



Mission Co-workers: A Bridge to the Global Church

Who are mission co-workers?

Mission co-workers are men and women who have discerned a call from God through the PC(USA), to serve three or more years among our global church partners through ministries of evangelism and reconciliation and addressing the root causes of poverty. They are ordained and lay people, men and women, Presbyterians and ecumenical partners, young and not-so-young, single and married with families. Mission co-workers are as diverse as the body of Christ they are called to serve. Presbyterian World Mission works with mission co-workers in their process of discernment, training and through various kinds of support, guidance and pastoral care throughout their term of service.



What role do they serve?

Mission co-workers are people who have dedicated years in order to serve as bridges between peoples of different cultures. They interpret language and culture, both for us and for our partners.

They help us understand issues of ministry across boundaries, and they incarnate Christ's love by giving mission a personal face. They inspire us through their example and their stories, which widen our understanding of God's great work in the world.

How are PC(USA) mission co-workers called?

In the same way that a pastor is called through both the congregation and the presbytery, a mission co-worker is called to ministry through community. First, one of our global partners asks for a person to help in some ministry that the church sees as a top priority. Then the PC(USA) makes sure that the request aligns with our mission strategies, seeks the best person we can find for the ministry and then invites the person to consider the call. Finally, the identified person accepts that call, attends orientation here in the U.S., and then travels to a new home.

How are they funded?

Some sending organizations ask new mission co-workers to raise their own funding. The PC(USA) does not. Our new mission co-workers do not have to wait for months of fundraising while the overseas partner waits, too. Instead, new mission co-workers are funded out of a large bucket filled through general gifts that are not designated for a particular mission co-worker. As you can see, this large bucket is a critical component of mission co-worker funding. However, it is shrinking,

and we need our churches and members to fill the gap.

As new mission co-workers become familiar with their assignments and share their experiences through letters, congregations and individuals in the U.S. feel called to partner with them. Those new, designated gifts flow into a smaller bucket for that particular mission co-worker. As the little bucket gets filled with designated gifts, increasingly less funding needs to flow from the big bucket, so it can remain capable of sending out the next season's crop of co-workers.



A generation ago, mission co-workers received most of their funding throughout their terms of service from unrestricted mission dollars. However, due to shifting patterns of mission funding, our mission co-workers now depend on designated gifts from congregations and individuals for most of their financial support.

Yet these relationships are intended to be more than financial arrangements. The goal is for them to grow into lasting friendships that involve prayer and mutual sharing.

Mission co-workers work with Mission Engagement and Support to help raise the sending and support cost of their position, and we have goals for them to raise 25 percent per year until the position is fully supported. One way in which mission co-workers raise awareness about their positions, along with funding, is through their interpretation

assignment (IA), including their "sending" IA when starting service. During their IA, mission co-workers preach, teach and connect with Presbyterians across the U.S. More information about hosting a mission co-worker on interpretation assignment is available on page 12.

Our vision is of a world where the ministries of all of our mission co-workers are securely funded so they never have to worry about the future of their ministry. That includes further involvement by supporting congregations so that the co-worker is supported through prayer, learning and financial gifts.

Supporting Your PC(USA) Mission Co-workers

If you feel called to support all PC(USA) mission co-workers, especially the newest ones who are not yet well-connected to a support network, please give to our general missionary support fund (E132192). If you feel called to support specific mission co-workers, please give to the co-workers' designated funds available on their Mission Connections profile page or on their prayer cards. Both patterns of help are very much appreciated!

If you or your church would like to connect with an individual mission co-worker, see page 23 for a suggested discernment process that may help you determine where in the world God is calling you to develop mission relationships with church partners and mission co-workers. You may also visit pcusa.org/missionconnections to read mission co-worker profiles and letters.

Make the P.L.E.D.G.E.

Pray each day with and for the mission workers, for our global partners and the people they serve.

Learn about the mission workers' ministry.

Encourage people to become long-term mission workers.

Discern where and how you can better serve God by serving others in mission work.

Give your time, love, energy, gifts and financial contributions.

Engage in faithful and effective mission with the mission workers by advocating for justice, sharing the good news of God's love and seeking reconciliation in the world.

For more information on how to connect with and support mission co-workers, please contact

Nicole Gerkins
800-728-7228, ext. 5611
nicole.gerkins@pcusa.org

Visit pcusa.org/worldmission to learn how mission co-workers are serving God around the world through the PC(USA).

Discerning a call to mission service?

Visit pcusa.org/msr or call **800-728-7228, ext. 5327** to learn about opportunities for service as a mission co-worker or mission volunteer.