

How do I start a Covenant Relationship?



GLOBAL MINISTRIES

- 1) Share with friends in your church about the opportunity to make a pledge to second-mile giving in support of a missionary. Start a conversation with your pastor, the chair of the mission committee or similar, or another small group (Sunday School class, UMW, etc.).
- 2) Together, choose a missionary with whom you would like to have a relationship. Think about the location of service and type of ministry when selecting a missionary who matches the passions of your church members and parallels with other ongoing ministry in the church. A list of missionaries who are already supported by churches in the conference is available (choosing a missionary from this list makes arranging visits easier).
- 3) Determine the amount of your pledge. Pledges start at \$5 per member per year for a church or church group. A full covenant is \$2500 per year.

It is great when the whole church or church group can make a commitment, however, it is also possible for an individual to make a pledge. The covenant level for individuals starts at \$500 per year.
- 4) Determine how you will raise the money. Here are some ideas -->
 - a) include the amount in your annual church budget
 - b) host a fund-raising event (spud lunch, spaghetti dinner, spring tea, music concert, rummage sale, Christmas bazaar, hymn sing, Alternative Giving, etc.)
 - c) include mission giving as a regular part of Sunday worship (noisy offering, monthly mission envelope, special offering at Christmas/Easter/5th Sunday, etc.)
- 5) Send in the Covenant Relationship form to your Conference Secretary for Global Ministries and also the headquarters for Global Ministries. This informs your conference leadership and the missionary of your pledge and desire to be in communication. The missionary will receive notification of your commitment.
- 6) Write an email or letter to your missionary asking how to be in communication as he or she may have a blog or send out periodic email newsletters. Also, ask if you can add the missionary to your church's email newsletter. Include the missionary's birthday in your church's prayer list or identify other opportunities to pray for your missionary.
- 7) Your missionary will send periodic updates (by email or postal mail or both) about the ministry where she or he serves and pray for your church and local ministry.
- 8) Don't forget to send in your financial contributions (monthly or annually) through the Conference Treasurer using the missionary's Advance number to designate the gift. (Individuals can also donate online at www.givetomission.org)
- 9) Approximately every three years (visa & plane tickets permitting), your covenant missionary will visit your church.

The Advance is an official program of The United Methodist Church for voluntary, accountable, designated, second-mile giving. The Advance ensures 100% of each gift is used for its intended mission or ministry. Each Advance project has been vetted and approved by Global Ministries and Advance staff. The Advance receives regular reports from and conducts audits of the projects for financial accountability. By sending your gift through the CA-NV Conference Office using the Advance number designation, churches receive credit for the contribution and missionaries receive compiled reports about gifts given. For more information visit www.advancinghope.org.

 **The Advance**
A Program of Global Ministries

 **Global Ministries**
The United Methodist Church

