



## **Adopting a Mission Worker for your Congregation**

This and other documents found on the presbytery and PCUSA World Mission websites offer a variety of information that may be helpful as your congregation considers “adopting” a mission worker. We recommend that you not only consider PCUSA World Mission people but that you also consider mission workers sent through PCUSA Validated Mission Support groups. They are a part of the PCUSA overall strategy for participating in God’s mission in the world.

## **What is a Validated Mission Support Group?**

An excerpt from the PCUSA International Evangelism web page helps explain:

### ***Validated Mission Support Groups***

*Important partners with the Office of International Evangelism (PCUSA) are Validated Mission Support Groups which are in covenant relationships with the General Assembly.*

*Validated Mission Support Groups promote and raise funds for specific General Assembly validated mission causes and challenge congregations to increase their support and involvement in mission. These are two PCUSA Validated Mission Support groups to consider in addition to the PCUSA World Mission recommendations.*

### **The Outreach Foundation**

318 Seaboard Lane, Suite 205  
Franklin, TN 37067  
Phone: (800) 791-5023  
Fax: (615) 778-8887

[Email](#)

[Website](#)

### **Presbyterian Frontier Fellowship**

7132 Portland Avenue S.  
Suite 136  
Richfield, MN 55423-3264  
Phone: (800) 720-4733  
Fax: (612) 869-1888

[Email](#)

[Website](#)

For your information, Shenandoah Presbytery has several members serving in mission through the Presbyterian Frontier Fellowship and another partner organization, the Antioch Partners. Because they serve in very security sensitive areas, you will not find their information on the

web. We can, however, connect you with someone in the presbytery to provide you with this information. Contact Doug Sensabaugh at the presbytery office for more information.

We encourage you to use this group of documents to help your congregation begin the process. These will by no means give you all you need to know about selecting a mission worker. But these will provide a good place to start YOUR process.

The best advice we have received is not to rush into picking someone so you can say you have a mission worker!!! It's a wonderful PROCESS that a congregation, session and mission committee should work through together. And it should be done with *lots of prayer seeking discernment about where your congregation can engage in God's mission in the world.*

I hope this is helpful and will inspire your church to have good conversations together in ways that will engage everyone. By doing that, the whole congregation can then develop a connection with the mission worker you select.

The accompanying documents have been sent to us through the PCUSA World Mission Church Support office in Louisville. They too are "works in progress" and as such offer ideas to initiate your discussions. You may find other resources that are helpful.

One such resource is produced by Shenandoah's World Wide Ministries committee, "**Catch the Mission Spirit.**" This booklet has been distributed presbytery-wide as a resource for churches to see what other churches are doing in mission. It contains a listing of mission activities by church.

It also provides other resources for helping guide mission involvement for churches, sessions and mission/outreach committees. The web offers a wealth of resources and some of those are included in this booklet as well.

One last thought as you begin. At a meeting of Shenandoah Presbytery over a year ago, the presbytery voted to accept the 100% Challenge – to have every church in Shenandoah connected to a PCUSA mission worker. To date, sixty-four of the 110 churches of the presbytery are connected to a PCUSA mission worker or Validated Mission Support Group. We are indeed making progress. We have about half way yet to go.

Please consider joining in support of PCUSA mission around the world.