

Kenya Mission Network (KMN) of the PC (U.S.A.) – October 11–13, 2012

*Best Practices for Mission Partnerships**

Implementation of the Fourteen Resolutions

From the

International Mission Partnership Conference at Mombasa, Kenya, February 2011

I. Spiritual Development

A. *Begin with a spiritual aspect such as prayer or Bible study*

- Worship together
 - Exchange sermons
 - Exchange pastors
- Shared Bible study -
 - Partners can alternate writing the Bible study
- Share prayer requests
 - Shared simultaneous prayer times for specific prayers
- Shared devotionals - can be written by partners
- Share partnership concerns, news joys, etc. in weekly bulletin, newsletter or announcements from the pulpit
- Begin and end meetings, gatherings, conferences, phone calls, with prayer
- Hold spiritual/renewal retreats
- Utilize tangible reminders for prayers for partners, i.e., bookmarks, wristbands, pins, etc.

II. Relationship Development

A. *Remember that communication is a key to keeping the partnership active*

- Identify point of contact person(s)
- Establish a regular basis of communication
- Use technology
 - Phone call/conference call, email, Skype, Facebook, blog
- Record worship services and share by mail, CD, DVD and online; Skype worship services
- Establish a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA)/ Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)/ Covenant
 - *(Referred to as MOA throughout the rest of this document)*
- Know channels of communication with the PC(U.S.A.) and PCEA to report new building projects
 - PC(U.S.A.) Regional Liaison
 - PCEA Head office
- Assess and understand limitations of partner's access to communication (internet, electricity, resources, etc.)
- Clarity of communication
 - Repeat what you believe you have heard
 - Work to understand inferences in language, ask to have words repeated and/or written
- Utilize Web Sites
 - partnership news and developments
 - trip reports
 - announcements, news and photos
 - travel plans
 - share resources
 - welcome new partnerships
 - map of partnership activity
- Always practice candid communication, especially when sharing what does work and what doesn't work.

- Publicize information (bulletin boards, newsletters, bulletins, etc.)

B. Be in community with one another

- Exchanges of partner visits
 - Be intentional about ways to share the trip experience upon return home.
- Have Bible study
- Play with children
- Share a meal
- Worship together
- Organize discussion groups
- When working on a project, work side by side
- When partners visit, provide opportunities to participate in church and community programs
- Provide opportunities for visitors to interact with the host congregation (meals, host homes, church meetings/gatherings, participate in worship)
- Learn language
- Establish pen pals
- Participate in home stays
- Include young children in relationships - VBS, pen pals, Sunday School classes

C. Recognize diversity in gifts and strengths

- Identify gifts and skills before trips - interview potential travelers to discover gifts that individuals bring to the group -
- share training resources on the web site
- Receive the gifts of others....hospitality, evangelism, trades, occupations
- Listen, ask questions , don't just do
- Match gifts and skills in cross cultural exchange - skills needed vs. skills available

D. Learn from one another through education and orientations

- Reverse ambassadorship and communicating the experience - make this the expectation in training before the trip - give a face to the place
- Seek to understand and appreciate cultural/ethnic differences
- Allow sufficient time for training and orientation
- Include post trip debriefing
- Be intentional about setting times for trips and visits
- Provide opportunities for visitor to participate in worship/church school/Presbytery/schools to share news and culture
- Use Mission curriculum for Sunday school, VBS, and youth group
- Promote and support leadership development (lay leader, pastor, elders, and evangelists)
- Promote and support leadership development especially for women

E. Be sure that acceptance is always present

- Come together for needs assessment and listen
- Use a written MOA
- Be sure that all stakeholders are on board
- Inform leadership and seek approval when warranted
- Plan for sustainability

III. Partnership Development

A. Shape and share a common vision

- Seek spiritual guidance - pray, wait, discern
- Through building relationships you can shape and share a vision - get to know the community
- Understand that common vision is more than the project

- BUILD THE RELATIONSHIPS! - Not always linked to projects
- Go beyond a project, use more than project language to shape vision
- Take the time required to develop a mutual vision - don't rush - assess needs
- Practice patience - takes time
- Understand nature of partnership
- Identify PCEA and PC(U.S.A.) structure - be informed about the practices and procedures so that vision is developed appropriately
- Plan retreats for the purpose of developing a common vision

B. Develop a structure that is based through channels and not individuals

- Leadership will change during the life of a partnership
- Know the community to know the channels
- Structure should be broad, not with just a pastor
- Share minutes of Session meetings, partnership meetings to know that you are working with an institution, not an individual
- Create a partnership board, partnership committee, management committee
- Be inclusive of the whole community
- Share responsibilities

C. Establish proper accountability by developing an MOA

- Determine what works for the relationship when moving into a partnership, no one size fits all
- Create MOA for partnership development - employ addendums for projects within partnership
- Distribute copies of MOA to appropriate parties (Sessions, Presbyteries, etc.)
- Share copies of MOA with PC(U.S.A.) and PCEA head offices
- Post MOA forms on the web sites (KMN, Church) to be used as templates
- Some MOA content:
 - define project
 - define timeline
 - commit resources
 - establish method of accountability
 - establish plan for sustainability
 - establish plan to “hand over” the completed project
 - signed by principal parties

D. Continually do research and assess needs

- Do reciprocal needs assessment:
 - meet with community
 - listen carefully
 - visit the site/ probe and question
 - identify challenges
 - assess modifications and alternatives
- Seek information
 - national news (print, TV & web)
 - research relevant topical material - history, biographies, mission texts
 - use online information from mission co-workers, students - *PCEA/PC(U.S.A.) information*
- KMN provide information about current events (e.g. Thika bus crash)

E. Implement, monitor, evaluate, and report in a timely process

- Develop mutually agreed upon evaluation points
- Use technology to communicate to share reports and evaluations, i.e., email, Facebook, blog
- Allow for change and correction

- Be flexible, be open to change (addendums to MOA)
- Communicate with partners to know what needs to be changed
- Develop evaluation, review and exit strategy for MOA
- Perform annual review of positives and negatives of partnership
- Appoint partnership committee to conduct reviews

F. Organize regular partnership meetings with congregations, parishes, presbyteries and institutions

- Set a schedule for regular meetings
- Meet via conference call, email, Skype or face-to-face

G. Meet every three years (in Kenya) as an International Partnership Network

- PCEA International partners will facilitate
- Develop a steering committee
- Publicize on web site and via email well in advance

**Unanimously affirmed by the Kenya Mission Network on October 13, 2012
and by*

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