

World Mission-Related Mission Networks

Guidelines

DEFINITION:

Mission networks are collegial partnerships between various PC(USA) entities, governing bodies, and associations working together around a specific region, people group, or programmatic area of international mission. Gathering together in this manner, mission networks provide an opportunity for developing a body of shared knowledge for faithful and effective practice in mission and encourage moving effectively into a globalized world addressing issues around their common interest.

World Mission-related mission networks are formed for the primary purpose of enhancing communication and coordination among PC(USA) constituencies and PC(USA) partnerships. Endorsed by synods, presbyteries, or sessions of local congregations, mission networks share World Mission's core values and have a common partnership connection with an international partner church or organization related to World Mission. There is no intention of "institutionalizing" mission networks.

World Mission has begun to work intentionally in "communities of mission practice" where PC(USA) mission participants, global partners and World Mission (including mission personnel) commit to interact regularly to learn and grow as a community; come together to share an identity derived from a common mission passion; and are guided and shaped by the practices of prayer, Bible study, reflection and worship. Mission networks are one example of a community of mission practice.

CONSTITUENCY:

World Mission-related mission networks consist of representatives from multiple partnerships endorsed by synods, presbyteries or sessions of local congregations, with inclusion of World Mission Staff and global or ecumenical partners. While mission networks center around PC(USA)-related partnerships, individuals and communities who have discerned to leave the PC(USA) may continue to participate in mission networks. Broad-based participation is critical to Mission networks for generating the energy and resources to operate.

Mission networks determine their own conveners and other leadership in an appropriate Presbyterian and democratic manner. Representatives of other PC(USA) entities, individuals (such as mission personnel), representatives of non PC(USA) groups and organizations, such as non-profit or non-governmental organizations are welcome to participate in a mission network in a non-leadership capacity.

PURPOSE:

Mission networks will work to gather all PC(USA) participants in mission in a specific region or programmatic interest in order to:

- Enhance communication and collaboration among participants;
- Share information, experience and wisdom;
- Maximize and economize contact with international partners and World Mission staff;
- Include the perspective of global or ecumenical partners appropriately on an ongoing basis;
- Build relationships with and support for mission personnel related to the region of programmatic interest for the network;
- Develop an agreed upon vision and broader level goals for the network in order to increase faithfulness and effectiveness in mission engagement;
- Discuss and identify best strategies for mission engagement;
- Invite coordination of effort from the member partnerships through their representatives at the Mission network;
- Encourage coordination of mission work by all, with particular attention paid to Area, Program, and Presbyterian Mission Agency level goals;
- Coordinate communication and minimize potential differences or difficulties;
- Hold common work and particular members' mission involvement accountable to the network;
- Identify and invite new members for participation;
- Provide spiritual support for all partners engaged in the work of mission;
- Strengthen the partnerships represented by participants in the network.

WORLD MISSION AND MISSION NETWORKS:

World Mission staff will engage Mission networks according to the needs of a particular mission network from beginning, development, and into mature stages. Therefore, mission networks are asked to prioritize the participation of the appropriate PC(USA) World Mission staff in the planning and implementation of all network meetings and activities. In the beginning stages, World Mission will work to inspire, invite, and introduce interested participants to join together in the formation of a network by providing orientation, information, education, counsel, and guidance. As a network develops, World Mission will provide content on issues and programs, facilitate connections with other Presbyterian Mission Agency entities, and will attend all conference calls and meetings in order to facilitate learning and development of the network. As the network reaches “mature” stages, World Mission will accompany the network as it grows in faithful and effective mission engagement by working with the network in the production of resources for the larger church.

Mission network meeting participants cover their own travel and accommodation expenses. In some instances, World Mission may have resources to help in the initial formation of a network. World Mission will facilitate meeting (MT) accounts as a support for networks to manage their financial needs. Some Extra Commitment Opportunity (ECO) accounts may currently exist, or new ones can be opened, in order to facilitate the reception and management of funds intended to support partner programs and mission personnel, and to facilitate sponsoring global partners’ participation in network meetings.

Mission networks shall not take actions on behalf of, or represent their actions, decisions, or communications to other groups, entities, or international church partners as being PC(USA) World Mission actions, policies, or communications. Mission networks are, nonetheless, an important voice in the formation of strategic goals and programs of implementation. Mission networks can give input about programmatic direction or content to World Mission through the area or program offices.

Mission networks are strongly encouraged to be aware of and consider General Assembly policies and actions relevant to their work, to cite and highlight such actions where appropriate and to refrain from making statements or taking actions that might be perceived as inconsistent with these policies.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

For questions about World Mission-related mission networks, please contact the related Area Office:

Africa

800.728.7228 ext. 5031

Asia and the Pacific

800.728.7228 ext. 5339

Latin America and the Caribbean

800.728.7228 ext. 5103

Middle East/Europe/Central Asia

800.728.7228 ext. 5324