



Hosting a Mission Co-Worker? **LET US HELP!**

Ready to connect with PC(USA) mission co-workers around the world? World Mission can help!

You can host a mission co-worker in person or virtually depending on the type of visit you and the mission co-worker prefer. Hosting a mission co-worker in person over a weekend or several days is a good way to get to know them better.

Hosting a mission co-worker virtually is a great way to meet them for the first time, introduce them to your congregation and learn more about their ministry. You can meet with a mission co-worker on Skype, Zoom or other virtual platforms. They can deliver sermons, minutes for mission and benedictions via prerecorded or live segments during worship services. They can lead interactive Sunday school sessions and might be able to take your youth group on a virtual tour of their ministry site. There are many ways to connect and enjoy each other's ministries.

Regardless of the way you choose to host a mission co-worker, here are some frequently asked questions that will help frame your visit. Some of these suggestions work better for in-person visits while some can be held in person or virtually.

Just be creative! Think about what your congregation likes, but also think outside your congregation. Consider your presbytery, the ecumenical churches in your area, the civic community and the community at large, then try to be strategic. The mission co-worker is there to share, educate and connect in as many ways as possible, but not to just be "kept busy."

Suggestions for using the mission co-worker's time wisely:

- Sunday school and worship
- Prayer groups
- Potluck supper
- Prayer breakfast
- Bag lunch in a business area
- Presbyterian Women meeting
- Mission committee meeting
- Keynote speaker at a mission fair or presbytery meeting
- An interview with a local radio station or newspaper
- Book club
- Mission fair
- The Jaycees or Rotary Club
- Interfaith dialogue groups
- Clergy Bible study
- Vacation Bible School

Frequently asked questions:



How do I send the invitation?

You can email mission.live@pcusa.org in the World Mission office or you can email the mission co-worker directly. Email addresses for mission co-workers are listed on their online profile pages. Visit pcusa.org/missionconnections and search alphabetically by last name or country. If your chosen mission co-worker serves in a sensitive area of the world (where there are security concerns), please contact Octavia Coleman (800-728-7228, ext. 5327, or octavia.coleman@pcusa.org) to receive the mission co-worker's email address.

? How should my congregation/presbytery prepare for the visit?

Once you have confirmed the logistics with the mission co-worker(s), begin publicizing their visit. Send an email to members and community friends. Invite other organizations or churches that might be interested in attending as well. You will find biographical information, a description of their ministry, links to blogs (if applicable) and links to letters the mission co-worker has written. Consider using the most recent letter as part of your newsletter or e-news.

Do not wait until the visit to begin praying for the mission co-worker(s) and their ministry and partners. Immediately add them to your prayer group's list. Lift them up in the weekly pastoral prayers. Ask Sunday school classes to spend a few minutes each week prior to the visit (and after) in silent centering prayer to prepare their hearts to receive the message the mission co-worker(s) will bring. Find a song in the language of the area of the world in which the mission co-worker serves and prepare the children's choir to sing it as a worship introit or welcome to the mission co-worker. ("Jesus Loves Me" has been translated into almost every language.)

? What do I do after the visit?

Follow-up begins before their visit ends. Make sure to give the mission co-worker(s) important email and/or mailing addresses. You will begin to receive quarterly letters from them. Ask for specific prayer requests. Consider adding the mission co-worker to your mission budget. Commit to pray for their work in worship at least monthly for the next year. Share your own prayer requests. Send birthday and holiday cards. Start early on planning the next visit or arrange a Zoom or Skype follow-up conversation for six months later.

? What funding is involved in hosting a mission co-worker?

The hosting presbytery or congregation typically absorbs the travel and hosting costs of a visiting mission co-worker (detailed below). This allows for as many opportunities as possible to be together — learning, growing, praying and sharing.

Costs involved in hosting a mission co-worker for an in-person visit:

Travel costs:

- Airfare or mileage within the U.S.
- Luggage fees
- Parking fees or transportation to the airport
- Food during travel

Hosting costs:

- Food during travel and while with the host
- Local transportation
- Lodging (either with a host or in a hotel)

If your visit is virtual, there will be no expense.

In either case, know that the mission co-worker cannot accept an honorarium but might welcome help to defray travel expenses if they visit your church in person. Please talk to the mission co-worker about this for additional guidance or, if you would rather, contact the Mission Connections office. We love to help!

? My church cannot afford the travel cost. What options do we have?

We can help! World Mission wants to encourage you to meet our mission co-workers and to hear their stories. We ask you to provide local transportation, food and housing for the mission co-worker, and we will cover travel costs for the mission co-worker's first visit to your congregation. This way, you can get to know each other without worrying about travel expenses.

If you met with the mission co-worker on a previous visit to the U.S. and want them to visit again, we ask that you pay travel expenses as well as hosting costs. If you are concerned that this will be a financial burden on your church, consider introducing the mission co-worker to another church in your vicinity. If this congregation agrees to host the co-worker, and the mission co-worker has not visited it before, World Mission will cover the mission co-worker's travel cost to your area.

You might also consider gathering multiple congregations together for an event.

If you include at least one congregation that has not hosted the mission co-worker, their travel costs will be covered by World Mission. In this way, the invitation to enjoy time with our mission co-workers is shared widely, and more people learn about ways to join in these vital ministries.

For more information about hosting a mission co-worker, contact:

Presbyterian World Mission

mission.live@pcusa.org

800-728-7228, ext. 5075