

The Global Missional Partnerships Task Force Report

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Introductory Notes

Our Task: *Developing and deploying effective partnerships for local churches to be in ministry with one another globally across geographic boundaries to advance the Kingdom of God and reach diverse cultures with the love of Jesus.*

The WCA, and the future Methodist denomination, are committed to reaching all people with the Gospel of Jesus Christ and inviting every person to be a follower of Jesus Christ transformed by the grace of God.

We intend to multiply local church ministries by connecting theologically aligned congregations to one another through the launch of a new global Methodist Church committed to the historic Christian faith in the Wesleyan tradition.

Scriptural Foundations

Initial Scriptures

"I continue to dream and pray about a revival of holiness in our day that moves forth in mission and creates authentic community in which each person can be unleashed through the empowerment of the Spirit to fulfill God's creational intentions."

John Wesley

JESUS: "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Matthew 28:18-20 (NIV)

JESUS: "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation."

Mark 16:15 (NIV)

JESUS: "As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world."

John 17:18 (NIV)

JESUS: "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you."

John 20:21 (NIV)

JESUS: "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Acts 1:8 (NIV)

JESUS: "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."

Matthew 9:37-38 (NIV)

JESUS: "This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem."

Luke 24:46-47 (NIV)

"And how can anyone preach unless they are sent?" As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"

Romans 10:15 (NIV)

"It has always been my ambition to ***preach the gospel where Christ was not known***, so that I would not be building on someone else's foundation."

Romans 15:20 (NIV)

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile."

Romans 1:16 (NIV)

"The Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, 'ALL THE NATIONS WILL BE BLESSED IN YOU.'"

Galatians 3:8 (NASB)

"Now the promises were made to Abraham and to his offspring. It does not say, 'And to offsprings,' referring to many, but referring to one, 'And to your offspring,' who is Christ."

Galatians 3:16

"May his name endure forever; may it continue as long as the sun. Then all nations will be blessed through him, and they will call him blessed."

Psalms 72:17 (NIV)

The fulfillment
of the Great
Commission
and the
consummation
of God's
purpose

JESUS: "And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come."

Matthew 24:14 (NIV)

"After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands."

Revelation 7:9 (NIV)

“And they sang a new song, saying: “You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased for God persons from every tribe and language and people and nation.”

Revelation 5:9 (NIV)

“Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,”

Philippians 2:9-10 (NIV)

“If the Great Commission is true, our plans are not too big; they are too small.”

-Pat Morely

“He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.”

Micah 6:8 (NIV)

“He who oppresses the poor reproaches his Maker, but he who honors Him has mercy on the needy.”

Proverbs 14:31 (NIV)

“When justice is done, it brings joy to the righteous but terror to evildoers.”

Proverbs 21:15 (NIV)

“... for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.’ Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You? Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?’ And the King will answer and say to them, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me. ... Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.’”

Matthew 25:35-40,45 (NIV)

“The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

Luke 4:18-19 (NIV)

“Therefore be merciful, just as your Father also is merciful.”

Luke 6:36 (NIV)

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to

comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.”

2 Corinthians 1:3-4 (NIV)

History of Methodist Missions and a Potential New Future

It was Dr. George Hunter who once said, “There was a time when we Methodist would say with John Wesley, ‘The world is my parish.’ Today, we far too often say, ‘The parish is my world.’”

While Wesley spoke the former words out of his burden to see spiritually anemic Anglicans awakened to Christ, it was Thomas Coke, the first Methodist bishop, who is considered the father of Methodist missions. Filled with affection for Jesus and His gospel, Coke died while on his way to share Christ with people in India. Coke is also credited with pioneering the sharing of the Gospel to islands in the West Indies, Sierra Leone, Nova Scotia, Ireland, and France. In light of Coke’s legacy, many overlook how the Great Commission was part of Methodism’s originating impulses.

Presently, approximately 2.8 billion people have no access to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

- Over 6,000 people groups around the world have no access to the Gospel.
- Over 40 percent of the world’s people groups have no indigenous community of believing Christians able to reach the rest of their people group.
- 86 percent of the world’s Muslims, Hindus and Buddhists do not personally know a Christian.

Bishop Coke would not have been indifferent to these realities in his time. In a new Methodist movement, we are determined not to be indifferent to these realities in our time.

As we focus on developing and deploying effective partnerships for local churches to be in ministry with one another globally across geographic boundaries to advance the Kingdom of God and reach people of diverse cultures with the love of Jesus, we move into the development of a new Methodist movement.

This movement is committed to reaching all people with the Gospel and inviting every person to be a follower of Jesus Christ transformed by the grace and love of God on a global scale.

We are committed to birthing new strategies of disciple making, church planting, and church revitalization for regions of the United States where there is an absence of vibrant, traditionally orthodox Methodism expressed to the nations (ethne). With the understanding that “the world is our parish,” we will step into the development of strategies for reaching unreached people groups (UPG’s) in Asia, Europe, the Middle East, Africa, and Latin America for the transformation of the world. With Great Commission hearts, we will seek to develop intentional strategies for the 10/40 window and beyond.

The Five Sections of the Report of the Global Missional Partnerships Task Force:



Figure 1: Five Sections of Global Missional Partnerships

1. Identifying Global Missional Partnerships

This section captures the root mission of the Global Missional Partners Task Force and gives description of the formal process for identifying potential Wesleyan Global Partners for the advancement of the Kingdom of God, especially those who have never heard the Gospel. The formulation of this section was developed in collaboration with Methodist leaders from numerous parts of the world.

2. Equipping Local Churches for Global Mission

This section identifies and makes available best practices for equipping local churches in global mission through gospel propagation, disciple-making, disciple-making movement, church planting and church planting movement wed with mercy ministries.

3. Global Prayer Initiatives

With the concern that many United Methodists have been conditioned to indifference to the Great Commission, something deep needs to change in the hearts of a people called Methodists. This section casts vision for the stirring up of strategic prayer initiatives for the new Methodist denomination in the hopes of igniting lay and clergy with God’s heart and revelation for making disciples among all nations.

4. Cross-Cultural Gospel Centered Community Development

*While the **Ministry to the Margins Task Force** has completed an excellent report on the life-giving nature of Gospel Centered Community Development, this section highlights the distinct challenges of cross-cultural works of community transformation in conjunction with global partnerships.*

5. Strategic Initiatives Through Scalable Processes for Local Churches

This section aides in equipping local churches in scalable processes of becoming Great Commission Churches wed with identifying levels of world-wide gospel and mercy ministry needs.

I. Identifying Global Partners

Sub-Team Chairperson, Dr. Warren Lathem

Introduction/Overview

Below are the documents which define the process we envision for the approval process required for mission partners who desire to be identified with the New Methodist Church, pending passage of the Protocol of Reconciliation and Grace Through Separation and the formation of a new Methodist denomination.

Further, we recommend the New Methodist denomination name a chair, a moderator and at least 12 members of the committee who will do the work envisioned by this Task Force. These members need to represent the global nature of the movement. Further, because of the nature of this work it may be necessary from time to time to greatly expand the working members of this committee depending on the volume of applications. Therefore, we recommend the Chair of this committee be empowered to recruit additional team members as necessary. The work then could be divided into various sub teams to insure a thorough and timely response to applicant ministries.

Additionally, to do the work as envisioned by this Task Force a web site will need be developed by the New Methodist denomination, and a webmaster be available who will work with the Moderator of this committee to get our defined process on line and functioning well before ministries are invited to apply.

It is our intent to manually process 5 test ministry applications prior to August 15 to be assured the process can work. We understand we have no authority to approve these ministries on behalf of any organization. They also understand this. It is simply to check out our defined procedures.

Respectfully Submitted,
Warren Lathem

The Global Mission Partners (GMP) Ministry Network

Introduction

The New Methodist Church is committed to developing and strengthening effective global mission partnerships between the new denomination local churches and like-minded mission groups and agencies, to be in ministry with one another globally across geographic boundaries, to advance the Kingdom of God, and to reach people of diverse cultures with the Good News and love of Jesus Christ.

The Global Mission Partners (GMP) Ministry Network is designed to facilitate the development and strengthening of effective global mission partnerships within and through the New Methodist Church.

Goals

- a. Identify Christian ministries interested in networking that are: committed to grace, compassion, and have a passionate desire for people to experience a personal relationship with Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour; that are committed to the Lordship of Jesus Christ, the authority and inspiration of the Scriptures, and the work of the Holy Spirit in conveying God's truth, grace, renewal, and sanctification to all people who repent and believe.
- b. Establish and maintain a New Methodist Church Global Mission Partners "Ministry Network" to facilitate the forming of strong bonds of ministry partnership with like-minded mission groups, and agencies, that will work together to spread the Gospel throughout the world, especially among those who have never heard the Gospel.
- c. Empower the development of well-trained, national ministries to lead the ministry within their own context, and the training of national leaders in their own context.
- d. Provide an avenue for local churches to partner in global missions with ministries that have provided evidence of commitment to Biblical faith; fruitfulness, and which practice transparency and accountability.

Leadership Selection

Our commitment to maintaining a “round table” GMP Committee

The New Methodist Church is committed to maintaining a network of Global Mission Partners which functions with a commitment to “round table” leadership. This is a welcoming table. No one nation or continent is to be “the” leader. Instead, discussion, planning, decision-making, and oversight are to be shared – with humility and prayerfulness, seeking the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Leadership for the GMP Committee shall be selected in a manner that appropriately reflects the global nature of the New Methodist Church.

Thoughtfulness shall be given to ensure the gifts of male and female leaders will be brought to the table through balanced representation.

Membership

The committee shall consist of a chairperson, a forum moderator, and at least 12 members, each elected for a 6-year term of service. These members need to represent the global nature of the movement.

Because of the nature of this work it may be necessary from time to time to greatly expand the working members of this committee depending on the volume of applications. At such times, the chairperson is empowered to recruit additional qualified members as necessary. (The work can then be divided into various evaluation teams to insure a thorough and timely response to applicant ministries.)

Qualifications

For the sake of the global church, selection of qualified leaders is vital to this area of ministry. Individuals who serve on the GMP Committee must be prepared to be proactive, and to devote time regularly to the carrying out this ministry. Cross-cultural sensitivity and good administrative skills are essential to ensure this vital area of ministry and the global church are well served. Beyond ensuring the GMP Committee reflects the global nature of the church, and that the gifts of male and female leaders will be brought to the table, persons with the following qualifications shall be recommended for service:

- a. Leaders (both lay and clergy) with experience, wisdom, and evidence of fruitfulness in the various ministry types (Gospel Sharing / Evangelism; Discipleship Training; Church Planting; National Leadership Training; Sending Agencies, and Mercy Ministries).
- b. Individuals who have at least 5 years of international mission experience / cross cultural work.
- c. Persons with theological training (pastors, missionaries).

Vacancies and Removal

If members of the committee fail to attend meetings and participate in essential duties, the Chairperson is authorized to approach such members, seeking resolution. If it is determined committee members are unable to carry out their responsibilities due to season-of-life issues or other incapacity, the Chairperson is authorized to recruit qualified committee members as is necessary, in consultation with the Chairperson of the Commission on Evangelism, Missions, and Church Planting.

Meetings

The work and meeting schedule of the GMP Committee is designed to serve a global church. GMP Evaluation Team meetings, at which ministry applications are evaluated for final approval, are to be held monthly. Between monthly meetings, global evaluation team members carry out the work of reviewing ministry applications and may need to carry out video-based interviews of applicants if additional or clarify information is needed to make a decision.

Responsibilities and Guiding Principles of the GMP Ministry Network Committee

Responsibilities and guiding principles of the GMP Ministry Network Committee

- a. Accept and process applications in a way that is open and helpful.
- b. Prayerfully evaluate each application with focused attention on qualifying criteria.
- c. Communicate decisions with applicants in a timely manner.
- d. Refer individuals who apply expressing interest in mission service to connect with appropriate New Methodist Church ministry areas / approved sending agencies, so they may receive assistance in discerning their call, guidance, training, and support.
- e. If a ministry/organization does not initially qualify for approval, assist applicants in understanding what is needed for possible, future approval.
- f. Maintain the GMP Approved Ministry Network, and make it accessible to New Methodist Churches.

Continued on Next Page

As the New Methodist Church seeks to adequately develop and maintain a vetted “Ministry Network” there are challenges that must be acknowledged regarding the evaluation process:

- a. *The GMP Committee has a vitally important task.* On behalf of the global New Methodist Church, the GMP Committee serves as a type of ‘gate-keeper.’ It should be clear though, that the task of the Evaluation Team is not about protecting a “limited pie.” It is about opening avenues so that qualifying organizations will be entered into the Global Mission Partners (GMP) ‘Ministry Network’, blessing and strengthening ministries serving missionally throughout the world.

The process of receiving, evaluating, and responding to GMP applicants should help to create an open, accessible avenue for all qualified ministries to enter.

This means the process does not give special status to early applicants, and it does not limit, penalize, or block other qualified ministries from applying and being accepted.

- b. *In a gate-keeper function, members of the GMP Committee are tasked with identifying whether ministries/organizations meet the requirements for inclusion.* One of the reasons this is so important, is so that churches seeking global ministries with which to partner, can have confidence that the ministries they are considering are like-minded in faith, and are about the work of making disciples. Local churches want assurances that ministries are trustworthy — (transparent and accountable), and that they are fruitful.
- c. *We acknowledge that some factors are easier to measure than others.* For example: GMP applicants can, through their responses, give assurance they share a commitment to a Wesleyan faith expression and Wesleyan doctrines. And, while the GMP Evaluation Teams can require information about a ministry’s board members and financial accountability practices, without being on-site, an evaluation team is limited in how much ‘verification’ is possible. Trust does enter into the evaluation process.

Additionally, measuring a ministry’s fruitfulness has its challenges. In making disciples of Jesus, one factor that must be considered is the context in which a ministry operates. A mission operating in a nation with limited openness to Christianity may have smaller “numbers” to report than a nation in which the church is experiencing exponential growth, yet the need for such a mission may be even more essential for expanding God’s Kingdom.

And, while many fruitfulness factors can be numerically measured (for example, “How many people were disciplined through your ministry this year?”) the fact is, measuring the quality of the fruit produced is more difficult. *We acknowledge there are challenges and limitations in evaluating self-reporting teams.*

This acknowledgment is not a reason to despair or to pull back from partnerships and generosity. Obedience to the fulfilling the Great Commission and Great Commandment demands that we constantly do our best to ensure evaluation processes are designed to elicit truth from “on the ground.” We must also acknowledge that the process of evaluating ministries for approval requires more than gathering information, and more than human wisdom. For the sake of God’s Kingdom, all evaluation must be done with conscious dependence upon God, calling upon the Holy Spirit for leading and guidance.

Workflow; How Organizations Move Through the GMP Process – From Being Applicants to Becoming Global Ministry Partners

Stakeholders

The development and maintenance of the Global Mission Partners Ministry Network impacts the effective witness, outreach, and service of the New Methodist Church. Through strong partnerships, local churches and global ministries become connected; prayer increases; resources are shared, and workers are sent out “into the fields for harvest.” Together, these glorify God, and strengthen the unity of His Kingdom on earth. Local churches and global ministries are clear stakeholders. Before local church members even access the online GMP Ministry Network, multiple collaborators are necessary to ensure this important work is carried out faithfully. These include:

- a. The *Organization/Ministry Leader-Applicant*, who completes a thorough application, provides required documents, and submits to a vetting process
- b. The *GMP Ministry Network Web Administrator*, who creates and maintains the online database for applications and for the Ministry Network
- c. The *GMP Committee Members* who, individually carry out reviews, and collectively, each month, participate in GMP Evaluation Team meetings, to prayerfully discern whether applying ministries qualify for Ministry Network inclusion
- d. The *GMP Committee Chairperson*, who guides the committee, and when needed, secures additional qualified members to carry out the work of evaluation
- e. The *GMP Forum Moderator* who, interfacing with the Applicant, Web Administrator, and GMP Committee, manages documents for a timely and respectful process. For a short summary of the GMP Forum, go to **Appendix D** (*Document: The New Methodist Church GMP Ministry Network Applications Forum*).

Mapping of functions

The development and maintenance of an approval process which effectively serves a global church through the bringing together of global church leaders involves the development of a methodical process. While important in any organization, this is particularly true in the birthing of a new denomination, when establishing credibility and trust is essential.

The first three maps included in the Appendices at the end of this document lay out visual explanations of the processes being recommended for establishing the New

Methodist Church GMP Ministry Network – the workflow for its evaluation process; basic digital requirements for the website, database and forum communications, and a potential introductory rollout plan.

- a. To understand how an application moves through the application process, and to see the responsibilities of each “collaborator,” go to **Appendix A** (*Map 1: The New Methodist Church Global Mission Partners Ministry Network Approval & Registration Process*).
- b. To get a basic understanding of digital requirements for the website and database functions that will be needed to move an organization from “applicant” to GMP Ministry Network “member,” go to **Appendix B** (*Map 2: The New Methodist Church Global Mission Partners Ministry Network Application Process: Applicant / Web / Forum Loop*).
- c. To see a potential workflow of introducing the GMP Ministry Network, go to **Appendix C** (*Map 3: The New Methodist Church Global Mission Partners Ministry Network Development Process [Over Time]*).

Criteria
necessary to
qualify for
inclusion in the
GMP Ministry
Network

Ministries / organizations seeking approval should demonstrate:

- a. A commitment to Biblical authority.
- b. A commitment to Wesleyan doctrine and theology, with a desire to identify with the New Methodist Church.
- c. The ministry fulfills the mission of making disciples of Jesus.
- d. Equipped leadership, serving capably within the culture and context.
- e. The organization functions cooperatively with local churches and other ministries.
- f. Appropriate oversight; transparency and accountability.
- g. Evidence of fruitfulness.

Application
Process

To maintain a robust GMP Network that is useful in assisting local churches seeking to partner with specific types of ministries, as well to evaluate ministries appropriately, applicants are invited to fill out a GMP application. A completed application provides (1) general information, (through questions asked of all ministries); (2) additional information required of specific ministry-types, and (3) submission of required documents. (See point 4, *below*)

When completing the application, applicants specify the type of ministry/program carried out by the organization by selecting from six categories. If multiple ministries are carried out, applicants may select all that apply. The categories are:

- i. Gospel Sharing / Evangelism
- ii. Discipleship Training
- iii. Church Planting
- iv. National Leadership Training
- v. Sending Agencies

vi. Mercy Ministries

Applications are to be submitted online through the New Methodist Church “Global Mission Partners” Ministry Network page of the New Methodist Church website.

The GMP Committee will respond to the applicant, confirming receipt of the application. If the GMP Committee needs additional information, this will be communicated as well. An online, video-recorded interview may be scheduled to facilitate deeper understanding; in such cases, the video will be made available to the evaluation team for a brief time and then deleted.

If no additional information is required, the GMP Committee will identify the date the ministry will be scheduled for consideration, as well as when the ministry/organization can anticipate receiving a final determination response. Applicants are welcome to contact the GMP Committee with questions or comments as well.

Following the evaluation of an application by the GMP Committee, the applicant will receive a prompt response regarding the decision:

- i. If the application is approved, notification is sent to the GMP Ministry Network Web Administrator, authorizing uploading of the organization to the online GMP Ministry Network. For protection of ministries, particularly in areas of persecution, online display fields are determined by the applicant.
- ii. If the application is not approved, the applicant will be provided with a helpful explanation, and assistance offered as to how the organization may qualify in the future.

All financial documents submitted will be treated as confidential by the GMP Committee members, and will be deleted upon approval to the GMP Network.

“Approved ministry status” in the New Methodist Church GMP Ministry Network is not permanent. All ministries / organizations must reapply to renew their status every six years.

Application to the GMP Ministry Network

Information required of organizations seeking inclusion in the GMP Ministry Network

*A copy of the application developed by the GMP sub-task force team can be found in the Appendix. See: **Appendix G** (Document: Application to the New Methodist Church Global Mission Partners Ministry Network).*

Through the online application process, organizations seeking inclusion in the GMP Ministry Network shall:

-
- a. Provide identifying and contact information:
 - i. The name of ministry/organization, country, location and contact information.
 - ii. A brief description of the ministry (No more than three sentences)
 - iii. The director/applicant's name and contact information.
 - iv. Identification of the type of ministry which is being submitted for consideration.

 - b. Provide a brief introduction and overview of the organization and ministries including:
 - i. Overview – what the ministry accomplishes why it is essential
 - ii. Context – include setting (urban, small town, rural); population; languages spoken; religious breakdown by type, with percentage of population that is Christian; other cultural factors.
 - iii. History – with the history, also state how long ministries/programs have been operating.
 - iv. Denomination – identify denominational affiliation and whether funding is received from this or any other organization
 - v. Any additional information that would be helpful for the GMP Committee or New Methodist local churches to understand the ministry.

 - c. Describe how making disciples of Jesus Christ as an explicit component of the ministry. If applying on behalf of a mercy ministry, describe in what ways is the gospel of Jesus is intentionally shared through the day-to-day carrying out of the ministry

 - d. Describe how the organization contributes to the support, development, and training of spiritually mature national church leaders. In this description, identify:
 - i. Aspects which reveal a Wesleyan orientation.
 - ii. How the ministry/program prepares team members to humbly work within local cultural contexts, with understanding of the historical foundations, worldviews, customs, art forms, and social, religious and linguistic expressions.
 - iii. *(For Church Planting Ministries only)* Identify the goals, and explain the process by which the program assists in or carries out church planting.
 - iv. *(For Sending Agencies only)* Outline the process or services the organization provides to guide, oversee, and support employees who will serve cross-culturally.

 - e. Identify what factors are considered in measuring fruitfulness, and the process utilized in this measuring fruitfulness (provide examples).

Describe how this organization relates to the local church/churches of the

area in which it operates. (For example, identify points of collaboration or cooperation.)

- f. Describe the oversight process of the organization by answering these questions:
- i. Does the organization have legal status that provides an avenue for financial accountability?
 - ii. How many board members does the board have? How often does the board meet? How are board members and officers chosen?
 - iii. If the organization posts names of board members, provide a website address to where this information can be found.
 - iv. How does the organization ensure financial transparency and accountability?
-

Documents
required of
organizations
seeking
inclusion in the
GMP Ministry
Network

- a. Affiliation and Registration Documents:
- i. If the ministry has organizational affiliation, a copy of this shall be supplied.
 - ii. A copy of domestic and/or international legal registration if it is available within a country. (For example, US-based organizations submit a copy of the 501c3 non-profit registration.) If registration is not permitted by a country, this information is to be provided.
- b. Financial Documents:
- i. A copy of the previous year's annual budget.
 - ii. A copy of the treasurer's report.
 - iii. A copy of the most recent external audit, review or other 3rd party examination of the financial records of the ministry.
- c. Leadership Documents:
- i. The ministry leader's history of work, ministry, and education.
 - ii. The ministry leader's statement of testimony.
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Commitments
required of
organizations
seeking
inclusion in the
GMP Ministry
Network

Organizations seeking inclusion in the New Methodist Church Global Mission Partners Approved Ministry Network shall:

- a. Demonstrate a connection to our Wesleyan heritage and practice through affiliation with a denomination in the pan-Wesleyan stream, or a theological position rooted in Wesleyan Theology.
 - b. Be willing to have affiliation with the New Methodist Church and publicly affirmed this affiliation through posting on the GMP Ministry Network website.
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- c. Confirm that the ministry/organization’s board of directors have voted on and are in full agreement with the beliefs and commitments stated in the New Methodist Church *Doctrine and Discipline*, including:
 - i. The authority and inspiration of the Holy Scriptures, which are understood to be our primary rule for faith and practice.
 - ii. The doctrines found within the historic creeds of the church, our Articles of Religion and Confession of Faith, and the core Wesleyan tradition
 - iii. The commitment to justice and holy living within society as found in the New Methodist Church “Social Witness to the World”
 - d. Confirm the ministry/organization will neither promote nor engage in ministry practices incompatible with our theological and social principles.
-

Evaluating Ministries for Global Mission Partner (GMP) Inclusion

A copy of the application developed by the GMP sub-task force team can be found in the Appendix. See: Appendix H (Document: GMP Evaluation Team - Qualifying Criteria Evaluation Tool).

Applications are made available for individual GMP Evaluation Team members’ review

Applications that appear complete are uploaded by the Forum Moderator to the GMP Forum for individual Evaluation Team members to review. If there are any questions requiring clarification, or any information is identified as missing, the GMP forum moderator is responsible to contact the applicant for further information. In some situations, where clarification is required for better understanding, an online interview may be requested and carried out.

Applications are “polled” to discern readiness for team evaluation and possible approval

After applications are deemed “complete” GMP Evaluation Team members respond to the “Readiness Poll” on the forum.

- a. Responses determine first, whether an application is ready for the full team evaluation. (If not, this re-activates communication between the Forum Moderator and the Ministry Applicant.)
 - b. If an application is ready for full team evaluation, the responses then determine whether an application shall be placed on a consent calendar (this occurs if all members have high confidence in the ministry being considered). Any evaluation team member can “pull” an application from the consent calendar by requesting discussion or by requesting further information be collected.
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- c. An evaluation team member may instead choose to place the application on the discussion agenda for the next GMP Evaluation Team Meeting. This option does not reflect a lack of confidence in the ministry; rather, the discussion agenda option creates opportunity for global team members to share concerns or comments that may require more communication than can conveniently be shared through typed forum responses.
-

Applications are evaluated by the GMP Evaluation Team

All ministry applications will be evaluated in accordance with criteria identified in the *“GMP Evaluation Team - Qualifying Criteria Evaluation Tool.”*

Qualifying criteria, required for inclusion in the GMP Ministry Network

While already stated in Section 6.3, criteria necessary to qualify for inclusion in the GMP Ministry Network is restated here for the sake of organizations/ministries considering applying. Ministries / organizations seeking approval should demonstrate:

- a. A commitment to Biblical authority.
- b. A commitment to Wesleyan doctrine and theology, with a desire to identify with the New Methodist Church.
- c. The ministry fulfills the mission of making disciples of Jesus.
- d. Equipped leadership, serving capably within the culture and context.
- e. The organization functions cooperatively with local churches and other ministries.
- f. Appropriate oversight; transparency and accountability.
- g. Evidence of fruitfulness.

In reviewing applications, members of the GMP Evaluation Team are responsible to assess whether these qualifying criteria are: fully evident; mostly evident; partially evident, or whether an application reveals little or no evidence of specific criterion.

Additional factors which are considered

As GMP Evaluation Team Members assess ministry applications, additional factors are considered. Each factor provides statements to assist in evaluation. Team members are reminded to seek whether the application provides evidence which is present and strong; present; present but limited, or appears to be absent. These factors and

supporting identifiers include:

- a. The measuring of fruitfulness:
 - i. The ministry identifies clear and relevant criteria to measure fruitfulness.
 - ii. The ministry has a process to evaluate fruitfulness.
 - iii. Specific examples of fruitfulness are provided.
- b. The contextual and cross- cultural training of workers:
 - i. ministry prepares team members to humbly work within cultural context.
 - ii. The ministry assists workers to grow in cross- cultural understanding. (Ex: historical foundations, worldviews customs, art forms, and social, religious and linguistic expression).
- c. (For Mercy Ministries) Identification of purpose:
 - i. clear statement of the ministry's purpose is provided.
- d. (Also for Mercy Ministries) The active sharing of Christ is an explicit, regular part of the ministry:
 - i. The active sharing of Christ in the day-to-day carrying out of this ministry is evident.
- e. (For Organizations providing Discipleship Training or National Leadership Training) A Wesleyan theological orientation:
 - i. The ministry reveals a Wesleyan orientation.
- f. (For Sending Agencies) Support and oversight of cross-cultural workers:
 - i. The organization provides guidance, oversight and support to employees who serve cross-culturally.
- g. (For Church Planting Ministries) Established goals and processes:
 - i. The ministry has clear goals, and explains the process by which the organization assists in, or carries out church planting.

In this section, GMP Evaluation Team Members rate their responses on a scale of 3 to 0. (3 = 'Satisfied and Confident'; 2 = 'Satisfied'; 1 = 'Have Questions Which Require Clarifying Information', and 0 = 'Have Serious Concerns'.) The following factors are rated:

- a. Information shared in the ministry introduction and overview (including: activities; context; history; leadership and guiding principles; denominational affiliation).
 - b. The ministry's contribution to the support, development, and training of spiritually mature, national church leaders.
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- c. The organization’s oversight process, and financial accountability.
 - d. The documents which have been submitted, including the leader’s ministry & work history, education and testimony.
 - e. The organization’s demonstration of a commitment to Biblical faith, justice, and holy living within society, which is to be lived out by leaders and employees.
-

The submission or required documents is checked and their content is reviewed

(Documents to be submitted by applicants are listed in **SECTION 7.2.**)

Authorized committee decisions

After GMP Evaluation Team Members carry out initial reviews and polling, applications that are placed on the team meeting agenda are decided upon by the GMP Evaluation Team. Two-week notice shall be given prior to Evaluation Team Meetings. Because this is a global team with members participating from various time zones/days, decisions to approve or not approve ministries for inclusion in the GMP Ministry Network may be made when fifty percent of the GMP Evaluation Team is present at an online meeting. In the case of multiple evaluation teams being needed to process applications in a timely manner, each GMP Evaluation Team is authorized to carry out the decision-making process, and submit its recommendations to the next full GMP Committee meeting. Approval of the GMP Evaluation Team recommendations can be carried out by the number of GMP Committee Members present.

A Report of Results Having Carried Out the GMP Evaluation Team Process

Introduction

To test the viability of the proposed GMP Committee application evaluation process, the sub-task force committed to processing five ministry applications prior to August 15 to be assured the process can work. It was understood that the sub-task force had no authority to approve these ministries on behalf of any organization. Applicants were informed of this as well.

Initial invitation to apply

Commitments to complete the application and provide required documents were made by four members of the sub-task force. A fifth commitment to produce an application was secured by a sub-task force member who invited another ministry leader to submit an application. Just before the Evaluation Team Meeting, a sixth application was submitted by another sub-task force member. (This member did not originally commit to submitting an application because he was concerned a series of

meetings might make it impossible to complete the application. He decided to “work through” the time restraint, and submitted an application the evening before the team met.)

It should be noted that applications were submitted by organizations of various sizes, and which carry out diverse ministries. The six organizations are:

- a. CIEMAL (Council of the Methodist Church in Latin American and Caribbean); based in Panama, CIEMAL operates in twenty-one countries. CIEMAL exists to mobilize, train, and connect Methodist churches in Latin America and the Caribbean.
- b. Hope for Today, a multi-program organization which ministers in South Asia (India, Nepal, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, and Bhutan)
- c. Red Nueva Vida (New Life Network), a global church planting ministry serving in USA, Mexico, Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Colombia, Chile, UK, and Spain
- d. Thailand NOW, an organization ministering in and from Thailand for church planting, training and mercy ministries
- e. TMS Global, a sending agency which exists to mobilize and deploy Christian workers globally, especially among unreached people
- f. Venezuela Now Inc., a US-based non-profit which supports the work of the church in Venezuela through seminary training, medical facilities, and the funding of church-based feeding ministries

Working the vetting process

Prior to gathering the applications, a dedicated email account was opened to receive the applications. Additionally, a “GMP Ministry Network Applications Forum” was set up. A training tool was developed and shared among sub-task force members explaining how the forum functions. (See **Appendix E. The GMP Ministry Application Process – How the Forum Helps Us in Our Work**). Additionally, a brief document was shared which provided instructions on how to register with the forum, (See **Appendix F. Training Document: Registering with the Forum**).

Prior to the “Evaluation Team Meeting”, members of the sub-task force had opportunity to carry out individual reviews of the ministries, and became acquainted with the capacities of the forum to assist in managing work flow, and for carrying on long-distance discussions.

Even though this was a “trial run,” (i.e. – prone to glitches) reading the applications revealed God at work throughout the world; and was deeply was inspiring.

The test-run provided opportunities for the sub-task force to make some needed

adjustments to the application, as well as helped to further define what elements were essential to an evaluation process, and what elements might be superfluous. The evaluation process recommended in this document reflects the decisions which emerged through the sub-task force's concluding discussion of the process test.

Additional Recommendations

As the GMP Ministry Network sub-task force worked together, many questions and ideas came up which members realized were not within the scope of the sub-task force's assigned focus. Some ideas, however, seem appropriate to pass along for others to consider as the work of WCA continues. Here are four:

1. If the process recommended by this report is in some form adopted, it may be wise to link the GMP Ministry Network application data-base to any New Methodist Church ministry area which may be involved in providing grants or other direct funding to global ministry partners. While the GMP Ministry Network application process being recommended does not include the retainment of financial documents submitted by applicants, much of the (extensive) information gathered could be easily available and would reduce the burden upon applicants to complete an additional "full application" to be considered for grant funding. (Perhaps only targeted questions would need to be asked of organizations already part of the GMP Ministry Network.)
2. The recommended process by which organizations gain inclusion in the GMP Ministry Network does not require online "face-to-face" interviews. (Interviews are an option if clarification is needed for decision-making, but would not be required.) Given the numbers of potential applicants, and the reality that the task of evaluating organizations will, at least in the early phases of beginning the New Methodist Church, be carried out by volunteer committee members, requiring interviews of all applicants would be highly difficult to carry out.

This being said, some GMP sub-task force members expressed confidence in and value for interviews. It is suggested that if funding is to be made available to ministries/organizations, the New Methodist Church ministry area consider incorporating interviews in its decision-making process.

3. It would be a great service (especially to small and medium global ministries) if the GMP area of the New Methodist Church developed online video and printable resources to assist ministries in connecting with churches interested in developing partnerships. Additional resources might include how to develop a budget; how to build accountability; how to share your ministry's story, etc.
4. A plan should be developed to assist local churches in becoming aware of, and to connect with the GMP Ministry Network. The Ministry Network should become a regular "go-to" for exploring potential ministry partners, as well as provide a global listing of people groups and organizations to be prayed for by local church prayer ministries and New Methodist Church members.

II. Equipping Local Churches for Global Mission

Sub-Team Chairperson, Dr. Kim Reisman

Foundational Assumptions

The Nature of God

As Christians we serve a missionary God whose nature is to reach out in love to all creation. From the beginning God has desired to be in loving relationship, and tirelessly seeks and searches for all who are separated, suffering, and lost. This aspect of God's nature is beautifully evidenced in Scripture. From the moment God began searching for Adam and Eve (Genesis 3), to the moment God became human in Jesus of Nazareth, to the moment God poured out God's Holy Spirit at Pentecost (Acts 2), God has been searching for God's wayward children. The Creator continually moves toward the created in love and grace.

The Mission of God

The overarching and unchanging mission of God is to redeem, bless, and transform all peoples for his glory. God spares nothing to accomplish this mission. No price is too high. For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life (John 3:16). Even now God is pursuing the abused, the hurting, and those who have never heard the Good News, working for the liberation of all people from all that enslaves. God's movement toward and ministry to humankind may sometimes seem random, but Scripture suggests that God's work in the world is always gracious, transformative and aligned with God's loving character.

The Strategy of God

The Church is a product of the mission of God and is a key part of God's strategy for the redemption and transformation of all creation. Therefore, God's mission of redemption must be the central premise of every aspect of the Church.

The nature of God to move toward His lost children is global in scope and not just directed to the chosen nation of Israel or to the Christian Church. Indeed, God desires all nations to declare His Name and be represented in His Kingdom, and it is the privilege and responsibility of the Church to help accomplish this.

The Church is called to the same pattern of service that is demonstrated in Jesus Christ and carries forth the creative work of mission by the Holy Spirit. The global church, and the church in each particular setting, is to be a sign of the Kingdom of God which will be fully realized in the New Heaven and New Earth. God's strategy to transform the world is to use everyday people who believe in and follow Jesus. We have been entrusted with the message of God's reign and will for the world; therefore, all aspects of the life of the Church should serve as a sign, foretaste, and means of the Kingdom of God. Such a demonstration requires the self-sacrificing love that Jesus demonstrates on the cross. It is only through this type of love that true

The Local Church Engaged in the Mission of God

liberation and transformation can be found. The Church on mission joins in both the suffering and the celebration revealed in Scripture.

When the local church is fully engaged in the mission of God it should reflect Christ's self-abasing demonstration of Christian love and call for holy living, seeking not to readily conform to the world in which it finds itself, but to fully participate in and proclaim the ethical and social transformation revealed in Jesus.

The mission of God will dictate all the activities of the local church. Discernment about those activities is gained through use of the tools God has given. Missional activity, theological reflection, and biblical study will inform and complement one another to discern the ways in which the church should join in the mission of God.

When the local church is fully engaged in the mission of God it will recognize that it shares Abraham's call to be a blessing to all the families of the earth (Genesis 12). It will understand itself to be an integral part of God's strategy outlined throughout the Old and New Testaments: to make Godself known to all the peoples of the earth.

The image in Revelation 7:9-10, where all the nations have been reached, will ground the vision of the local church fully engaged in the mission of God: After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!"

"It is extremely difficult to maintain a healthy understanding and practice of mission, missions, and missionary when such concepts are defined more by church context than biblical text."

J.D. Payne

Core Values

The core values that undergird engaging in God's mission flow directly from the earthly ministry of Jesus and the witness of Scripture. Though the unique gifts and circumstances of each local church varies, engaging in God's mission requires a commitment to carefully steward God's blessings in the hope that countless lives will be transformed, and God will be glorified. Details of specific strategies, tactics, and implementation may change over time and place, however, there are core values that ground our work as partners in God's mission to transform and redeem humankind and all creation.

Prayer

Prayer is the way in which Christians join in God's movement in the world and in people's lives. Prayer provides space for discernment regarding the way the Holy Spirit is moving and how each of us might join in that movement. It is the foundation for connecting with God's global mission and the power that binds us to the larger body of Christ.

Mutual Collaboration

Paul writes, "Just as our bodies have many parts and each part has a special function, so it is with Christ's body. We are many parts of one body, and we all belong to each other." (Romans 12:4-5, cf., I Corinthians 12:12-27) We join in God's mission as a connected family of faith, recognizing that God's mission is never one directional, but rather flows from everywhere to everywhere. We appreciate the value and importance of each person to the overall work of God in the world and are united by our faith in Jesus Christ, and our shared Wesleyan roots and theology. As an interconnected family of faith, together we are able to continually raise up the next missionally minded generation committed to a spirit of reciprocity, humility, servant leadership, and an appreciation of all cultures. (Philippians 2)

Discipleship and disciple-making

Jesus' earthly ministry illustrated the importance of multiplication. He did not simply make individual disciples, but modeled a circular pattern of disciples who made new disciples, who made new disciples, and so on. Jesus invited others to come and see (John 1:39), then to follow him (John 1:40, Matthew 9:9), then to reach out to others (Matthew 4:18-20, Matthew 28:18-20), and finally to bear fruit (John 15:5). Followers of Jesus engage in that same pattern of discipleship and disciple-making. We are best equipped to join God's mission when we have committed ourselves to the depth and strength of our own faith and are then willing to be channels of God's prevenient, justifying, and sanctifying grace in the lives of others.

Church Planting

Because the Church is at the heart of God's strategy for the redemption and transformation of all creation, a core value for joining in God's mission is the planting of churches. Grounded in an understanding of God's grace-filled nature, church planting is the process of joining in what God is already doing in the world. It grows out of our personal discipleship and our faithfulness in responding to God's call to become a channel of God's grace to others in all the world.

The Greek word for "church" is *ecclesia*, meaning "the called-out ones." A scriptural understanding of the Church emphasizes people rather than location and rests on Paul's understanding of the body of Christ mentioned above (Romans 12:4-5, I Corinthians 12:12-27). Therefore, church planting is always contextual, with local churches living as expressions of the global body of Christ in a variety of settings, environments, and circumstances.

Engaging in God's Global Mission

Characteristics of a Church Engaged in God's Global Mission

1. A biblical understanding of mission.
2. Hearts of gratitude that want to bring God glory.
3. A daily dependence on the guidance and power of the Holy Spirit
4. An understanding of both the global and the local nature of the church's mission (Acts 1:8).
5. A call for disciples to declare and demonstrate the Good News in their daily lives in addition to special ministry efforts of the church.
6. Ministry planning based on the most current information related to the mission.
7. A pioneering and apostolic commitment to take ministry to underserved and unreached populations.
8. Holistic compassion for the entire needs of people.
9. A desire to address short-term and long-term needs.
10. Courageous generosity for the cause of those outside the congregation.
11. Humble interaction and collaboration with other churches and disciples seeking to serve in similar areas.
12. Clear communication of the Gospel of Jesus as our only hope and the reason for church's service, and an affirmation that evangelism is at the heart of mission and integral to it.
13. A commitment to not create dependencies and to turn ministry leadership over the local population as soon as possible.
14. A constant realization that Jesus alone can transform the world, and that he will someday appear in glory to make all things new.

The Importance of the Diaspora Community for Engaging in God's Global Mission Strategy

Diaspora communities are groupings of people originating from one country or culture who reside in another country or culture. In any given place, they are the foreigners to whom Scripture commands that we give care (Leviticus 19:34, Deuteronomy 10:19)

The early part of the 21st Century has witnessed one of the largest scattering of people groups in history, resulting in a wide variety of diaspora communities worldwide. This mass global migration calls for an expanded missional imagination that recognizes the importance of connecting to diaspora communities locally and globally. Such connections provide a variety of opportunities such as to reach non-Christians in diaspora communities locally, as well as to establish relationships and connections to the countries of origin of diaspora communities globally.

Guidelines for Discernment in Creating a Local Church Global Mission

The pain in the world today is breathtaking and the needs can often feel overwhelming. Therefore, a central task is to discern where and how the local church will respond to the Great Commandment and the Great Commission. This type of stewardship takes prayerful discernment and careful planning.

1. **Discernment team.** Gather a group of people who will have the primary responsibility for leading the congregational discernment process.
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2. **Research needs.** Make a list of pressing but underserved and unmet needs in your community and the world. Share opinions but also do research. The process may begin with various assumptions about the type of needs the church wants to address; however, it is important to stay open to other possibilities. God may use the church in other ways and places. There are wonderful exceptions, but normally people feel called to act AFTER they are made aware of a need.
 3. **Inventory Resources.** Take time to review the assets and resources of the congregation: time, talents, skills, possessions, connections, location, education, and the ability to pray. Include the brokenness of the brothers and sisters within the church. Many have resources for ministry that flow out of the pain of their own sins, diseases, disasters and disappointments.
 4. **Establish Values.** As you consider the various needs of the world, ask which matter the most to your church. Survey of the congregation. What ministry methods connect well with the members? What passions has God given people in the congregation? These values often relate to the life experiences of the congregation. For example, if a portion of the church were once homeless, it would be natural for them to be passionate and effective in this ministry area. Each church is unique.
 5. **Listen Carefully.** Although the needs of the world are urgent, do not rush too quickly. Review the list of resources and the needs. Ask God to speak to you and give time for listening. After a time, the group can come together for sharing and prayer. At this point, the goal is to get an answer to the big question “What direction is God calling us to pursue?”
 6. **Focus for Impact.** A single local church cannot respond to every need. For maximum impact, prioritize the top values (urgent needs and ministry methods to address them) according to your research and God’s guidance. This step requires saying no to some good ideas in order that you can say “yes” to better options. Without focusing, you will be busy, but may have little to show for your congregation’s labor, generosity and love.
 7. **Establish Strategies.** It helps to have a written plan for every area of need you hope to address but remain flexible. Stay in touch with the changing needs and the Spirit’s guidance. Review your notes from the previous steps and write a response to these questions for each strategy:
 - a. Goal: What do you hope happens?
 - b. Timing: Set dates for first steps and a projected “finish.”
 - c. Prayer: How, who and when will the church pray?
 - d. Finances: What will it cost and where will you get the finances?
 - e. Service: How will church members be engaged in the ministry?
 - f. Partners: Who will be the church’s ministry partners? What are their responsibilities?
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- g. Leadership: Who will oversee the ministry for the church, make decisions and report to the congregation?

Metrics: How will you know if you reach your goal?

Church Planting

The effectiveness and appropriateness of all tactics and methods are impacted by the local context. The following list is not meant to be exhaustive, but most of these can be used in most situations.

1. **Leadership Team.** Create a team of people to have primary responsibility for creating and overseeing the church's mission strategies. This team of servant leaders will also help find ways to resource the ministry, communicate with congregation and mobilize church members in the mission. In order to have maximum impact, the team will need to meet regularly for prayer, mission education, sharing, accountability and the administration of the church's mission strategies.
 2. **Congregational training.**
 - a. To equip disciples to share their faith with clarity, confidence, and competence.
 - b. Congregational training to equip disciples to introduce the gospel to those with no faith background.
 3. **Serve in other locations.** Train and send disciples to serve in other locations. Create a system that encourages and equips individuals and small groups who may feel called to serve for a few days or for several years as missionaries. See below, Best Practices for Short-Term Missions.
 4. **Education.** Provide ongoing efforts to educate the congregation on the role of global missions in the life of the disciple and the church.
 5. **Prayer.** Provide information that helps the congregation pray for the global mission of God and recognize this prayer ministry as part of the church's involvement in God's mission.
 6. **Worship.** Lift up God's missional purposes through music, testimonies, and information as a regular and ongoing part of your worship gatherings.
 7. **Diaspora Communities.** Explore ways to serve and learn from people in your community who have relocated from other nations or ethnic groups – aliens, strangers, refugees, visiting scholars and diaspora communities.
 8. **Sacrificial Tithe.** Use a sacrificial portion of the church's tithes and offerings for ministry to people beyond your congregation.
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9. **Collaboration.** Learn from and partner with other congregations in global missions. Be intentional about using the New Methodist denomination and other church networks as you consider serving in a new area.
 10. **Technology/Communication.** Explore ways to share and demonstrate God's grace through phones, the internet, and other aspects of technology in case national or international crises limit travel and socializing.
 11. **Congregational Involvement.** Set a goal of having every member of the congregation regularly involved in missions in one or more ways.
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Connections and Networks

Global mission is impossible without a strong network of connections and relationships. Local churches are better equipped to engage in global mission when they have access to these connections.

1. **Regional networks.** Regional networks enable mutual collaboration in prayer, discernment, and information sharing regarding mission opportunities and contextual best practices.
 2. **Annual gatherings.** Annual gatherings within and between regional networks strengthen mutual collaboration, education, understanding, and coordination of missional engagement.
 3. **Digital/print information.** Local church understanding of global mission is enhanced through the dissemination of missional opportunities and stories of impact.
 4. **Exchange opportunities and immersion/formation experiences.**
 5. **Engagement with the diaspora communities in the region.** Local churches are better equipped and have increased understanding of the groups they wish to reach when they have fostered collaborative relationships with the diaspora communities in their own areas.
 6. **Data Base cultivation.** Missional networks are facilitated by access to information regarding missional organizations, opportunities, and practices.
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Resources and Tools

This is a partial list of tools, resources and organizations that have provided great help to churches as they seek to be fully engaged in God's global mission.

1. **Best Practices in Short-Term Mission Trips.** If done well, these experiences can help build a heart for others and the world, provide cross-cultural learning, meet spiritual and physical needs, and introduce others to Jesus Christ. The overarching goal of all short-term mission experiences is to empower the church in the host
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location to advance the gospel in their context. Seven standards of excellence laid out by the organization *Standards of Excellence for Short-Term Trips* include:

- a. God-Centeredness – An excellent short-term mission seeks first God’s glory and His kingdom.
 - b. Empowering Partnerships – An excellent short-term mission establishes healthy, interdependent, ongoing relationships between sending and receiving partners.
 - c. Mutual Design – An excellent short-term mission collaboratively plans each specific outreach for the benefit of all participants.
 - d. Comprehensive Administration – An excellent short-term mission seeks first God’s glory and his kingdom.
 - e. Qualified Leadership – An excellent short-term mission screens, trains, and develops capable leadership for all participants.
 - f. Appropriate Training – An excellent short-term mission prepares and equips all participants for the mutually designed outreach.
 - g. Thorough Follow-Through – An excellent short-term mission assures evaluation, debriefing and appropriate follow-through for all participants.
2. **Missional Resources:** Organizations, programs, and curriculum to equip for global mission and evangelism.
- a. **Perspectives Course** (officially called Perspectives on the World Christian Movement) – a fifteen-week missions course designed around four vantage points or "perspectives" — Biblical, Historical, Cultural and Strategic. Each one highlights different aspects of God's global purpose. Taught regularly throughout the world. www.perspectives.org
 - b. **The Upstream Collective** – resources, training, consulting, and cohorts to help every church see themselves as a sending church and every Christian as a sent one. www.theupstreamcollective.org
 - c. **MomentumYes** – invites everyday people to rethink God’s mission, the call of the church, and their individual roles. It is a free online video-based curriculum for churches, small groups, and individuals. www.momentumyes.com
 - d. **MissioNexus** – a membership-based collaboration of mission agencies and churches. www.missionexus.org
 - e. **Sixteen:Fifteen** – missions coaching to help churches understand their purpose, train and prepare, set clear goals, and asses and repeat. www.1615.org
 - f. **Catalyst Services** – a space where churches, networks, and agencies can connect and find help in order to fully involve believers in global witness. www.catalystservices.org
 - g. **Alpha Course** – an 11-week course that creates a space, online or in person, where people are excited to bring their friends for a conversation about faith, life, and God. www.alpha.org
 - h. **Embrace: Showing and Sharing the Love of Jesus** – 6-week small group study on evangelism with accompanying Church Resource kit, and youth and children’s curriculum. Also available in 1.5 day workshop format.
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- www.worldmethodist.org
 - i. **Linking Global Voices** – networks and global collaboration for followers of Christ. A place to discover and engage with networks.
www.linkingglobalvoices.com
 - j. **Ask A Missionary** – questions and answers, with responses from real missionaries about real-life issues and challenges in their lives.
www.askamissionary.com
 - k. **World Methodist Evangelism** – training, gatherings, and resources to empower Christ followers to share their faith. www.worldmethodist.org
 - l. **WayMakers** – imparting vision and training for leaders of local movements of united prayer that will prepare communities for evangelization and spiritual awakenings. www.waymakers.org
 - m. **Every International** – provides free video courses and stories as well as other resources to help you engage and share the love of Jesus with international students, refugees, and immigrants in North America.
www.everyinternational.com
 - n. **Cafe 1040** – training the next generation of missionaries to tell the story of Jesus where it has never been told via 3-month mentorships in the 10/40 Window. www.cafe1040.com
 - o. **Weave** – resources for connecting families to the global story of God.
www.weavefamily.org
 - p. **World Views / Pioneers – A Children’s Introduction to Missions** – Give your children a global perspective with a Biblical foundation. Help them learn to share God’s love with people all around the world.
 - q. **Engage Global** – a training organization in Minneapolis, MN, USA to help groups discover God's heart for the world through exploring God's Word, discover where the task remains unfinished and how to reach across cultures through exploring God's World, and discover their part in His story through exploring ways to be engaged in God's Work.
www.engageglobal.net
 - r. **The Traveling Team** – provides teams to stir university students all over the US to rise up and join God in reaching the world for Jesus Christ.
www.thetravelingteam.org
 - s. **Standards of Excellence in Short-Term Missions** – equips the short-term mission world with excellence. www.soe.org
3. **Email Subscriptions**
- a. **Mission Network News** – exists to inform multitudes about stories that matter and empowers them to take action that changes lives.
www.mnnonline.org
 - b. **Missions Catalyst** – world missions news, ideas, and resources.
www.missionscatalyst.net
 - c. **Brigada Today** – weekly web journal offers resources, mission trends, motivation, strategy tips, tools & “hacks” to Great Commission Christians.
www.brigada.org
4. **A Limited Bibliography for Church Planting and Other Mission Concepts:**

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III. Global Prayer Initiatives

Sub-Team Chair, Dr. Christina Sung

Introduction

We know throughout history that revival of the church has followed prayer meetings. Dr. Joel R. Beeke wrote an article “Prayer Meetings and Revival in the Church”. He stated that the 1620’s revival in Ireland was spurred on by prayer meetings. So were awakenings in eighteenth-century revivals in Scotland. Prior to the awakening in 1742, numerous prayer societies had sprung up. During the Great Awakening in Scotland, prayer meetings often began with children, then spread to adults.

Dr. Beeke also quoted Jonathan Edwards who said, “Citing Zechariah 8:20-22, that God’s rich promises encourage us to expect great success from corporate prayer.” He said: “That which God abundantly makes the subject of his promises; God’s people should abundantly make the subject of their prayers.” He concluded that when believers persevere in united, concerted prayer, God will grant a fresh revival, which “shall be propagated, till the awakening reaches those that are in the highest stations, and till whole nations be awakened.”

Our battle is not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness (Ephesians 6:12).

Global Frontier Missions estimates that of the 7.75 billion people alive in the world today, 3.22 billion of them live in unreached people groups with little or no access to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. According to [Joshua Project](#), there are approximately 17,400 unique people groups in the world with 7,000+ of them considered unreached (over 41% of the world’s population!). The vast majority (85%) of these least reached groups exist in the 10/40 window and less than 10% of missionary work is done among these people.

China has the world's largest population (1.42 billion), followed by India (1.35 billion). India has 33 million gods in Hinduism. The largest Muslim population in a country is in Indonesia, a nation home to 12.7% of the world's Muslims, followed by Pakistan (11.0%), and India (10.9%).

We need fervent prayers and the power of the Holy Spirit, to break the power of the Satan in these countries and bring the Gospel of Jesus where Muslims pray 5 times per day and fast one month per year during Ramadan. Hindus are recommended to pray twice a day, in the morning for power and evening for devotion.

2 Corinthians 10:3-5; “For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion rose against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ.”

We pray, God works!

Rev. Dr. Christina Sung

Overview

“The history of missions is the history of answered prayer.” Samuel Zwemer

Mission

The mission of the Global Prayer Initiatives Sub-team is to provide and stir up strategic prayer initiatives for the new Methodist denomination that serve to ignite lay and clergy with God's heart and revelation for making disciples among all nations.

Prayer and revival always go together; whether in the Scriptures or in church history, they rush the fulfillment of “Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.” (Matthew 6:10)

The Foundation of the Scriptures

2 Corinthians 4:4; “The God of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.”

Ephesians 6: 12; “For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.

Joshua 1:3; "I will give you every place where you set your foot, as I promised Moses." (also Deuteronomy 11:24)

How Can We Fulfill the Great Commission Through Prayer?

1. Establish a House of Prayer on 5 continents

The mission of the Global Prayer Initiatives Sub-team is to provide and stir up strategic prayer initiatives for the new Methodist denomination that serve to ignite lay and clergy with God's heart and revelation for making disciples among all nations.

Prayer and revival always go together; whether in the Scriptures or in church history, they rush the fulfillment of “Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.” (Matthew 6:10)

2. Send prayer warriors/worshippers to the mission field

It is important to send prayer warriors/worshippers strategically to the mission fields as missionaries ahead of time, maybe months or years earlier, before we send evangelists/missionaries or begin any mission works.

3. Collaborate with the existing WCA International Intercessory Prayer Network

WCA currently has an International Intercessory Prayer Network that represents each chapter of WCA. They meet monthly via Zoom led by Rev. Leo Park from NJ. Their prayer focus is on WCA and General Conference for now but it will be a great launch pad for winning souls for Christ worldwide.

4. Promote and mobilize local churches and their members in USA and Central Conferences for the prayer missionaries

Promote, mobilize, encourage, and challenge the local WCA churches and their members to pray together for winning lost souls for Christ and for transformation of not only for their own cities and regions but for all nations.

We know that the Moravian Community of Herrnhut in Saxony began a round-the-clock “prayer watch” in 1727 that continued nonstop for over a hundred years. I was privileged to visit Herrnhut in Germany twice and learned that in January, 1728, they held their first meeting with meditations from the Bible and fervent prayers. The church experienced an amazing presence of the Holy Spirit. In the next 25 years, they sent out 100 radical missionaries from that small community which expanded to 300 missionaries in 65 years. It is also a fact that there were actually 226 Moravian mission stations before William Carey, whom we call “the father of missions,” was even born (Leslie Tarr).

5. Establish a School of Prayer

The School of Prayer will serve as the training ground for all the missionaries as well as the pastors, and anyone who desires to be a prayer warrior/worshiper in any mission fields.

The goal of the school would be to help the churches – the laity and pastors — learn how to pray, how the Holy Spirit works (signs and wonders), and how to fight spiritual warfare plus be aware of the necessity of the prayer ministry for Christ locally and globally.

We would expect students to experience God in a new and powerful way, becoming more passionate in their prayer and in their desire to serve God. Consequently, the Holy Spirit will use them to invade the non-Christian world, resulting in huge changes not only in the students of the School of Prayer but also in their churches.

6. Offer a Mission Fair

Offer Mission Fairs during Annual Conferences and Jurisdictional Conferences where we invite missionaries to share what God is doing in other parts of the world and thereby have opportunity to pray right there together. This will encourage partnership with the mission works.

7. Make a
World Prayer
Map Calendar

Publish a WCA World Prayer Map and make it available to all WCA churches so that we have a focused goal and prayer agenda. Make it simple with specific prayer requests for particular cities and the nations where WCA serve. (This Idea adopted from World Prayer Map from EveryHome for Christ.)

IV. Cross-Cultural Gospel Centered Community Development

Sub-Team Chairperson, Bob Hegel

Introduction/Overview

*While the **Ministry to the Margins Task Force** has completed an excellent report on the life-giving nature of Gospel Centered Community Development, this brief section validates the distinct challenges of cross-cultural works of community transformation in conjunction with global partnerships. In order to glean a full understanding of the scope of GCCD, we highly recommend the Ministry to the Margins sub-team report on Gospel Centered Community Development.*

For Global Partnerships, there is much less common ground than North American inner-city GCCD efforts. Language, economic systems, cultural norms and political structures may all be different between the partners. For this reason, the cross-cultural approaches to Community Development bear some distinctives.

Because a people called Methodist have a long tradition of wedding the Gospel of Christ with multiple expressions of mercy ministries, this section notes the work of community development as a potential expression of global partnerships. Cross cultural community development efforts should not be entered into without weighing the challenges; but with much study and prayer, wed with the commitment of the local church and a willingness to build deepening trust through long term relationships.

Framework

The framework of Global Mission Partnerships potentially forms when a local church in one global region initiates an effort in Kingdom partnership across geographic and cultural boundaries (cross-cultural). In the context of Cross-Cultural Gospel Centered Community Development, success depends on the willingness of the local church to serve for the “long-haul” alongside a specific community or village.

Gospel Centered Community development requires great humility, manifested in a willingness to have one’s ear to the ground in relation to the community’s needs, and what assets and gifts reside within the village or community.

The Mission of Cross-Cultural Gospel Centered Community Development

The mission of Cross-Cultural Gospel Centered Community Development is to transcend cultural barriers in serving to empower people of all nations (ethnic groups) to experience human flourishing through education, economic development, health, and Christian discipleship.

There is a sense in which Community Development is the art of the empowerment of a people. It was Dr. Ravi I. Jayakaran who once said, *“Empowerment can be defined as the process of being released to develop and grow to one’s full potential.”* A people rising into their God-given potential rest at the heart of Gospel centered community development.

The Practice of Cross-Cultural Gospel Centered Community Development

Dr. John Perkins, co-founder of Christian Community Development Association (CCDA), envisions Gospel Centered Community Development in this way: *“If programs and services are done **for** a community, rather than **with** and **by** the people of the community, these programs do not help the people of the community develop. They simply continue the mentality of dependency . . . that suppresses the dignity of the people there. In Christian community development, we want to empower people to take responsibility for their lives and to have the consciousness of their own dignity and worth that comes from being able to have such control. In order to do so, we need to give responsibility for programs at least in part to them”* ([Source](#)).

“We need to put the sensitivity and understanding of broad challenges inside every mission project. Simply ‘delivering’ what we think is aid, truth, life advice, and corrective measures will have no lasting effect on the target community, or worse, may not even be particularly helpful because of cross-cultural barriers.”
-Corbett and Fikkert, *When Helping Hurts*

The Three “R’s” of Gospel Centered Community Development

It was **Dr. John Perkins** who first developed the three “R’s” of Gospel Centered Community Development: **Relocation**, **Redistribution** and **Reconciliation**.

Relocation

Relocation to communities and villages in need and living among the world’s poor: Only by joining a community or village do the needs become one’s own. Living the Gospel means sharing the suffering and pain of others, and relocation transforms “you, them, and theirs,” to “we, us, and ours.”

Cross Cultural Community Development may involve sending long-term teams, or missionaries, to serve in villages and communities in different regions of the world for the sake of fostering God’s shalom among a people.

Redistribution

Redistribution through economic development and the redistribution of resources: This commitment does not mean the heavy hand of government taking from one member of a community to give to another. It requires, rather, “bringing our lives, our skills, our educations, and our resources and putting them to work to empower people in a community of need. [This] is redistribution and it helps people to break out of the cycle of poverty.” (Source: [Interview with Dr. John Perkins, Action Institute](#)).

Consideration must be given to what members of the village express as the greatest need(s) within their community? What are the assets, gifts and talents which already exist in the village or community? How might those gifts be optimized or aligned for the people to flourish? Do gifts/talents exist within your local church which can serve to empower others in fostering shalom?

Reconciliation

Reconciliation of people to God, and the reconciliation of neighbor to neighbor: Through the Gospel this process requires breaking down every racial, ethnic, or economic barrier to opportunity, such that as Christians people can come together to solve the problems of their shared community.

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people’s sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ’s behalf: Be reconciled to God. God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.”

2 Corinthians 5:17-21 (NIV)

Key Ingredients for Good Community Development

There are key ingredients that set cross-cultural community development apart from other forms of development. A few of them are:

1. A Long View

Good community development takes a long view. Since a community or village most pressing challenges are usually deep-rooted, they can’t be resolved overnight. Community development recognizes this and is structured to be sustained over the long term. It focuses on transforming individuals through the Gospel, and systems, rather than seeking quick or superficial fixes.

2. Community Driven

Community development is community driven. Though “outsiders” participate in community development, it is with the goal of guiding individuals within the community itself to identify solutions and take ownership of them. Community development focuses on empowering local leaders, rather than imposing foreign solutions.

3. Holistic

Community development is holistic. It does not settle for simplistic solutions to complex problems or fall for one-size-fits-all approaches. Most community development, especially within the Christian community, is incarnational. To truly understand a community and build the type of relationships essential for community transformation, there is just no substitute for dwelling long-term among that community.

(Source #1-#3: <https://team.org/blog/community-development>).

Resources for Gospel Centered Community Development (Some of these resources are also cited on the Ministry to the Margins Task Force Report).

Personal & Small Group Studies

[GOer Groups](#) A video series addressing the major questions and barriers encountered in the pursuit of cross-cultural missions.

[Momentum YES](#) A video and discussion-based tool designed for small groups to discuss God's plan for the world and how to take an active role.

[Xplore](#) A seven-lesson small group study discovering the biblical theme of God's global purpose and the task reaching remaining unreached people groups.

[GoMobilize](#) A study tool to help engage and mobilize others to serve in missions.

Podcasts

[Global Missions Podcast](#) A program that helps Christ-followers engage in the Great Commission, both at home and around the world.

[Missions Pulse](#) Podcast A podcast to help listeners know God's heart and how they can join with what He is doing around the world.

[AskaMissionary.com](#) Responses from missionaries and organization leaders to many common questions related to serving in missions.

[ALifeOverseas.com](#) A collaboration of real, raw stories from Christian workers living abroad.

Books

[Spiritual Survival Handbook for Cross-Cultural Workers by Robert S Miller](#)

How to be spiritually prepared for the cross-cultural ministry.

[Western Christians in Global Mission by Paul Borthwick](#)

How Western Christians can partner with Christians around the world to engage in missions.

8 Components of Christian Community Development by Dr. Wayne L. Gordon ([https://www.nsc-church.org/CCDA 8 Points.pdf](https://www.nsc-church.org/CCDA%208%20Points.pdf))

Becoming Whole: Why the Opposite of Poverty isn't the American Dream by Brian Fikkert and Kelly M. Kapic (Moody 2019)

Christian Community Development Association (ccda.org)

Compassion, Justice, & the Christian Life by Robert Lupton (Regal 2007)

FCS / Lupton's Urban Perspectives Archives

<https://www.fcsministries.org/blog/category/Urban+Perspectives>

A Field Guide to Becoming Whole: Principles for Poverty Alleviation Ministries by Brian Fikkert and Kelly M. Kopic (Moody 2019)

Let Justice Roll Down by John Perkins (Baker Books 2012)

Nonprofit Management: Principles and Practice by Michael J. Worth (SAGE Publications 2016)

Restoring At-Risk Communities: Doing It Together & Doing It Right by John M. Perkins (Baker Books 1996)

Serving with Eyes Wide Open: Doing Short-Term Missions With Cultural Intelligence by David A. Livermore (Baker Books 2012)

Tips on strategies for gathering neighborhood input: <https://www.epa.gov/international-cooperation/public-participation-guide-tools-generate-and-obtain-public-input>

To Live in Peace: Biblical Faith and the Changing Inner City by Mark Gornik (Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co. 2002)

Toxic Charity: How Churches and Charities Hurt Those They Help, And How to Reverse It by Bob Lupton (HarperOne 2012)

When Helping Hurts: How to Alleviate Poverty Without Hurting the Poor . . . and Yourself by Corbett and Fikkert (Moody 2014)

The Missional Ministry in the Margins task force has published an extensive report on community development (Gospel Centered Community Development) as applied primarily to a North American context. We encourage you to read their report for a fuller grasp of Gospel Centered Community Development.

V. Strategic Initiatives for the Local Church

Sub-Team Chairperson, Jeff Jernigan

Introduction/Overview

Goal

To provide a broad framework in which every local church, irrespective of size, location, or context, can become a Great Commission Church.

Rationale

Many churches have lost contact with the Great Commission as given by our Lord in Matthew 28:19-20, Mark 16:15, Luke 24:45-47, John 20:21, and Acts 1:8. In many respects the local church has ceded its mission to others. We have bought in to the notion that we can give our money so someone or some entity can go do missions for us. The results of this are reflected in a 2018 Barna Report that indicated 51% of church goers had never heard of the Great Commission. Another 25% had heard the term but could not define what it meant.

When the church loses sight of its primary reason for existence what follows will not be pretty. “But I have this against you, that you have left your first love. Therefore remember from where you have fallen, and repent and do the deeds you did at first; or else I am coming to you and will remove your lampstand out of its place—unless you repent.” (Rev 2:4-5- NASB)

Remember, it was a local church at Antioch that sent out the first international missionaries (Acts 1:1-3). Today, we need to develop an Antiochian mindset in local churches across the world. One where each local church sees itself as uniquely called to be bearers of the gospel to their community, region, nation, and to the world. Indeed, if a new expression of traditional Methodism hopes to flourish, an Antiochian approach is an imperative.

Vision – The Great Commission

In Matthew 28:19-20, Jesus gave his disciples a clear commandment to “go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.

A new Methodist movement is needed focused on the priority of the Gospel and the fulfilling of Christ’s Great Commission.

“The Great Commission is not an option to be considered, it is a command to be obeyed.”
-Hudson Taylor

Assumptions

Aspirational Hopes

It is hoped that the New Methodist denomination will aspire to the following in regard to the Great Commission:

- Boards, agencies, and commissions established at the General, Regional, and Annual conference levels of the new Methodist church will exist for the purpose of supporting and partnering with the local church in their mission
- Local churches will generally be afforded freedom and discretion in planning and conducting their missional efforts
- In the new Methodism, there will be some centralized group with responsibility for curating missions best practices and resources and providing means for world-wide local church networking
- Given every local church is important, every effort will be made to make training and resources available to all churches that is scalable to their size, location, and context.

Key Principles

Foundational principles

Key principles supported by Holy Scriptures providing the foundation for what we do in mission.

- People are the first and best resource for mission and every believer is called to God's mission (Gen 12:1-4, Matt 28:19-20, Acts 1:8)
- Mission is the reason the church exists, and the local church is God's primary instrument carrying out His mission (Acts 13:1-4)
- Every person is created in God's image, is a person of worth, and is to be treated with respect and dignity. It is to all people the church is called to take the good news and make disciples. (Acts 10:34-35, Acts 11:19-21)
- A key component of discipleship is growth toward missional living fulfilling the calling as a priesthood of believers (I Pet 2:9) and ambassadors of Christ (II Cor 5:20).
- Mission is best carried out in partnership. (Phil 1:3-6)

Biblical Foundations

"Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."
Matthew 28:19-20

"For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost." - Luke 19:10

“You will be My [Christ’s] witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” - Acts 1:8

“When He [Jesus] saw the crowds, He had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then He said to His disciples, “The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into His harvest field. - Matthew 9:36–38
Because You [Jesus] were slain, and with Your blood You purchased persons for God from every tribe and language and people and nation.” - Revelation 5:9

Experiencing God’s Passion for People

Passion is the direct result of our intimacy with God, our love for Christ, and our commitment to Him. Passion results in no longer living for ourselves, but living for God’s glory.

“For Christ’s love compels us, because we are convinced that One died for all, and therefore all died. And He died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for Him who died for them and was raised again.” - 2 Corinthians 5:14–15

Experiencing God’s passion for people is a gift that God will give to those who will commit to becoming an ambassador for Christ.

In Ephesians 6:19-20, the apostle Paul requests prayer “for all the Lord’s people.” He then states, “Pray also for me, that whenever I speak, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should.

Now is the time for a new Methodist movement that will fearlessly make known the mystery of the Gospel.

*This data and additional information on the current status of Global Missions can be found on the following Internet sources: Operation World (operationworld.org), US Center for World Mission uscwm.org, The Joshua Project (joshuaproject.net), Issachar Initiative (issacharinitiative.org).

Challenges

Challenge 1 – The Gospel for Every Person

Approximately 70 percent of the world’s population have heard the Gospel in some form. However, this means 30 percent of the world has had no exposure to the Gospel message. The unfinished task is still daunting. The reality of the current times is:

There are 2,000 languages without a Bible.

There are 3,000 people groups without a missionary.

There are 1 million villages without a church (local group of believers).

There are 3.5 billion Muslims, Hindus, and Buddhists, with very few Christian workers among them.

Challenge 2 – A Church for Every People Group

The Great Commission is about “making disciples of all nations. The original Greek word translated to “nations is “ethnos,” which refers to ethnic or people groups. So, to fulfill the Great Commission, there must be an ongoing endeavor of disciples making in every people group in the world.

Over 16,000 people groups have been identified around the world. Six thousand of these groups are considered unreached because there are no Christian workers among them.

Two definitions help us understand this reality:

People Group: For evangelization purposes, a people group is the largest group within which the Gospel can spread as a church planting movement without encountering barriers of understanding or acceptance.

Unreached / Least-Reached: Defined as less than 2% evangelical individuals and less than 5% Christian adherents within a people group.

With such overwhelming needs, the global church is investing most of its time, resources, and people in building and maintaining itself.

Extending the reach of the church where it is not: 0.3%

Building and maintaining the church where it is: 99.7%

This must change. We must accept the challenge of making sure there is a church for every people group.

Consider adding about Unreached Unengaged People Groups

Challenge 3 – The Least of These

“For I was hungry and you gave Me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave Me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited Me in, I needed clothes and you clothed Me, I was sick and you looked after Me, I was in prison and you came to visit

Me.’ “Then the righteous will answer Him, ‘Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You something to drink? When did we see You a stranger and invite You in, or needing clothes and clothe You? When did we see You sick or in prison and go to visit You?’ “The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for Me.’” — Matthew 25:35–40

I WAS HUNGRY AND THIRSTY

Approximately 850 million people across the world are hungry. Every ten seconds, one child dies from hunger-related causes. Approximately one in every eight people lack access to safe water supplies, resulting in easily preventable diseases.

I WAS NAKED

Approximately 736 million people live on less than \$1.90 a day. More than 385 million human beings live on less than \$1 a day.

I WAS SICK

Every two minutes, a child dies of malaria and each year, more than 200 million new cases of the disease are reported. Diarrhea from contaminated water kills 2.2 million people annually, mostly children. More than 38 million people, including 2.6 million children live with HIV. In the year 2019, more than 690,000 people died of HIV related illness.

I WAS IN PRISON

There are approximately 10.35 million men, women, and children in prison around the world.² Globally, prisons are usually crowded, unsavory, and violent. Many are in prison for political, ideological, and religious reasons. Persecution against Christians is on the rise. It is estimated that 100 million Christians around the world suffer some measure of persecution for their faith.³ In many countries, religious conversion is illegal and punishable by imprisonment. In addition, 40 million people worldwide are currently enslaved in forced labor or prostitution through human trafficking.⁴

One of God’s most compassionate leaders to the poorest of the poor was Mother Teresa. In 1948, Jesus spoke to Mother Teresa and she responded by creating a new ministry called the Missionaries of Charity. Facing great obstacles, it took 15 months of explanation, planning, and incessant lobbying before she was approved to begin. At one point, she appealed to her archbishop by saying, “Let me go. Souls are being lost.” At that time, there were 3,000 slums in the city of Calcutta.

When Jesus spoke to Mother Teresa about vision, she responded by saying, “Give me light. Send me Thy own Spirit which will teach me Thy own will - which will give me the strength to do the things that are pleasing to Thee.” She also said, “Jesus, my Jesus...I am terribly afraid.” Jesus responded, “Do not fear, I shall always be with you.”

In the years to come, when questioned about her motivation for ministry to “the least of these,” Mother Teresa often responded, “I see the face of Jesus in the poor, and I do it for Him.”

Many opportunities exist to share the love of God in word and deed with others who live in your community or in another region of the world.

A new Methodist movement is needed that will provide the Gospel for every person, a church for every people, and will meet the practical needs of those who are suffering.

Scalable Steps

Introduction

There are some approaches or scalable steps that, if applied, would move every local church toward being a Great Commission church. While not every church will implement these practices in exactly the same manner, all churches should seek to incorporate them in a fashion that best fits their local context and culture.

Additionally, there are resources in the form of people, organizations, and materials (both print and electronic) that can be of great assistance in moving a local church toward implementing these best practices.

Below are best practices expressed in scalable steps through a short list of Resources (R) that are exceptionally helpful and Practitioners (P) that engage the best practice particularly well. This list is not inclusive of all available resources and practitioners but a sampling of potential sources available. Given the number of resources and practitioners that could have been included, see the recommendation in the section titled *Beyond the Local Church*.

Scalable Step 1

Create a culture of mission – Great Commission churches recognize that every believer needs to come to know and develop a passion for God’s mission and thereby grow in missional maturity. Therefore, they provide intentional instruction to all the church—adults, youth, and children—that God is a missionary God, His mission is motivated by His love for all peoples, and He invites all His followers to join Him in His mission.

On that basis, they work to have missions permeate every aspect of church life. To them missions is not something a local church does, it is who they are. This outlook affects every program and ministry in the church causing everything to be viewed and carried out through the lens of God’s mission.

Practitioners and Resources

- TMS Global’s [Activate Training](#) (R)
 - [Perspectives Course](#), (R) especially for mission leaders
 - [Matthews UMC](#), Matthews NC (P)
-

Scalable Step 2

Develop Acts 1:8 strategic plans – Jesus not only gave us a Great Commission and a Great Commandment; He also gave us a Great Plan. That plan is expressed in Acts 1:8, “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

Great Commission churches recognize the uniqueness of their church with respect to gifts, graces, experience, leadership, culture, and location. With that uniqueness comes a unique calling from God that must first be discerned followed by the development of specific, strategic plans to be implemented.

For every local church, these plans will include the four areas of Acts 1:8 as they relate to the location of the local church (i.e. their Jerusalem). Additionally, the plans include to whom ministry is directed, how it will be carried out, any partners in the ministry, timing, and cost.

Practitioners and Resources

- *Developing a Global Outreach Plan* (R), [TMS-Global](#)
 - [McEachern UMC](#), Powder Springs GA(P)
-

Scalable Step 3

Pray missionally – The church is good at praying. However, most of that prayer is directed to and for us. Great Commission churches regularly incorporate prayer for missional discernment, for laborers to be called to the harvest fields, for the lost in their community, and for those unreached with the gospel around the world. They do more than tell the congregation they should engage in prayer for missions. They creatively provide means that will help their people do that effectively.

Andrew Murray says, “The man who mobilizes the Christian church to pray will make the greatest contribution to world evangelization in history.”

Practitioners and Resources

- Joshua Project, (R) [Prayer Resources](#)
 - [Global Prayer Digest](#) (R)
 - [Operation World](#), Jason Mandryk (R),
 - *The Essentials of Prayer*, E.M. Bounds, (R) [Chapter 13](#)
 - [Mosaic Church](#), Evans GA (P)
-

Scalable Step 4

Craft a mission policy – Great Commission churches document administrative procedures that guide their efforts in fulfilling their mission. The purpose of the mission policy is to:

- enable the local church to stay on course in its mission
- avoid making decisions on an emotional or arbitrary basis
- maintain consistency as mission and church leadership changes
- ensure good stewardship in the allocation of missions funds
- establish boundaries for mission engagement
- incorporate metrics and accountability for kingdom outcomes.

Practitioners and Resources

- [Catalysts Services](#) (R)
 - University City UMC, Charlotte NC (R), [Example Mission Policy](#)
-

Scalable Step 5

Form strategic partnerships – Great Commission churches recognize that to be effective in reaching their community, nation, and the world they cannot do it alone. Forming strategic partnerships is crucial in effectively engaging in mission to the people and places a local church has discerned as a calling of God. For the local church, strategic partnerships can:

- Provide the training needed to be strategic and significant
- Provide critical skills/resources lacking in the local church
- Enable the church to go where it otherwise could not go and reach people they otherwise could not reach.

Practitioners and Resources

- [Advancing the Gospel Through Partnerships](#), (R)
 - [Making Your Partnership Work](#), Daniel Rickett (R)
 - [Well Connected](#), Phil Butler (R)
 - [Asbury UMC](#), Tulsa OK (P)
-

Scalable Step 6

Celebrate God's work – The church should always and by all means rejoice in what God is doing in and through them in the world. Testimonies of God's grace and work should be an ongoing via platform announcements, bulletin boards, newsletters, internet, and other means available to the local church.

However, Acts 14:26-27 presents a picture of the church at Antioch gathering to celebrate the return of their missionaries and to hear what God had been doing in a close-up and personal way. In like manner, local churches should, at least annually, lay aside all other activities and distractions to focus on what God is doing in their community, nation, and the world. This time of intense focus on the local church's mission provides a time of celebration, challenge, re-visioning, fresh commitment, and for some a call to full time ministry.

Practitioners and Resources

- *Playbook for Conducting a Global Impact Celebration* (R), [TMS-Global](#)
 - [Chapin UMC](#), Chapin SC (P)
 - [St. Michael's Church](#), Charleston SC (P)
-

Scalable Step 7

Give generously – Recognizing that missions is a priority of the church, Great Commission churches generously give their time, skills, and finances to advance God’s kingdom around the world. They look for alternative methods of funding to enable God’s work at home and around the world. Given such priority, missions funding is the last to be cut during economic hard times.

Practitioners and Resources

- [Christians in an Age of Wealth](#), Craig Blomberg (R)
- [Faith Promise and Beyond](#), Keith Brown (R)
- [Igniting a Life of Generous Giving](#), Chris McDaniel (R)
- [Tuscumbia First UMC](#), (P)

Scalable Step 8

Stay abreast of God’s work in the world – Great Commission churches keep their finger on the pulse of where and how God is at work. They stand ready to adopt, adapt, and otherwise follow the move of the Holy Spirit. This often involves using partners to assist in applying leading edge thinking, innovation, and methodologies to best fulfill its mission.

Practitioners and Resources

- [Center for the Study of World Christianity](#) (R)
 - [Mission News Network](#) (R)
 - [Missio Nexus](#) (R)
 - [Open Doors World Watch List](#), (R)
-

Scalable Step 9

Address societal needs in a loving and practical manner – There is little doubt that as believers we are called to help the people on the margins of society. Passages such as 1 John 3:17 abound in the Bible, “But if anyone has the world’s goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God’s love abide in him?”

Great Commission churches employ partnership approaches that preserves or enhances people’s dignity while meeting needs. At the same time, they meet needs in practical ways that create sustainability while avoiding dependencies. In the process, they build bridges for the gospel and creating disciples.

Practitioners and Resources

- [*When Helping Hurts*](#), Corbett & Fikkert (R)
- [*Toxic Charity*](#), Bob Lupton (R)
- [*Short-Term Missions That Heal*](#), Daniel Rickett (R)
- [*Significant Matters*](#) (R)
- [*Grace UMC*](#), Cape Coral FL (P)

Beyond the Local Church

Introduction

In the course of this work on equipping Great Commission local churches, four needs were identified that would be required to be established at a more general level. They are included here for further or future consideration.

Need 1 – Database

A robust database that would allow peer-to-peer interaction and additionally access to curated missional best practices and resources. Such a database would need to be secure and accessible world-wide, to the extent possible.

Need 2 – Missional Gathering(s)

There is a need for occasional face-to-face mission conference similar to the Beyond These Walls conference McEachern UMC started in 2008. Such a conference is a time of worship, fellowship, learning, sharing, and networking all focused on God’s mission in and to the world. While a single world-wide gathering may not be feasible, regional gatherings would be highly beneficial.

Need 4–
Curriculum on
Mission

Identify vibrant healthy missional lead churches in different regions of the world that will serve to multiply best practices and equip local churches.

There is a specific need for a seminary curriculum and course of study that would equip our future leaders in best practice and practicum in global mission (local, national, and international). Such a curriculum would include, but not be limited to, required courses, mission project, internship, leading STMT, Asset Mapping, etc.

Need 5 –
Credentialing
of mission
pastors or
directors

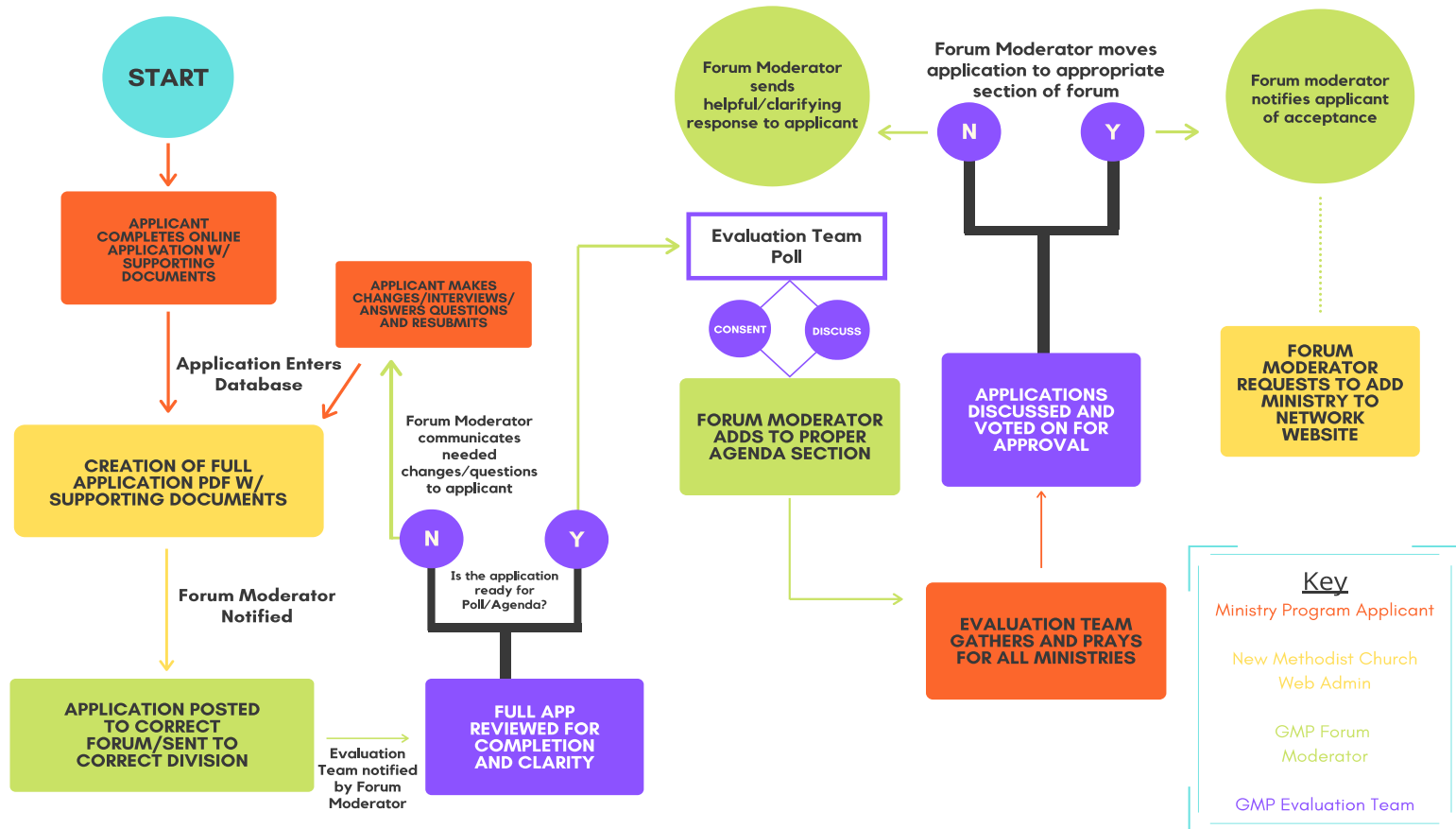
Given the importance of this role in the church and to the world, there is a need to develop a credentialing process whereby standards are established, and training is identified/developed that will assist them to fulfill their role and increase kingdom impact.

Appendix

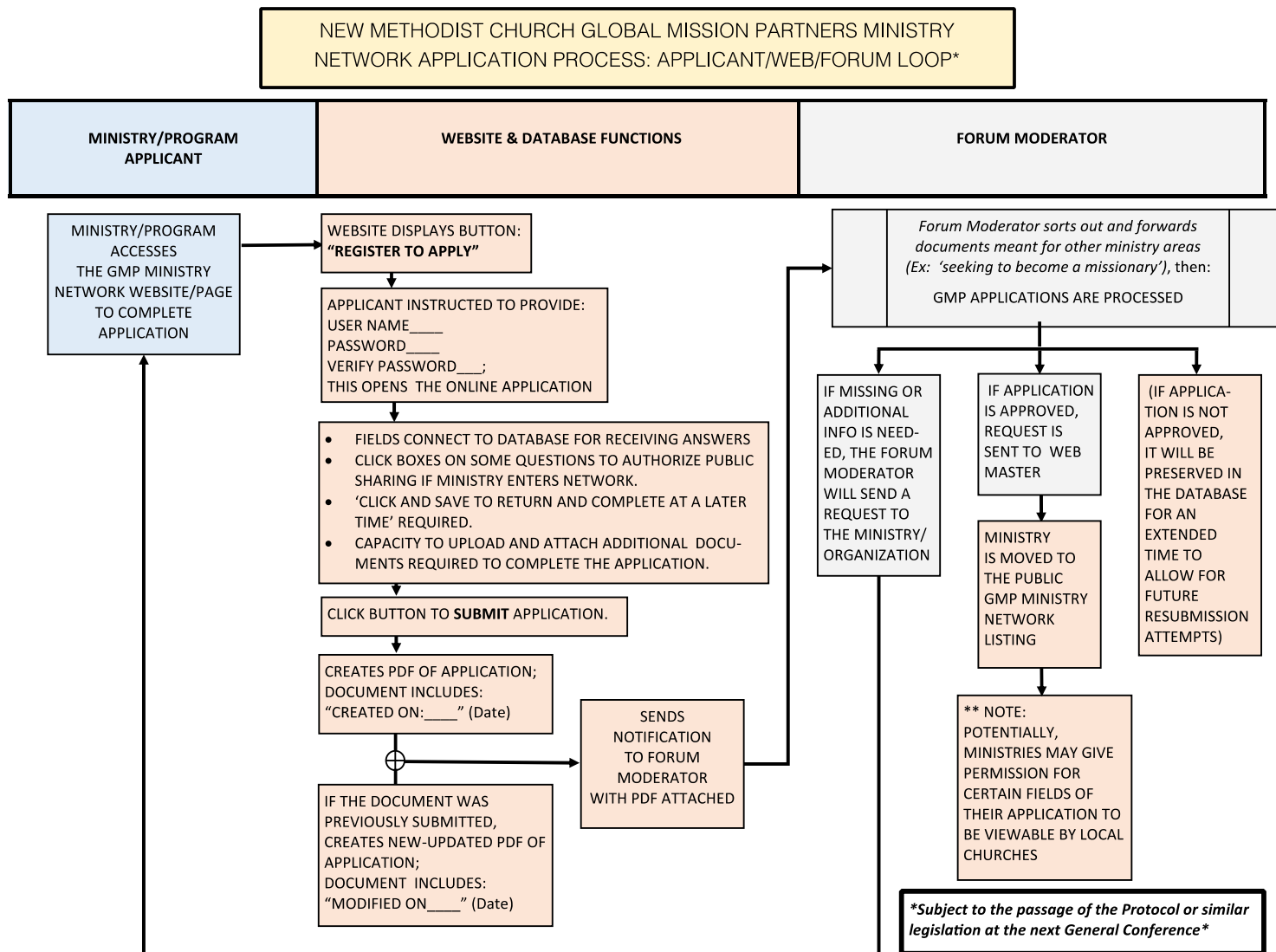
Appendix A: Map 1

MAP: The New Methodist Church Global Mission Partners Ministry Network Approval & Registration Process

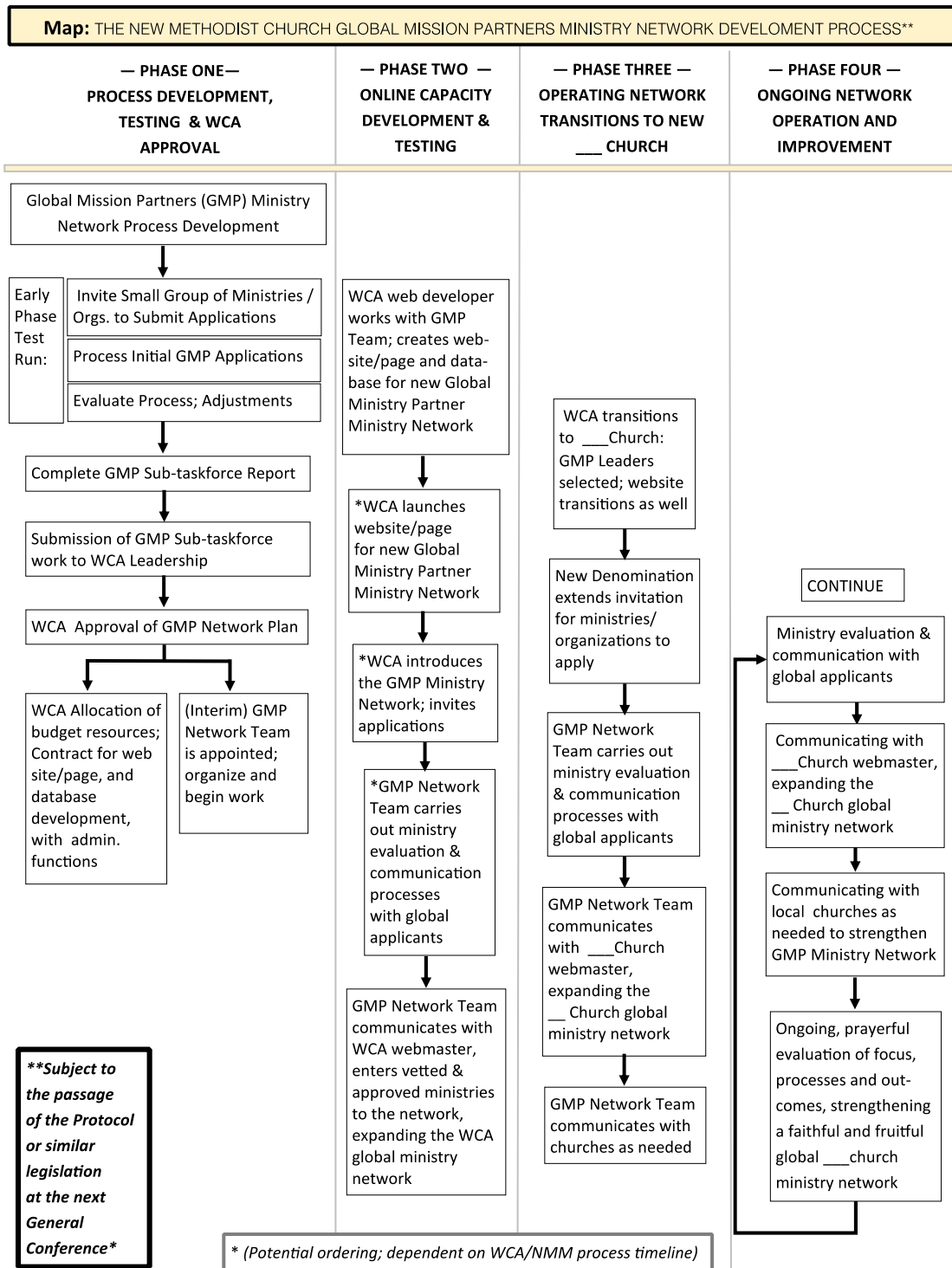
*SUBJECT TO THE PASSAGE OF THE PROTOCOL OR SIMILAR LEGISLATION AT THE NEXT GENERAL CONFERENCE



Appendix B: Map 2



Appendix C: Map 3



Appendix D: Document Application Forum

THE NEW METHODIST CHURCH GMP MINISTRY NETWORK APPLICATIONS FORUM**

The image (right) reflects an online forum designed to manage the workflow of the GMP Evaluation Team.

The forum functions like a digital file cabinet.

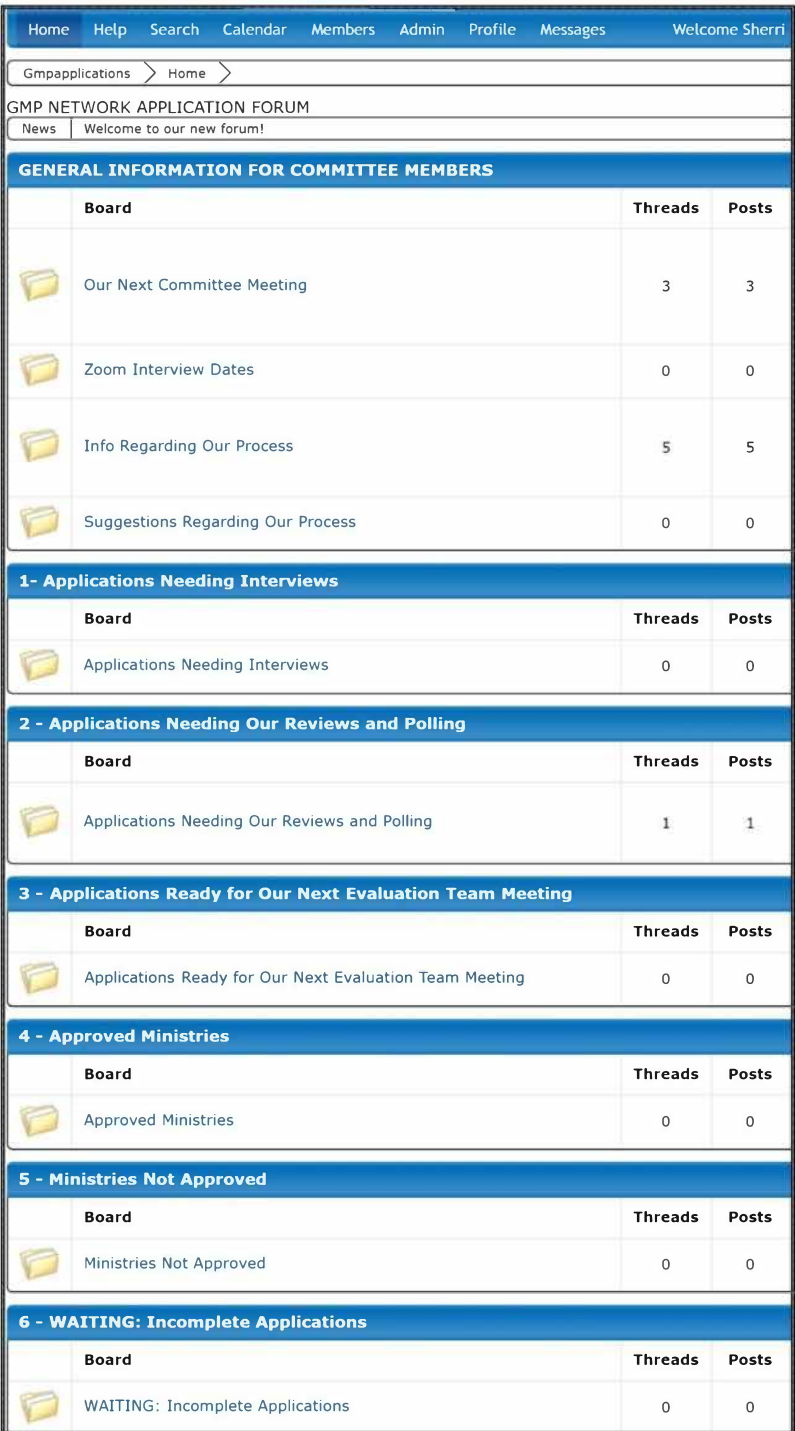
Applications are uploaded by the Forum Moderator, and placed in the appropriate “drawer” (the “Boards,” numbered ‘1’ through ‘6’) as applications move through the process of evaluation.

Team functions (such as individual reviews, carrying out video-based interviews, and establishing Team Meeting Agendas) can be coordinated, shared and tracked through the use of the forum.

Applications which require further information or which are waiting for required documents are kept in a separate “drawer” — so progress can be monitored and applications not be passed over or forgotten.

Process “triggers” assist the team, so that timely, helpful communication with every applicant is the default.

For a detailed explanation, see the document:
“The GMP Ministry Application Process: How the Forum Helps Us in Our Work”**



GENERAL INFORMATION FOR COMMITTEE MEMBERS			
	Board	Threads	Posts
	Our Next Committee Meeting	3	3
	Zoom Interview Dates	0	0
	Info Regarding Our Process	5	5
	Suggestions Regarding Our Process	0	0

1- Applications Needing Interviews			
	Board	Threads	Posts
	Applications Needing Interviews	0	0

2 - Applications Needing Our Reviews and Polling			
	Board	Threads	Posts
	Applications Needing Our Reviews and Polling	1	1

3 - Applications Ready for Our Next Evaluation Team Meeting			
	Board	Threads	Posts
	Applications Ready for Our Next Evaluation Team Meeting	0	0

4 - Approved Ministries			
	Board	Threads	Posts
	Approved Ministries	0	0

5 - Ministries Not Approved			
	Board	Threads	Posts
	Ministries Not Approved	0	0

6 - WAITING: Incomplete Applications			
	Board	Threads	Posts
	WAITING: Incomplete Applications	0	0

****Subject to the passage of the Protocol or similar legislation at the next General Conference**

Appendix E: Training Document: Application Process

The GMP Ministry Application Process **How the Forum Helps Us in Our Work**

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TOPICS COVERED IN THIS DOCUMENT:

- I. WHAT THE FORUM DOES, AND HOW IT RELATES TO OUR WORK
- II. A VISUAL COMPARISON.... FORUM CATEGORIES AND WORKFLOW
- III. FORUM TERMS AND THE 'PARTS' OF OUR FORUM
- IV. INDIVIDUAL REVIEWS AND POLLING
- V. KEEPING THINGS MOVING...AVOIDING BACKLOG



I. WHAT THE FORUM DOES, AND HOW IT RELATES TO OUR WORK

The GMP Applications Forum is a “Message Board” which allows us to track and respond to ministry applications in a timely manner. No applications get lost, ignored, or forgotten. Also, because the forum can be accessed via internet from around the world, input can be offered and decisions made with broad inclusion of participating team members.

Because team members can attend to GMP tasks at times that are convenient to personal schedules and regardless of time zone, all team members’ voices can “be heard” — and bottlenecks to processing can be reduced significantly. Additionally, forum moderating can enhance communication between our team with ministry applicants. Through our work together, we contribute to the building of partnerships between global ministries and local churches. This supports the advancement of the Kingdom of God, and the reaching of people of diverse cultures with the Good News and the love of Jesus Christ.

Here is how the address of the GMP Applications Forum appears online when you’ve arrived at the forum:

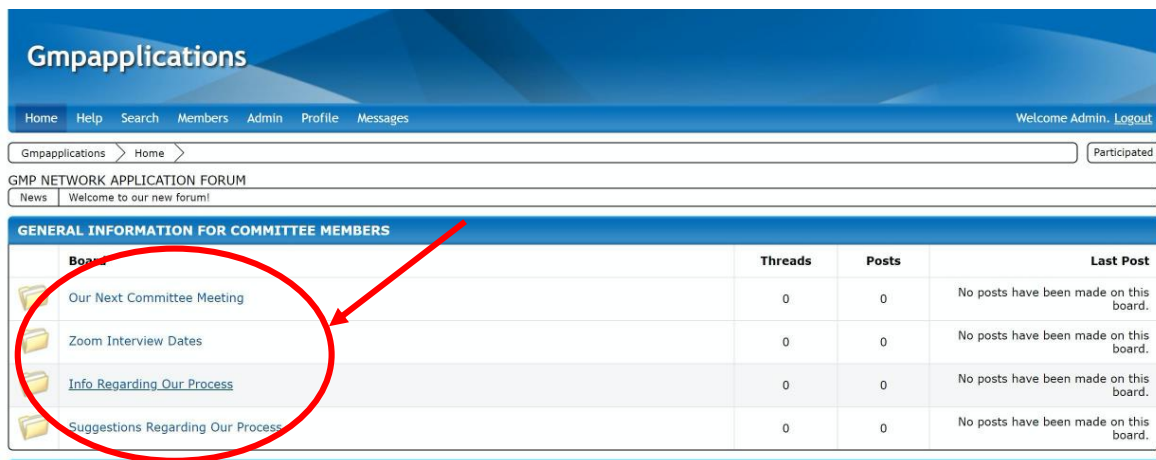


As a member of the GMP Ministry Network Team, you gain access to the forum by sending your name and email address to the GMP Network Applications email account. Here is the address: GMP.Network.Applications@gmail.com. The Forum Moderator will then register you as a Forum Member.

When you open the forum, you will see “General Information for Committee Members.” (See below)

Notice the types of information you will find by clicking on the links.

Important information, such as dates for upcoming committee meetings and applicant interview dates are found here.



Board	Threads	Posts	Last Post
Our Next Committee Meeting	0	0	No posts have been made on this board.
Zoom Interview Dates	0	0	No posts have been made on this board.
Info Regarding Our Process	0	0	No posts have been made on this board.
Suggestions Regarding Our Process	0	0	No posts have been made on this board.

***The GMP Ministry Application Process
How the Forum Helps Us in Our Work**

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II. A VISUAL COMPARISON.... FORUM CATEGORIES AND WORKFLOW

Applications submitted to the GMP team move through various steps prior to being approved.

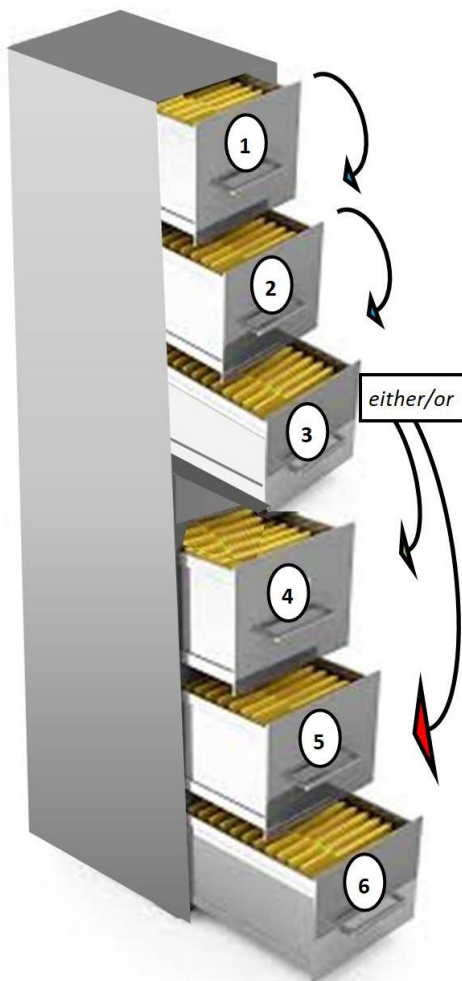
To facilitate progress, and to better keep track of what step applications are at in the approval process, we can file them in stage-of-progress categories. The categories are numbered and have titles which match our workflow. Think of the forum categories as being like drawers in a file cabinet, with each draw holding documents of a similar type.

Look at the illustration below. Each drawer holds many files. Each drawer represents a category found on the forum. The files in the drawers represent applications in each stage-of-progress category.

When an application is submitted, the Forum Moderator places the application in the first drawer (category).

When an application advances in our processing, the document gets moved to the next appropriate drawer (category).

The categories of the forum are listed in the same order as the labels for the drawers in the illustration of a cabinet, below.



1– Applications Needing Interviews

Before the GMP Team evaluates a ministry application, an interview must be carried out. Since this is the first team task, the application is placed in the first drawer until an interview is carried out with the applicant.

2– Applications Needing Our Reviews and Polling

After an interview has been done and members have an opportunity for viewing, individual team members respond to the ministry application through ‘Polling’. This is explained in **Section IV: Polling**.

3– Applications Ready for Our Next Evaluation Team Meeting

This drawer contains all applications that are ready for team evaluations. It is a good idea for team members to review these applications prior to our team meeting. Refreshing our memories prepares us for good decision-making and discussion.

4– Approved Ministries

After the evaluation team meeting, all approved ministry applications are placed in this drawer by the Forum Moderator. Approved applications will be preserved here. The Forum Moderator will also notify the Web-Master to publish the ministry on the GMP Ministry Network website, and will send a letter of welcome to our new Ministry Partner.

5 – Ministries Not Approved

If a ministry is not approved, the application is placed in this drawer. Prompt follow-up will be sent to the applicant communicating the reason the ministry was not approved, with an offer to help the applicant understand what would need to be changed or put in place to qualify.

6 – WAITING: Incomplete Applications

If an application is missing information and/or a required document, *or* needs more information before the Evaluation Team Meeting, the Forum Moderator will contact the applicant with the request. The application will be placed in this drawer until a response is received. Then the application will be moved to the next correct drawer, and the process may continue.

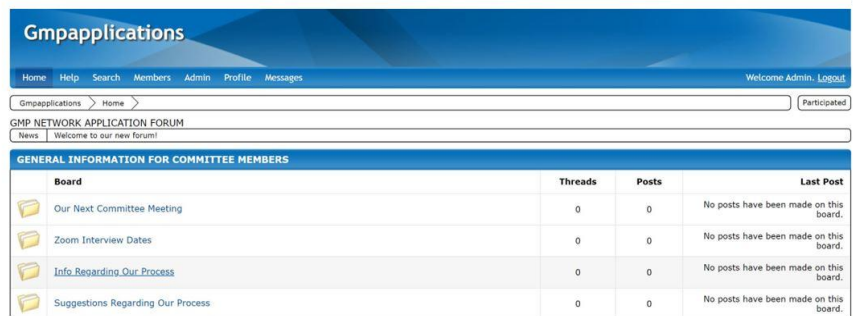
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How the Forum Helps Us in Our Work**

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III. FORUM TERMS AND THE 'PARTS' OF OUR FORUM

You've already seen a screen-shot of the upper-most portion of what shows up when you open the GMP Applications Forum. Here it is again (right):

Now we'll look at the rest of what is displayed when you first open the forum, and review some "forum terms" you might come across as you interact with our message board.

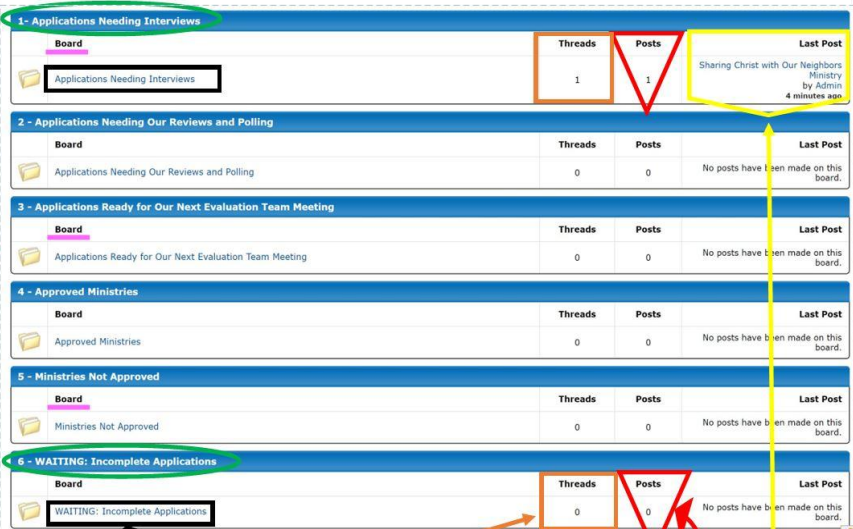


As you look at the image to the right, notice the numbered sections (1—6). These are our workflow "drawers," or

"Categories"

Again, think of a forum Category as a drawer in a file cabinet, where we gather similar types of documents.

Below each Category heading, you'll see the word **"Board."** Boards can be sub-divided. On this image, you'll notice each Board only has one file folder showing, and each has the same name as its Category. Later, as the work of the GMP Team grows, the Boards can be expanded to provide more sections.



Every file folder "on a board" represents a sub-message board! To open and see all of the ministry applications that are at this stage of our process, click the **title**

"Threads" is another word for "Topics." In this case, each "Thread" represents a separate ministry application.

When a team member opens a ministry application "Thread," he or she can add comments that will attach to the "Thread." Attached comments are called **"Posts."** You can see how many "Posts" are attached to a ministry application by looking below the word "Posts."

To see when the most recent comment which was attached to an application, check **"Last Post."**

Look at Category 1—"Applications Needing Interviews". If you clicked to open the Board beneath it, how many ministry applications would you discover? (Look beneath the "Threads" count to the right for the answer.)

*The GMP Ministry Application Process How the Forum Helps Us in Our Work

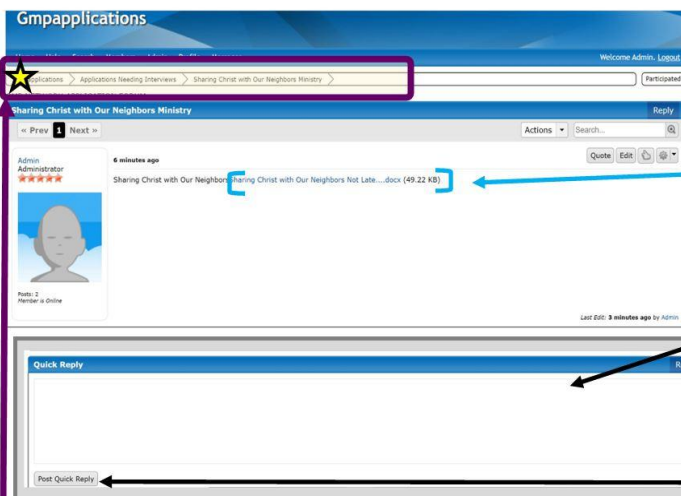
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Now imagine you are new to the GMP Team. You've received notice that a new application has arrived and you'd like to see it. Where would you go to find it? In the first "drawer" of our forum "cabinet": Category 1— Applications Needing Interviews. Look at what is listed on the "Board."

Click on the link with the title: "Applications Needing Interviews."



This opens you to a list of links — to all the ministry applications needing interviews, that have been posted by the Forum Moderator. Now perhaps you are able to spend a few moments reading an application. You click on one of the title links, *Sharing Christ with Our Neighbors*. (This is just an example.) Below, left, is what you would see. It is the first "Post" of the "Thread" for the *Sharing Christ with Our Neighbors* ministry application. In starting the "Thread," the Forum Moderator has attached the **ministry application Docx file** to the

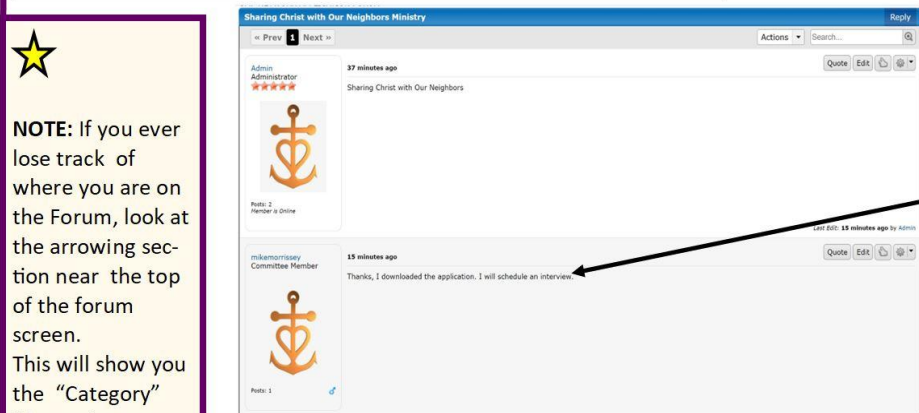


"Post." You can click here to download it and review.

If you have any comments or questions about the application, type them into the "Quick Reply" Box at the bottom of the "Post."

You can click here to download it and review.

Be sure to click the "Post Quick Reply" button at the bottom left, to save and share your comments.



After you click the "Post Quick Reply" button, your comments will be added to the "Thread." They will appear below what you've commented to.

Other team members can comment too, and they can also comment to your comment!

Through our posts we can communicate easily, and not lose track of valuable information.

NOTE: If you ever lose track of where you are on the Forum, look at the arrowing section near the top of the forum screen. This will show you the "Category" (drawer) you are in, as well as the "Thread" (Topic) / Ministry Application you are following.

And so we continue. As the ministry application moves through the approval process, the Forum Moderator will move the "Thread" (all of the communications we've had regarding the ministry) to the appropriate 1—6 "Categories" (File Cabinet Drawers). The whole "Thread" (with all of the comment "Posts") move together. We can continue to add new "Posts" as we continue to process the application.

The GMP Ministry Application Process
How the Forum Helps Us in Our Work

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IV. INDIVIDUAL REVIEWS AND POLLING

Let's review the steps between when an application is submitted, and when that same application might finally be approved: →

Step Two: Applications Needing Our Reviews and Polling.

Step Two is an important part of our responsibilities. In Step Two, members of the team review the application, (and the applicant interview video if possible).

These reviews are done individually, from "at home," and before an application ever comes before the full GMP Team for evaluation.

1- Applications Needing Interviews

Before the GMP Team evaluates a ministry application, an interview must be carried out. Since this is the first team task, the application is placed in the first drawer until an interview is carried out with the applicant.

2- Applications Needing Our Reviews and Polling

After an interview has been done and members have an opportunity for viewing, individual team members respond to the ministry application through 'Polling'. This is explained in **Section IV: Polling**.

3- Applications Ready for Our Next Evaluation Team Meeting

This drawer contains all applications that are ready for team evaluations. It is a good idea for team members to review these applications prior to our team meeting. Refreshing our memories prepares us for good decision-making and discussion.

By doing the review and "Polling" members can help to ensure that only completed applications are presented to the full team for consideration. Also, through "Polling," individual members can help the full team to identify which ministry applications do not need additional discussion, as well as identifying which ministry applications need more discussion before approval is granted.

To be Clear:

What the "Poll" does:
 The Poll helps the team move forward in processing applications.

What the "Poll" does NOT do:
 The "Poll" is NOT your "final vote" on whether you approve of a ministry.

"How Does Polling Work?"

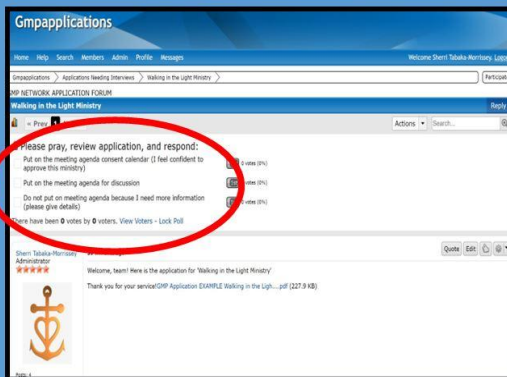
You've just prayerfully read an application. You may have viewed the applicant interview video as well. What comes next?

"Take the Poll!"

"Where? How?"

Every ministry application "Thread" has a poll inserted on the first "Post." The "Poll" is located at the left side of the first (it is circled in red on the screenshot to the right.)

The "Poll" offers three choices. After reviewing the application, you will choose and CLICK one.

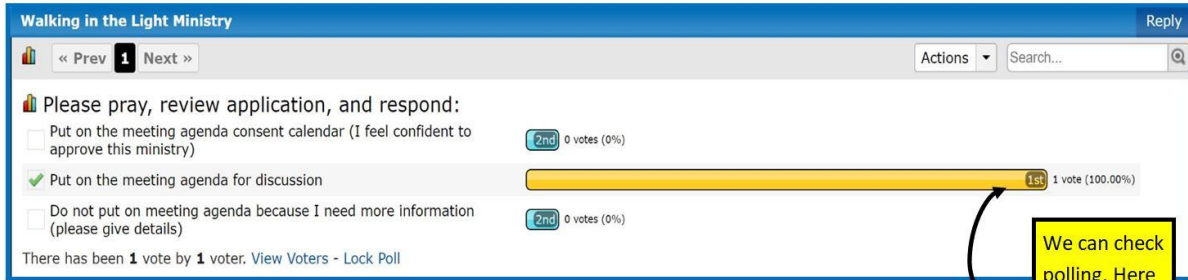


The GMP Ministry Application Process
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Here is a closer screenshot of the “Poll” on the GMP Applications Forum:

When you review a ministry application and are ready to take the “Poll,” you will see the same three choices.



1. If you feel confident about the ministry you are reviewing (based on the knowledge you have, you believe you would support this ministry being approved), **CLICK Box 1**.
2. If you feel “okay” about the ministry, **OR** you have concerns about the ministry, **OR** you have no peace at all, and you want the evaluation team to discuss the ministry, **CLICK Box 2**. (Remember — you can use the “Quick Reply” Box to share any concerns, observations, or thoughts before the Evaluation Team Meeting. This helps members prepare for discussion time.)
3. Finally, if, when reviewing the application you discover something is incomplete (for example, a question is unanswered, or a required document has not been submitted) **OR** if you need a question answered by the applicant *before* the Evaluation Team Meeting, **CLICK Box 3**. (Then... Be sure to type in the “Quick Reply” Box what information is needed. Be sure to CLICK the “Post Quick Reply” Button.) The Forum Moderator will contact the applicant with the request for information.

If a ministry receives a Box 3 vote, it will NOT be discussed by the Evaluation Team until the applicant completes the application / provides the needed information. Until then, the application will be held in the “**WAITING: Incomplete Application**” Category or “drawer” on the forum.

Some Great Questions...

“You said the “Poll” isn’t our final vote. What happens if I click **Box 1** or **Box 2**?”

If you and every other member who polls selects **Box 1**, the ministry will be placed on a “**Consent Calendar**” for our next meeting. Then, this and all ministries with *only* **Box 1** votes become part of a “batch” of ministries that can be approved “all together” with just one group vote being taken during the Evaluation Team Meeting.

“What if I change my mind? Or, what if someone votes **Box 2**?”

All it takes is one vote, or one request, and an application will be pulled from the “Consent Calendar.” The ministry will then need to be discussed and voted on separately, like all other applications that are discussed.

Using this process allows the GMP Team to more efficiently process applications, and to focus precious discussion time on applications that need additional attention. Of course, we must “do our homework” (prayerful reading, review, and polling of applications before the date of our Evaluation Team Meeting)!

The GMP Ministry Application Process
How the Forum Helps Us in Our Work

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IV. KEEPING THINGS MOVING...AVOIDING BACKLOG

Documents and Decisions! Documents and Decisions! One of our greatest challenges as the global ministry team responsible for processing the GMP applications is staying in communication, and managing our workflow.

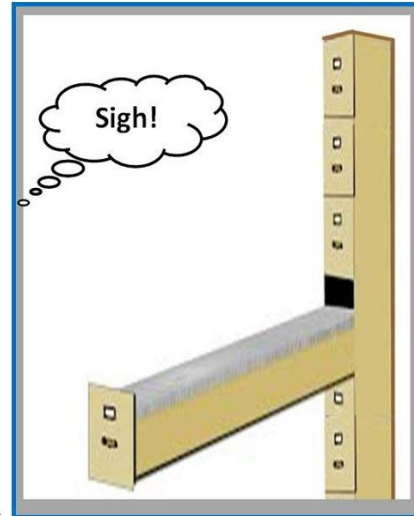
You may be wondering, “What happens if team members aren’t able to review applications “at home,” or “polling” fails to take place?”

Over time, we would get backlogged.
 (It would be like having our file cabinet drawer get overfilled!)

This of course would mean the GMP Ministry Network would be hindered. And potential ministry partnerships would be....just dreams.

We do have the option of putting all applications on the Evaluation Team Meeting Agenda without doing individual reviews and polling, but we’d have to discuss every ministry application that is submitted (whether it was ready, or not) — at length — and possibly without preparation and prayer, or without having the answers to questions that could have been answered prior to our meeting!

But.... Because we are carrying out “Kingdom business” - we want to be ready to give our best time and attention to this important task. To help us be mindful of upcoming meetings, our forum has a calendar to which we can post dates (for Team Meetings and for doing applicant interviews). You can access our dates in two ways: (1) By clicking on “Calendar”, or by clicking on “Our Next Committee Meeting.” (Here, you’ll see dates in list form).




The GMP Ministry Network Team is committed to serving Christ and His Church — together. Again, gathering busy people, who live all over the world and in different time zones; it’s not always easy, yet the ministry we do together is vital. Strengthening global ministry partnerships can multiply the sharing of the Good News and love of Jesus. And through the power of the Holy Spirit, we can be participate in kingdom-building, God-glorifying ministry.

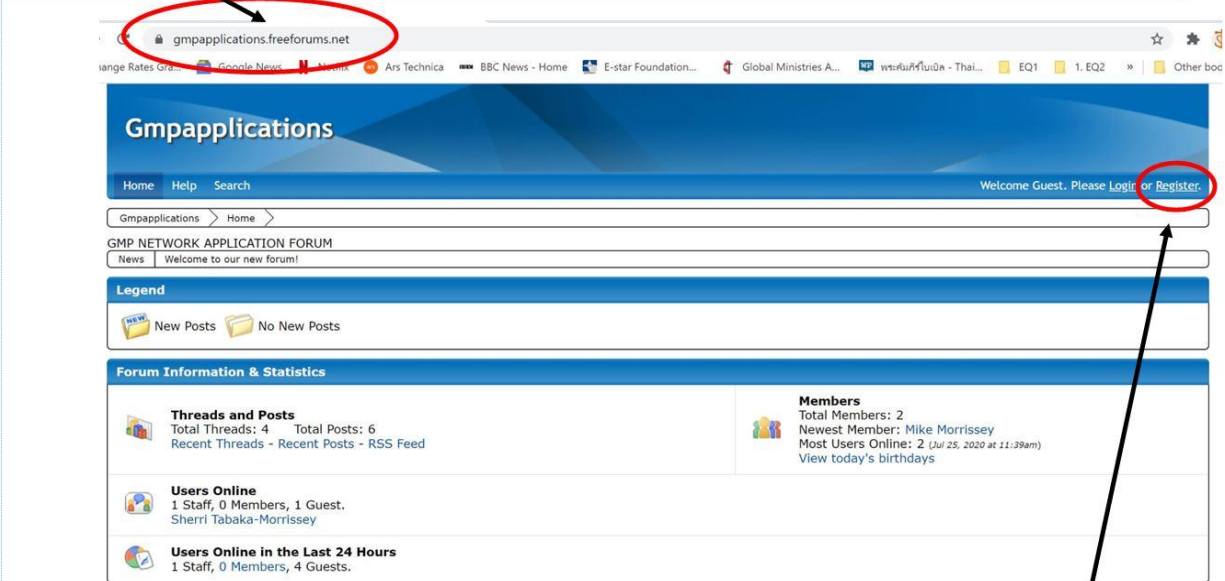
If you are new to working with an online forum, there is no need to fear. Patience and perseverance win the day! (And if you have questions, don’t hesitate to ask the Forum Moderator, or other members.) You can find additional tips and hints posted in the Category “General Information for Committee Members.” (Check “Info Regarding Our Process.”) Additionally, you can add a “Thread” in “Suggestions for Our Process.” We want this tool to enhance our shared ministry!



Appendix F: Training Document Registering with the Forum

REGISTERING WITH THE FORUM:

1. Here is where to go to register as a member of the GMP forum: <http://gmpapplications.freeforums.net/>



2. Go To "REGISTER"



3. In the box that shows up, type in your email address, then CLICK "Continue"

4. Fill in the rest of the information required, CLICKing "Continue" as required. (You will also CLICK agreement to abide by the forum rules...)

5. After you have registered, you will be able to access the forum. When the moderator sees you have registered, you will be upgraded to "staff" level, (This makes it so you can do reviews, polling, replies, etc..)

If you have any questions or need help, email :

GMP.Network.Applications@gmail.com

6. Later, when you want to return to the forum, you will CLICK "Log In" at the top right (not "Register").

Your User Name will be your email address.

Your Password will be whatever you have chosen.

Appendix G: Document Application for Ministry Network

Application to the New Methodist Church Global Mission Partners Ministry Network

(*Subject to the passage of the Protocol or similar legislation at the next General Conference*)

1. NAME OF ORGANIZATION:
2. COUNTRY:
3. TYPE OF MINISTRY/PROGRAM: (Check/CLICK all that apply)
 - a. Gospel Sharing / Evangelism
 - b. Discipleship Training
 - c. Church Planting
 - d. National Leadership Training
 - e. Sending Agency
 - f. Mercy Ministry

-
4. PLEASE PROVIDE A THREE SENTENCE SUMMARY OF YOUR MINISTRY (If your organization is approved, this summary will be viewed as a description of your ministries when posted on the GMP Ministry Network.)

5. LEADER'S NAME, DESIGNATION, AND CONTACT INFORMATION

Name:	Title:
Telephone:	E-mail:

6. MINISTRY CONTACT INFORMATION

Address for Business / Correspondence:	Phone:
	Email:
	Website:
	Other Social Media:

8. Provide a brief introduction and overview of the organization and ministries:

- A. Overview – What this ministry accomplishes, and why it is essential

- B. Context – including setting (urban, small town, rural); population; languages spoken; religious breakdown by type; the percentage of the population that is Christian; other cultural factors

- C. History – Give a brief history of this ministry. Also, how long has this program been operating?

- D. Denomination – What denomination are you affiliated with?? Do you receive funding from this or any other organization?

- E. Please provide any other information that will help the GMP Evaluation Team, as well as New Methodist Churches around the world to understand your ministry and better connect with you.

9. In what ways does this ministry assist or equip individuals / churches in making disciples?

**NOTE: If you are applying on behalf of a mercy ministry, in what ways is the gospel of Jesus is intentionally shared through the day-to-day carrying out of the ministry?*

(Please identify, describe, and give examples. Be specific.)

10. Describe how your organization contributes to the support, development, and training of spiritually mature, national church leaders. Include:

- A. When considering your ministry, are there aspects of your program which reveal a Wesleyan orientation?
(Please identify and provide any additional information that would be helpful.)

- B. Describe how the ministry/program prepares team members to humbly work within local cultural contexts, with understanding of the historical foundations, worldviews, customs, art forms, and social, religious and linguistic expressions.

- C. *(For Church Planting Ministries only)* Identify the goals, and explain the process by which your program assists in or carries out church planting.

D. *(For Sending Agencies only)* Please outline the process or services your organization provides to guide, oversee, and support employees who will serve cross-culturally.

11. What factors do you consider in measuring fruitfulness? What is the process you utilize in this measuring?
(Please be specific, and give examples)

12. How does this organization relate to the local church/churches of the area in which it operates?

(For example, identify points of collaboration or cooperation.)

13. Describe the oversight process for your organization

- A. Does the organization have legal status that provides an avenue for financial accountability?
 - B. How many board members do you have? How often does the board meet? How are board members and officers chosen?
 - C. If your organization posts names of board members, please provide the website address where this information can be found.
 - D. How does your organization ensure financial transparency and accountability?
-

14. DOCUMENTS TO PROVIDE (submit digitally with your application)

Please carefully check that all documents are submitted, to prevent delays in reviewing your application.

Affiliation and Registration:

1. ____ Document of organizational affiliation (If the ministry/program has affiliation).
2. ____ A copy of domestic / international legal registration if available in your country. (For example, US-based organizations submit a copy of the 501c3 non-profit registration). If registration is not permitted in your country, please provide this information.

Financial: (NOTE – All financial documents submitted will be treated as confidential by the GMP Evaluation Team and will be deleted upon approval to the GMP Network.)

3. ____ A copy of the previous year’s annual budget;
4. ____ Treasurer’s Report
5. ____ A copy of the most recent external audit, review or other 3rd party examination of the financial records of the ministry

Leadership:

6. ____ A history of your work, ministry, and education
7. ____ A brief testimony.



Organizations seeking inclusion in the New Methodist Church Global Missions Partnership Ministry Network shall:
1. Demonstrate a connection to our Wesleyan heritage and practice either through affiliation with a denomination in the pan-Wesleyan stream, or a theological position rooted in Wesleyan Theology.
2. Be willing to have the affiliation publicly affirmed through posting on the GMP Ministry Network website.
3. Confirm that the ministry/ organization’s board of directors have voted on and are in full agreement with the beliefs stated in the New Methodist Church <i>Doctrine and Discipline</i> , including: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The authority and inspiration of the Holy Scriptures, which are understood to be our primary rule for faith and practice.• The doctrines found within the historic creeds of the church, our Articles of Religion and Confession of Faith, and the core Wesleyan tradition• The commitment to justice and holy living with society as found in the New Methodist Church “Social Witness to the World.”
4. Neither promote nor engage in practices incompatible with our theological and social principles.

Applicant Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Note: When all information needed has been submitted, you will receive confirmation it has been received. You may also be contacted by email to set up a brief online interview with members of the GMP team. Following your interview, this application will be submitted to the GMP team for review and consideration. Thank you for your ministry!

Appendix H: Evaluation Team Tool

A New Methodist Church Global Mission Partners Ministry Network **GMP Evaluation Team: Qualifying Criteria Evaluation Tool**

(*Subject to the passage of the Protocol or similar legislation at the next General Conference*)

Reviewing our Goals

1. Identify Christian ministries interested in networking that are: committed to grace, compassion, and have a passionate desire for people to experience a personal relationship with Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior; that are committed to the Lordship of Jesus Christ, the authority and inspiration of the Scriptures, and the work of the Holy Spirit in conveying God's truth, grace, renewal, and sanctification to all people who repent and believe.
2. Maintain the ___ Church Global Mission Partners (GMP) "Ministry Network" to facilitate the forming of strong bonds of ministry partnership with like-minded mission groups and agencies that will work together to spread the Gospel throughout the world, especially among those who have never heard the Gospel.
3. Empower the development of well-trained, national ministries to lead the ministry within their own context, and the training of national leaders in their own context.
4. Provide an avenue for local churches to partner in global missions with ministries that have provided evidence of commitment to Biblical faith; fruitfulness, and which practice transparency and accountability.

Reviewing the Responsibilities of the GMP Evaluation Team

1. Accept and process applications in a way that is open and helpful
2. Prayerfully evaluate each application with focused attention on qualifying criteria
3. Communicate decisions with applicants in a timely manner
4. Refer individual applicants who express interest in mission service to connect with appropriate ___ Church leaders / approved sending agencies, so they may receive assistance in discerning their call, guidance, training, and support
5. If a ministry/organization does not initially qualify for approval, assist applicants in understanding what is needed for possible future approval
6. Maintain the GMP Ministry Network, and make it accessible to ___ churches

Reviewing the Criteria Required to Qualify for Inclusion in the ___ Church GMP Ministries Network

Ministries / organizations seeking to be a part of the GMP Ministries Network should demonstrate:

1. A commitment to Biblical authority;
2. A commitment to Wesleyan doctrine and theology, with a desire to identify with the ___ Church;
3. The ministry fulfills the mission of making disciples of Jesus;
4. Equipped leadership, serving capably within the culture and context;
5. The organization functions cooperatively with local churches and other ministries;
6. Appropriate oversight; transparency and accountability;
7. Evidence of fruitfulness.

(*Subject to the passage of the Protocol or similar legislation
at the next General Conference*)

Name of Ministry/Organization: _____

Name of Program: _____

Country: _____

Date: _____

(identification code)
(relationship)
(country)
(ministry type)

PART I: CRITERIA NECESSARY TO QUALIFY FOR INCLUSION IN THE GMP MINISTRIES NETWORK

The Organization and Ministry/Program Demonstrates:	3 Fully Evident	2 Mostly Evident	1 Partially Evident	0 Little or No Evidence	Overall Rating	Comments
A. Commitment to Biblical Authority;	3	2	1	0		
B. A commitment to Wesleyan doctrine and theology, with a desire to identify with the _____ Church;	3	2	1	0		
C. The ministry fulfills the mission of making disciples of Jesus;	3	2	1	0		
D. Equipped leadership, serving capably within the culture and context;	3	2	1	0		
E. The ministry/program functions cooperatively with local churches and other ministries;	3	2	1	0		
F. Appropriate oversight; transparency and accountability;	3	2	1	0		
G. Evidence of fruitfulness.	3	2	1	0		
				TOTAL:		

PART II: QUALIFYING CRITERIA CHARACTERISTICS FOR ALL MINISTRY TYPES

FACTOR	Statement	CHOOSE ONE FOR EACH STATEMENT: 0 - Characteristic is absent 1 – Characteristic is present but limited 2 – Characteristic is present 3 – Characteristic is present and appears strong				Score 0-3
		3	2	1	0	
MEASURING FRUITFULNESS	1. The ministry identifies clear and relevant criteria to measure fruitfulness.	3	2	1	0	
	2. The ministry has a process to evaluate fruitfulness.	3	2	1	0	
	3. Specific examples of fruitfulness are provided.	3	2	1	0	
CONTEXTUAL AND CROSS-CULTURAL TRAINING OF WORKERS	4. The ministry prepares team members to humbly work within cultural context.	3	2	1	0	
	5. The ministry assists workers to grow in cross- cultural understanding. (Ex: historical foundations, worldviews customs, art forms, and social, religious and linguistic expressions).	3	2	1	0	
					TOTAL:	

PART III: ADDITIONAL FACTORS TO CONSIDER BASED ON MINISTRY TYPES:

❖ **Mercy Ministries**

FACTOR	Statement	CHOOSE ONE FOR EACH STATEMENT: 0 - Characteristic is absent 1 – Characteristic is present but limited 2 – Characteristic is present 3 – Characteristic is present and appears strong				Score 0-3
		3	2	1	0	
PURPOSE	1. A clear statement of the ministry’s purpose is provided.	3	2	1	0	
THE ACTIVE SHARING OF CHRIST IS AN EXPLICIT, REGULAR PART OF THE MINISTRY	2. The active sharing of Christ in the day-to-day carrying out of this ministry is evident.	3	2	1	0	
					TOTAL:	

PART IV: FINAL CONSIDERATIONS

FACTOR	Please rate your response to each factor according to the scale below. If you believe additional information is required before the application is ready for GMP Team Evaluation, or if you have comments to share, use the “comment” section.			
	3 - Satisfied and Confident	2 - Satisfied	1- Have questions which require clarifying information <i>(Insert in “comments” section)</i>	0 - Have Serious Concerns <i>(Insert in “comments” section)</i>
Information shared in the ministry introduction and overview (including: activities; context; history; leadership and guiding principles; denominational affiliation).	3	2	1	0
	Comments:			
The ministry’s contribution to the support, development, and training of spiritually mature, national church leaders	3	2	1	0
	Comments:			
The organization’s oversight process, and financial accountability	3	2	1	0
	Comments:			
The documents which have been submitted, including the leader’s resume & testimony	3	2	1	0
	Comments:			
The organization’s demonstration of a commitment to Biblical faith, justice, and holy living within society, which is to be lived out by leaders and employees	3	2	1	0
	Comments:			

Required Document Check:

[Check if Present]

AFFILIATION AND REGISTRATION

1. _____ Document of organizational affiliation (If the ministry/program has affiliation).
2. _____ A copy of domestic / international legal registration if available in that country.

FINANCIAL

3. _____ A copy of the previous year's annual budget;
4. _____ Treasurer's Report
5. _____ A copy of the most recent external audit, review or other 3rd party examination of the financial records of the ministry.

LEADERSHIP

6. _____ The ministry leader has provided a copy of his or her history of work, ministry, education, and a brief testimony.

Dear GMP Evaluation Team Member,

After prayerfully reviewing the ministry application, please remember to return to the GMP Application Forum and submit your response to this application via the online POLL.

Also, if you have any additional questions regarding the ministry you are reviewing which need to be answered prior to our Team Evaluation Meeting, OR if you have discovered any missing documents/unanswered questions on the application, please remember to submit this information in the "QUICK REPLY" BOX when you complete your POLL.

Thank you!

❖ Organizations providing Discipleship Training or National Leadership Training

FACTOR	Statement	CHOOSE ONE FOR EACH STATEMENT: 0 - Characteristic is absent 1 – Characteristic is present but limited 2 – Characteristic is present 3 – Characteristic is present and appears strong				Score 0-3
WESLEYAN ORIENTATION	1. The ministry reveals a Wesleyan orientation.	3	2	1	0	
					TOTAL:	

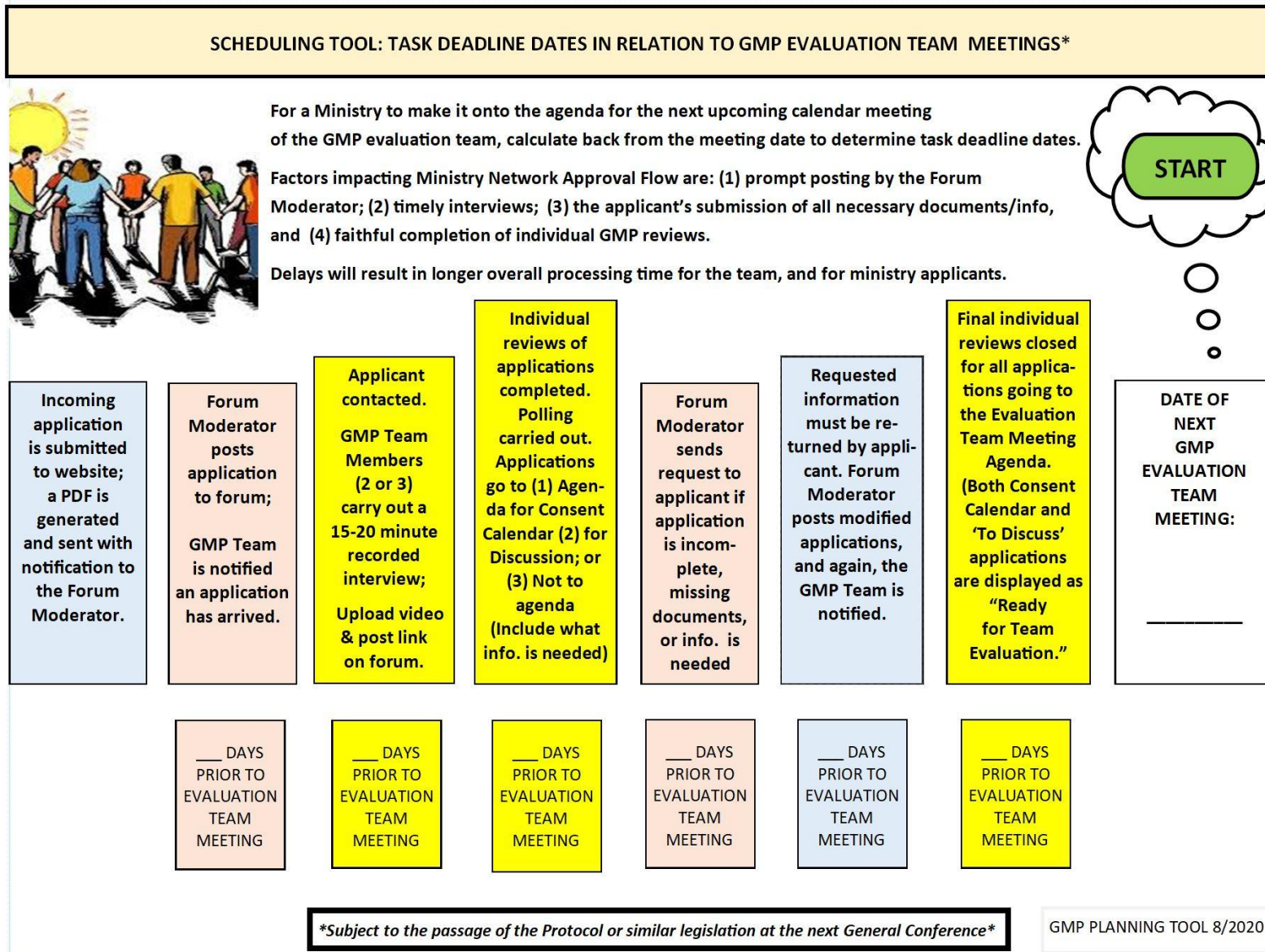
❖ Sending Agencies

FACTOR	Statement	CHOOSE ONE FOR EACH STATEMENT: 0 - Characteristic is absent 1 – Characteristic is present but limited 2 – Characteristic is present 3 – Characteristic is present and appears strong				Score 0-3
SUPPORT AND OVERSIGHT FOR CROSS-CULTURAL WORKERS	1. The organization provides guidance, oversight and support to employees who serve cross-culturally.	3	2	1	0	
					TOTAL:	

❖ Church Planting Ministries

FACTOR	Statement	CHOOSE ONE FOR EACH STATEMENT: 0 - Characteristic is absent 1 – Characteristic is present but limited 2 – Characteristic is present 3 – Characteristic is present and appears strong				Score 0-3
GOALS AND PROCESS	1. The ministry has clear goals, and explains the process by which the organization assists in, or carries out church planting.	3	2	1	0	
					TOTAL:	

Appendix I: Map 4



Appendix J: Document Evaluation Team Survey

_____ Church Global Mission Partners Ministry Network
GMP Evaluation Team: Meeting Effectiveness Survey

(It is recommended this survey be administered following the regular meetings of the GMP Evaluation Team, and the results be shared with team leadership.)

DATE OF MEETING: _____

Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements about today's meeting:

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
The goals of the meeting were clear to me.				
My level of participation was comfortable for me.				
Most attendees participated in meeting discussion.				
Leadership during the meeting provided clear direction.				
Meeting participants worked well together.				
Discussion at the meeting was productive.				
The meeting was well organized.				
The meeting was a productive use of my time.				
The presentation / participation by _____ enhanced my ability to participate in the meeting				
Decisions were made by only a few people.				
Decisions were made in accordance with the established rules.				
The meeting objectives were met.				

Comments: _____

This report is respectfully submitted by the Global Mission Partners Ministry Network sub-task force
August 14, 2020

Members of the sub-task force:

<p>Chair: Rev. Dr. Warren Lathem US / Venezuela President, Venezuela Now, Inc. President Emeritus, Seminario Wesleyano de Venezuela; North Georgia Conference warrenlathem@gmail.com</p>	<p>Rev. Kennedy Mukwindidza Zimbabwe/U.S. Compassionate Consultative Initiative Project, Zimbabwe; Pastor at Coldwater United Methodist Church, KS Great Plains Conference mwaona3@gmail.com</p>
<p>Irambona Pacis Alarine, M.D. (Peace) Burundi UMC-Youth and Young adult Coordinator Co-Founder of Uzima Association AACC - CETA rambona19@gmail.com</p>	<p>Rev. Dr. Peter Pereira India/Chicago Founder Hope for Today, Hyderabad, India South Asia Director for International Leadership Institute revpeter7k@yahoo.com</p>
<p>Bishop Dr. Robert Aboagye-Mensah Ghana Previous Presiding Bishop, Methodist Church Ghana 2003-2009; General Secretary, Christian Council of Ghana, 1998-2003 kwasi846@gmail.com</p>	<p>Rev. Luciano Pereira Da Silva Panama/Brazil Secretario General at CIEMAL Council of the Methodist Church in Latin American and Caribbean pslucianopereira@gmail.com</p>
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<p>Rev. Dr. Randy Coleman U.S./Ecuador Senior Pastor, Elida Immanuel Church, Elida, OH; Served as a missionary in Guayaquil, Ecuador, Evangelical Bible Seminary; West Ohio Conference rcoleman40@gmail.com</p>	<p>Rev. Dr. Sherri Tabaka-Morrissey Thailand / U.S. Ph.D. in Human Resource Development Co-Director of Thailand NOW; Kentucky Conference morrisseys@thailandnow.org</p>
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