

Introduction to the Mission Selection and Evaluation Tool

This template is intended to offer a format that might be helpful as your congregation discerns its mission calling and evaluates possible and ongoing mission engagement. You may change any of the categories, add or subtract language and sections, and tailor it for your particular congregation. If you

need this document in Word format, please contact the Equipping for Mission Involvement office at **800-728-7228, ext. 5612**. You can find this template and other resources for mission discernment and evaluation at pcusa.org/missionresources. Click on “Strengthen Your Mission Committee.”

Section I: Calling and Values

The first section of the template will become a “permanent” part of your template. After appropriate discernment, you will want to articulate: (1) where or how the congregation feels called by God to serve; and (2) the key values for faithful and effective mission to which you will commit. Those might be done in list form or narrative statements. It is anticipated that these sections will be applicable to all mission projects and activities and will continue to inform your decisions from year to year. Of course, God’s mission is not stagnant, and you might be called in new ways or identify additional values that influence how you engage in God’s mission. Be open to ongoing discernment, but expect these sections of the template to be more static than others.

Section II: Balance

The second section allows you to list your proposed or existing mission activities and relationships and to measure them, in check-box fashion, against certain factors. Most important, are these activities and relationships consistent with your calling and values? If not, is there an overriding reason why you are continuing in this mission? The other columns might prompt you to explore “modes” of mission that will allow you to go deeper on particular matters and/or make more meaningful contributions. It might suggest where you are heavily-weighted in mission, perhaps deliberately or perhaps inadvertently. Is there value to a more balanced approach? Modes of mission range from “hands-on” activities to engagement that empowers the people you are serving to advocacy.

Section III: Impact

The third section helps you articulate the impact of your mission engagement. More than numbers, you may want to look at the impact on your own congregation’s discipleship and spiritual growth, the effect on individuals or organizations who partner with you, or other factors. If no discernable impact can be identified or if it is limited to certain columns, are you able to make changes that increase the impact in other ways? You might also use this section to help you interpret back to the congregation why this mission engagement is important.

Section IV and V: Evaluation

The fourth and fifth sections challenge you to avoid “business as usual” mission. Though an activity or project might be a traditional one, should it be continued? Is there an ongoing sense of call to this type of mission or this particular mode of mission? You might ask whether you are moving forward and making headway, so that the congregation has empowered others to take over this activity.

Mission Selection and Evaluation Tool

Presbyterian Church

Please find instructions for the use of this template at pcusa.org/missionresources. Click on "Strengthen Your Mission Committee. Call **800-728-7228, ext. 5612** for assistance.

Section I: Calling and Values

<p><i>We feel called by God to serve in the following ministry areas:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1.2.3.
<p><i>We commit to engaging in faithful and effective mission in these areas by adhering to the following key values:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1.2.3.4.5.6.7.8.9.10.

Section II: Balance

<p><i>We will engage in mission projects, activities and relationships that are consistent with our calling and values, and we will strive for a balance among these factors and others:</i></p>			
Mission Engagement		Local	
Our Calling		National	
Adheres to Values		International	
Relief		Long Term	
Empowering		Short Term	
Advocacy			

Section III: Impact

<i>We recognize that God's mission is not bound by statistics, and we evaluate the impact of our mission engagement on many levels:</i>					
Mission Engagement	Transformation of Our Congregation	Transformation of Our Mission Partners	Inspiration	Numerical Measure	Other

Section IV and V: Evaluation

<i>We evaluate our mission engagement regularly to discern God's ongoing call and our effectiveness by considering the following signs:</i>					
Mission Engagement	Joy	God's Peace	Convergence	Persistence	Fruitfulness

<i>We acknowledge that our role in God's mission is always evolving and may come to a conclusion. We promise to evaluate our role as time passes and to refrain from holding on too tightly.</i>				
Mission Engagement	Working Toward Independence	Matured	Better Handled by Others	Conclusion Celebrated