



We Can Help!

Hosting mission co-workers

Are you ready to connect with PC(USA) mission co-workers around the world? Presbyterian World Mission wants to help. Following are some frequently asked questions that will help frame a visit. Then, contact us.

What type of events should I arrange?

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.” Put the mission co-worker to use and use him or her wisely. Some example events are:

- 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



How do I send the invitation?

You have two options. You can email Rachel Anderson at the World Mission office or contact the mission co-worker directly. You will find his or her email address listed under the “Find a mission speaker” page (pcusa.org/missionspeaker).

How should my congregation/presbytery prepare for the visit?

Once you have the logistics settled, begin publicizing the event. Send out an email blast to members and community friends. Invite other organizations or churches that might be interested in attending as well. Look on the mission co-workers webpage (simply run a search for that person’s name at pcusa.org/missionconnections).

There you will find biographical information, a description of her or his 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 and her or his 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 preparing their hearts to receive the message the mission co-worker will bring. Find a song in the language of that area 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 once he or she leaves?

Follow up begins before she or he leaves. Make sure to give the mission co-worker important email and/or mailing addresses. You will begin to receive quarterly letters. Ask for specific prayer requests. Consider adding the mission co-worker to your mission budget. Commit to pray for his or her 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 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 cost of a visiting mission co-worker (detailed

below). Mission committees are encouraged to include funds to host mission co-workers in their yearly budgets. This allows for as many opportunities as possible to be together – learning, growing, praying, sharing.

Costs involved in hosting a mission co-worker

Travel Costs:

- Airfare or mileage
- Luggage fees
- Parking fees or transportation to the airport

Hosting Costs:

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

Please note that no honorarium is expected for current mission personnel, so if you usually pay a guest preacher, those funds might be available for the above costs.

My church cannot afford the cost. Are there scholarships available?

The short answer is, “Yes!” Please review the three different situations in which World Mission is able to assist with the travel cost involved in hosting a mission co-worker. The host is still responsible for all hosting costs.

1. Just a small church? We can help!

Presbyterian World Mission is able to offer some scholarships to cover all or part of the travel expenses for mission co-workers visiting small churches. While there is some flexibility, typically this scholarship is available for churches under 100 members that are unable to cover the travel cost.

2. Creating a cluster of support? We can help!

One way in which a congregation or presbytery can

be part of a mission co-worker’s ministry is to introduce him or her to others. Share the good news! When four or more congregations join together to host a mission co-worker, Presbyterian World Mission will finance half the travel costs. (When appropriate, the Small Church Scholarship can be used to cover the second half of the travel costs.)

3. Meeting a mission co-worker for the first time? We can help!

From time to time congregations want to meet mission co-workers they have never met before, just to hear fresh stories of the amazing work God is doing around the world. If you would like to host a new mission co-worker and need support meeting their travel costs, Presbyterian World Mission will fund up to \$500 for the cost of their travel.

For more information, contact:

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