks should be made payable to First Presbyterian Church and sent to you at your home address. All checks should be earmarked with the participant and the trip destination (Ex. “George Jones, Peru”). Please keep a personal record of your support contributors and remember to send them a note acknowledging their reply and telling them how excited you are about their partnership with you. Please also give your team leader and Outreach office an updated record weekly. All checks should be delivered to the Outreach office either weekly or biweekly.

Below are two examples of support letters. Feel free to utilize these letters as resources for your letter.

SUPPORT RAISING (continued)

Sample Support Letter #1

June 29, 2011

Mr. & Mrs. John Doe
100 Main Street
Jackson, MS 39202

Dear Mr. & Mrs. Doe:

In the past month, I have been chosen to be part of a team of twenty-five from First Presbyterian Church who will be going on a mission trip to Northern Ireland in the month of March. I am excited about what I might learn on this trip and about the opportunity to reach out to and share Christ with Irish high school students.

Our team will be working with a non-denominational Christian ministry called Project Evangelism, which has set up programs for American high school and college students to come into Northern Ireland for short-term missions, and minister to Irish students. We will be going into Irish high schools, setting up American Sports nights and coffeehouses. All of these activities will provide us with opportunities to get to know Irish students and to share the message of Christ with them.

I am thankful for the opportunity God has given me to go to another culture to share the gospel – how it has changed my life – with high school kids that are my own age. Please pray for God to build unity in our team as we work together in preparation for the trip and while we work together in Northern Ireland. Pray that we will be bold to reach out to Irish students, and clearly share Christ with them. Pray also for our safety.

The cost for the team to participate in this project is \$30,000. This includes on-site expenses and our airfare. My personal portion of this amount is around \$1,600. My parents and I have already contributed some funds towards the overall team goal. I am asking others to be a part of this ministry by committing to pray for me and by contributing to my financial need. If you are interested in helping us go to Northern Ireland, please let me know by February 18th. Checks should be made out to First Presbyterian Church with my name and trip destination (i.e. Michael Squire, Ireland) and mailed to me at: 300 Maple Street, Jackson, MS 39202.

Thank you for considering the support of our team.

Yours in Christ,

Michael Q. Squire

SUPPORT RAISING (continued)

Sample Support Letter #2

February 10, 2012

Jim & Pam Beuerlein
1581 Old Hillsboro Road
Franklin, TN 37069

Dear Friends in Christ,

Greetings to your family from ours! A lot of new things are happening around here, but one thing in particular forms the basis of our correspondence to you this day.

As you may well know, Mike and I are members of First Presbyterian Church. Our church is big into missions and spreading the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. Many a time we have found great encouragement in sending others on trips but this time, we decided to take the plunge ourselves. Our church has formed a mission group, which will allow all of us, including our children, to go during the summer to the Abaco Island in the Bahamas chain. During our week there, we will be conducting Bible School for 250+ kids daily. The skilled laborers in our group will also be making improvements to the church. Our family will be staying in the home of a native Christian family.

I am writing to you this day to ask you to consider supporting us financially and/or prayerfully during this trip. Our needs are an estimated \$4,000 in trip expenses, confidence and courage to speak the truth of God's Word, and for health and safety during our travels. If you would consider supporting us financially, please have the check made out to First Presbyterian Church, with our name and trip destination in the memorandum line, but mailed to our home address (2584 General Dr., Clinton, MS 39056).

We appreciate your prayerful consideration and would like to invite you to our presentation or Commissioning Sunday at First Presbyterian on June 14th at 9 a.m. Please don't hesitate to give us a call if you have any questions. Our number is 601-859-2551.

Love in Christ,

Sue Downing