

Education for Mission

Congregational Handbook



The Presbyterian Church in Canada

Education for Mission Congregational Handbook

prepared by

The Education for Mission Advisory Committee
The Life and Mission Agency
The Presbyterian Church in Canada, 2005

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The cover shows a photograph of the windowless stained glass art, *For God so loves the world*, by Carolyn Boyer. It stands at the entrance to St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Barrie, Ontario, as a visual invitation and welcome to all who enter the church. It is a vibrant reminder to them of their place in the worldwide family of God.

The symbols of the universe, the rainbow encompassing the world, and the cross reflect the artist's understanding of God's inclusive, constant love for the world and God's mysterious presence in creation.

Light, coming from outdoor and inside sources, is reflected from the mirror placed behind the piece causing an illusion of depth and movement. People see reflections of themselves as they pass by, affirming their presence in God's creation and love. It is most effective when the church doors are wide open. The scripture verse sign beside it reads:

"...what is required of you....but to do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with God."
Micah 6:8

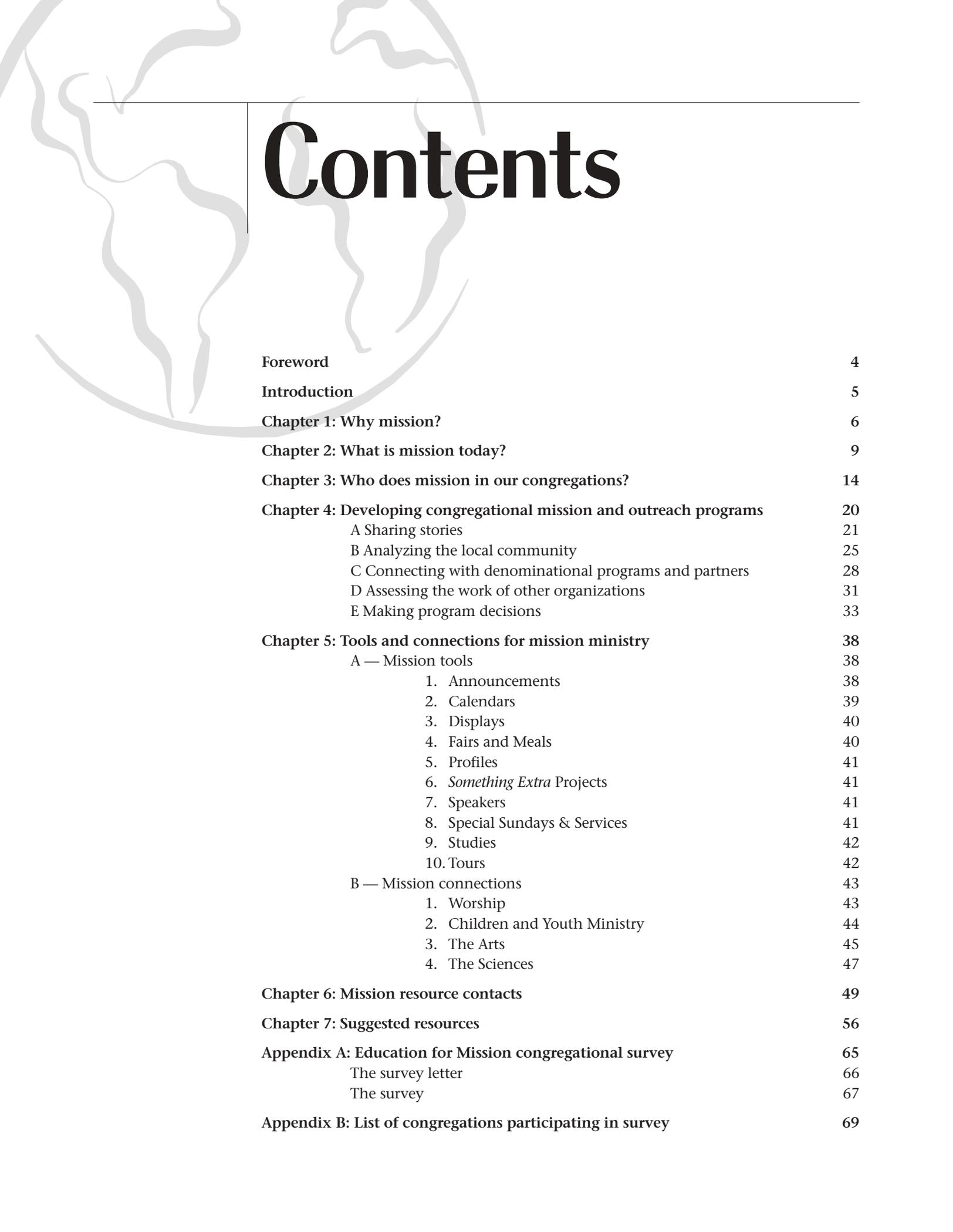
This handbook is dedicated to all those members, adherents and partners of The Presbyterian Church in Canada who care about the mission and outreach ministry of our church.

The photographs in this handbook come from the online photo galleries of *Presbyterians Sharing . . .*, Presbyterian World Service and Development, and Youth in Mission. They depict the mission work of our church and its partners in Canada and around the world. Congregations may download and use pictures from these websites. See Chapter 6 for website addresses.

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The content of this handbook arises out of people's faith experiences and may or may not concur with the readers' beliefs. The content is provided to encourage inquiry, discussion and faith development.

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Foreword

In the fall of 2003 Education for Mission sent a survey to all congregations of The Presbyterian Church in Canada asking them a series of questions about their mission involvement. What was their understanding of mission? How were they involved in mission? Who in their congregation provided leadership and direction for mission? They were also asked what type of support would be helpful in the form of a written resource.

More than 200 responses representing 158 congregations were returned (see Appendices). It was amazing to see the many different ways that congregations across Canada are involved in mission — locally, nationally and internationally. What was apparent in these responses was the deep level of commitment our congregations have to mission. We thank these congregations for sharing their stories — their learnings, their struggles and challenges, and their joys — which have guided and shaped the writing of this handbook.

What is evident from the survey is that congregations do mission in different ways, and that there may be a number of groups in a congregation involved in various forms of mission at any one time. There is no plan that works for every congregation, but rather congregations discern what God is calling them to be and to do in their community and in their world.

The intention of this handbook is to share information gathered in the survey so that congregations

- learn from and with each other,
- access material for reflection and discussion, and
- develop mission and outreach activities suited to their unique church community.

Throughout the handbook are found the voices of those who responded to the survey. These responses are shown in the shaded areas of the resource.

Appreciation is expressed to the Education for Mission advisory committee whose vision inspired this handbook and who participated in its production. Special thanks to Anne Saunders, Carolyn Boyer and Gordon Timbers — to Anne who took the lead in preparing the survey, collating the results and writing the resource, and to Carolyn and Gordon who provided consultation during the writing process.

It seems appropriate that this resource has taken shape in 2004 during the FLAMES focus on education. May it inspire congregations to discover the joy of the mission that lies at the heart of the church's existence — to share the good news of Jesus Christ in word and deed.

Annemarie Klassen
Associate Secretary
Education for Mission and Stewardship

On behalf of the Education for Mission Advisory Committee
The Life and Mission Agency
The Presbyterian Church in Canada



Introduction

Why *education* for mission? Why a *resource* about it?

“Our responsibility is to equip God’s people to do God’s work and build up the church, the body of Christ.” Ephesians 4:12

Education for Mission, as part of the Life and Mission Agency of The Presbyterian Church in Canada, seeks to provide support for congregations as they engage in faithful and vital mission. It does this in two ways: through the production of educational materials and by providing opportunities for direct participation in the mission activity of our denomination. Its purpose is to equip church members to be inspired, informed and involved in mission.

Mission education . . .

1. Is grounded in the biblical mandate to “go and tell”

“Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.” Luke 24:45-48

2. Recognizes that we are part of a global Christian community

“As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.” Galatians 3:27-28

3. Acknowledges the diverse cultural expressions of our faith

“Then Peter began to speak to them: ‘I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him.’” Acts 10:34-35

4. Motivates people to serve and to act with generosity

“You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us; for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God.” 2 Corinthians 9:11,12

Effective mission education engages people in mission outreach with an emphasis on servanthood in the midst of diverse faiths, witness in word and deed, alleviation of suffering, and work for justice, peace, and the renewal of creation.

Cooperation and interdependence among churches throughout the world are paramount in carrying out God’s mission in Jesus Christ.

– *Embracing God’s World: Involving the Congregation in Mission*, Presbyterian Church (USA), 1990



Chapter 1:

Why mission?

While the word “mission” does not appear in the Bible, it is the foundation for our faith tradition and Jesus’ ministry. The Old Testament is full of biblical references to the Hebrews’ pursuit of God’s righteousness or justice — shalom. The New Testament expands upon Jesus’ teaching about the reign of God — God’s kingdom — where everyone enjoys abundant life full of love for God, ourselves and our neighbour.

Some of the passages that have inspired mission and outreach workers include:

What other mission-inspiring biblical passages come to mind? Include these in the exercise suggested at the end of this chapter.

- “Blessed are the poor in spirit...” (Matthew 5:3, also Luke 6:20)
- “I was hungry and you fed me...” (Matthew 25:35)
- The Great Commission (Matt, 28:19, Mark 16:15, Luke 24:47)
- “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me...” (Luke 4:18-19)
- Love God, neighbour, yourself; Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37)
- “For God so loved the world...” (John 3:16)
- “And you will be my witnesses...” (Acts 1:8b)
- “That is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself...” (2 Corinthians 5:19)

Jesus’ words were in the tradition of the Hebrew prophets. He often quoted the prophets. Some of these passages from Hebrew Scripture have been particular sources of inspiration:

- The Sabbatical Year; the Year of Jubilee (Leviticus 25)
- “The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me...” (Isaiah 61)
- “Seek the Lord and live...establish justice...” (Amos 5:6-15)
- What God requires (Micah 6:6-8)

The impetus of scripture is that every biblical passage and story connects with the message that we are called to take God’s transforming love for all creation into our world of broken relationships.

The Christian understanding of mission requires us to be in relationship with one another and with God's creation. In mission we strive to be instruments of God's love to those parts of God's creation that are cut-off from that love. Loving relationships then are the foundation as well as the means for mission. They are also the challenge in mission. For most of us it is easier to give (or receive) money, or food, or clothing and toys, than it is to love the other person who usually seems so different from ourselves in so many ways. By example, scripture points out that "love" must be part of every encounter.

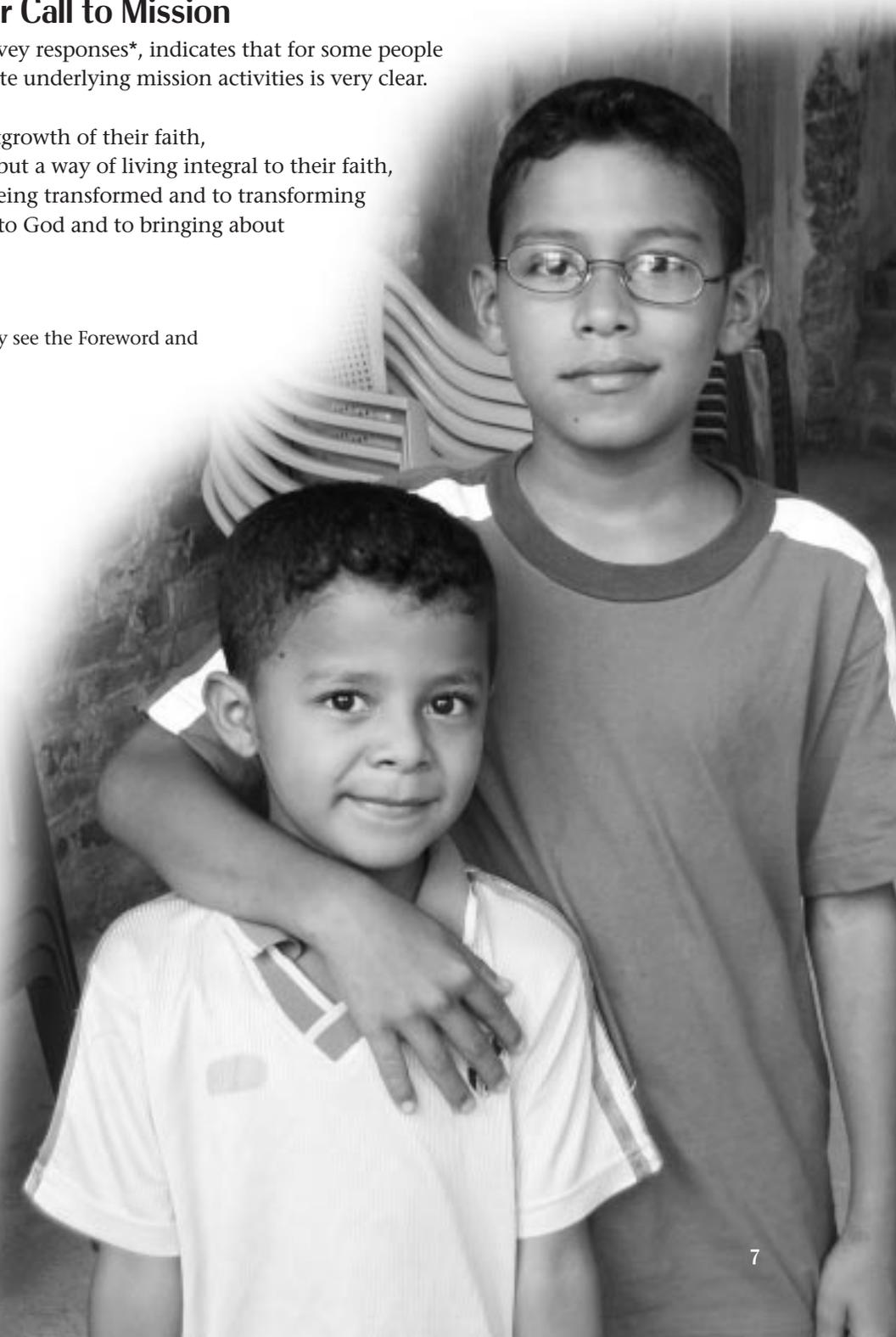
"Jesus, looking at [the rich man], loved him..."
(Mark 10:21)

Conveying to Others Our Call to Mission

A reading of the congregational survey responses*, indicates that for some people in our churches, the biblical mandate underlying mission activities is very clear. For them "doing mission" is...

... not a choice but a passionate outgrowth of their faith,
... not a "sometime" responsibility but a way of living integral to their faith,
... not a burden but the means to being transformed and to transforming the world — to becoming closer to God and to bringing about God's reign.

* For more information about the survey see the Foreword and the Appendix in this Handbook.



Boys from a partner church in El Salvador.
Photo: Heather Chappell

These people are often the leaders of the mission and outreach programs in our congregations. One of the most challenging tasks that they identify is the promotion of mission activities in an appealing way that will motivate others to get involved.

“Mission is the permanent obligation of God’s church. Mission is aimed theologically toward God’s ultimate reign in righteousness and glory, and the gathering of God’s household in which every creature will be reconciled and glorified.”

– *Mutuality in Mission: A Theological Principle for the Twenty-First Century* by Glory E. Dharmaraj and Jacob Dharmaraj

However, the real task may be to help people discover for themselves God’s call to mission, the “why” of mission. To do this, many leaders encourage others to engage in biblical study and reflection. In learning about the biblical imperative to reach out to others in loving and just relationships, people come to understand and feel passionate about participating in a faith community focused on taking God’s transforming love into the world.

Exercise

Study some of the selected biblical passages listed earlier in this chapter.

You will need: one or more commentaries on the specific book of the Bible, three or more translations of the Bible. Ask your minister for suggestions.

With background on the biblical book and the context of the chapter, read the chapter studying the particular verse or story selected. Compare the reading in different translations. Share reactions and personal experiences of the passage.

Discuss:

1. What does this passage say to you today about mission?
2. What might this passage say to a person, particularly someone very different from yourself (e.g. someone living in a poor, oppressed or war-torn community, someone very wealthy)?
3. How might this passage a) inspire or b) discourage involvement in mission activities?

From the Survey: Why mission?

The following are statements by survey respondents about why they do mission.

Read each in turn and reflect:

Do you agree or disagree?

What would this “look” like if acted upon?

Why do you do mission?

- “To bring people to know about God in a community of God.”
- “To follow Christ’s command to go into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature.”
- “It is our duty to reflect God’s love to others.”
- “To fulfill the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20); to share Christ’s heart for the world (Matthew 9:36-38, 18:10-14); to see people saved and brought to the knowledge of God (John 3:16, Acts 1:8, Romans 10:13-15); to build up the body of Christ through discipling (Ephesians 4:12-16); to fulfill the Great Commandment, to minister to the totality of human need (Matthew 22:37-39, 25:31-46).”



Chapter 2:

What is mission today?

For much of the first half of the 20th century, Canadian Christians thought of mission mainly in terms of missionaries working in countries of Central and South America, Asia and Africa. In response to the Great Commission (Matthew 28), people left their homeland to live and work far away, among people who were usually different economically, ethnically/racially, linguistically, culturally, and in their spiritual expressions.

Over the decades many North American Christians have come to recognize that they do not have to journey out of their own land or even their own community to serve a neighbour in need of God's compassionate love and justice. With better communication and transportation, improved standard of living, greater world migration, more of us have opportunities for first-hand experiences of people of other cultures, races and religions in our own communities as well as when we travel.

Other lessons have also been learned:

- Our affluent lifestyles can inadvertently encourage values like consumerism and wastefulness, and create jealousy, resentment and even hatred by the “have-nots” toward those they perceive as the “haves.”
- Our religious practices are heavily laden with European or Western culture.
- We don't have all the answers; in fact, we can learn from the people we go out to serve.
- God's people, while created and loved equally, do not all have equal opportunities for abundant life on earth.
- The focus of many people's lives is day-to-day, moment-by-moment survival due to threats like starvation, illness and violence.
- Experiences of God's love and justice and messages of God's hope abound, often originating from unexpected people and places, that is, often from the “receiving” people, community or country.

Many survey participants lamented the difficulty in engaging others in mission activities. It may be helpful if mission leaders articulate *what* they do, sharing their passion for mission. Sometimes it is not clear to those who watch them. Use one or more of the following tools to help reflect on and identify what mission means in today's context.

a) Mission and Its Components

Over the decades, mission activities have been linked to activities like evangelism, social action, community outreach, peace- and justice-making and stewardship. Read the following sections from *Living Faith*:

“The Church Reaches Out,” Chapter 9 in *An Interactive Study Guide to Living Faith* (by Carolyn Boyer, The Presbyterian Church in Canada, 2004) can assist individuals or groups such as mission committees or sessions to reflect on sections of *Living Faith* and their church’s mission program.

- “Our Care of the World” (2.4.1-2.4.2)
- “Love” (8.3.1-8.3.4)
- “Justice” (8.4.1-8.4.6)
- “Peace” (8.5.1-8.5.3)
- “Our Mission” (9.1.1-9.1.3)
- “Our Mission and Other Faiths” (9.2.1-9.2.2)
- “Our Mission and Unbelief” (9.3.1-9.3.2)

Ask the following questions to help you clarify your own views and increase your understanding of the range and differences in attitudes about mission that can exist among people in your congregation.

- How do these sections from *Living Faith* compare or connect with your understanding of mission?
- What relationship do the following activities have with the mission program of your church: evangelism, stewardship, outreach, social action, peacemaking and justice seeking?

b) Mission Principles

Read the bulleted points in the box “Mission is...” and then reflect on each point individually using these questions:

1. Why might this be important?
 2. Do you agree or disagree with its inclusion? Why?
 3. What questions do you have or what further information would you like about this point?
- What other points might you add?

Mission is...

- **Wholistic** – Mission is meant for the whole person, the whole community and the whole creation. It includes witness, service, healing and development. It addresses all facets of life.
- **Evangelistic** – Mission shares the good news of Jesus Christ, knowing that the full truth of the gospel story is always greater than our limited knowledge, and that illumination and transformation come only through the power of the Holy Spirit.
- **Advocacy** – Mission seeks justice, peace and righteousness. It is prophetic criticism, the calling to task of societies and cultures that do not protect and preserve life.
- **Inclusive** – Mission includes everyone – people of all races, backgrounds, ages, classes, genders, faiths, etc.
- **Respectful of Culture, Faith and Context** – Mission recognizes the capacity to respond to the gospel within the framework of one’s own situation; Christ is at home in any culture – the gospel alone transforms a culture.
- **Dialogical** – Mission demands a spirit of learning and humility as partners listen to one another.
- **Ecumenical** – Mission involves working together for the unity of the Christian church in order to strengthen the witness to the whole world of the love of God.
- **Relational** – Mission means being in relationship. Mission partnership is a covenant relationship between people – often of diverse backgrounds – who are together striving to bring about God’s realm of justice and peace.
– Education for Mission draft discussion paper “Guidelines for Mission Involvement”

c) Mission Meditation

The familiar passage 1 Corinthians 13 is often applied to loving relationships between adults, like faithful partners at a wedding service. However, Paul's letter was in fact about living and loving faithfully as followers of Jesus. If one defines "mission" as "expressing God's love," then we could read 1 Corinthians 13 as a description of mission.

1. Read 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 aloud, replacing the word "Love" with the word "Mission." Reflect on the implications for the way we do mission. If we are called upon to be the hands and feet of Jesus, to embody God's love, then this passage could be a standard for how we are to be in relationship with our neighbours.
2. Read 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 aloud, replacing the word "Love" with "I" or with your name. What are the implications for the way you do mission?

**International
Ministries mission
worker Denise
Van Wissen at a
Soynica Weight
and Height clinic
in Nicaragua.**

Photo: Ron Wallace



Mission partnership is “being in a relationship in which missionaries, indigenous church leaders, givers and receivers, rich and poor, powerful and powerless, clergy and laity, men and women, adults and youth join hands together and minister with one another. Gifts are shared for a common goal and mutually enriching purpose.”

— Glory Dharmaraj

Mission and Stewardship

“... Giving to meet a neighbor’s need is in actuality only giving to others what is rightfully theirs... Therefore, our contributions to individuals in need, to community social service agencies and voluntary associations, and to the church mission and ministry are simply obligatory acts of stewardship for which we deserve no thanks or reward. Thus we are not to think of our charity as an act of mercy for the less fortunate. We are only given the freedom to be responsible or irresponsible stewards of God’s wealth. The implications are vast. In short, stewardship is concerned with nothing less than our responsibility for every aspect of individual and social life within every aspect of life. Stewardship is the active recognition of the sovereignty of God over all creation, over all the creative and productive processes in which we humans share, and over the uses to which we put each and every resource and means that comes into our care and control.”

— John Westerhoff in
Grateful and Generous Hearts

Charity or Justice?

“Mission can be conceived of as being to or with others. Ministry to the other is fraught with elitism and paternalism and diminishes the gifts of the other. Ministry to the poor, for example, makes the poor an object of charity more than the subject of grace and justice. Ministry with, on the other hand, involves solidarity and friendship, which moves beyond charity to justice and mutuality. Let us be in mission with others.”

— Bishop Kenneth L. Carder,
The United Methodist Church, Nashville Area

d) Mission Partnerships

Partnership implies reciprocity, mutuality and equality between parties. So often Christians have seen themselves as givers of charity, not as receivers. Today we encourage one another to experience and reflect upon the non-monetary aspects of mission partnership, like the benefits of friendship, accompaniment, solidarity and sharing different worship traditions.

True partnerships involve both parties giving and taking. What you do together is a compromise, altered by input from each partner. The resulting experience affects each partner, changes each partner...transforms each partner. As Glory Dharmaraj has said, mission is “an ongoing activity of the living God who transforms, heals, and reconciles.” See also the box beginning “Mission partnership is.”

Mission often occurs between partners of unequal position, power, wealth, resources or education. Sadly, these inequities have frequently resulted in patronizing ways of doing mission. Even with the best intentions these inequities make it very difficult to nurture the kind of partnerships we believe are biblical. Yet, if we understand that we do not ‘own’ anything, but that all we have is a gift from God, given to us in trust that we will use it to care for all that God has created (the Creation mandate), then mission is not about charity but about justice.

And then mission is about stewardship. Then all of our giving — of money, of time, of whatever is needed — comes with no strings attached. It is simply what we do because of whom and whose we are, and because of the implicit value of all creation.

- Think about a really good personal experience of partnership that you have had. What made it so good?
- Read the boxes “Mission and Stewardship” and “Charity or Justice?” What questions do these readings raise for you? What scripture passages might provide guidance? (For possible passages see Chapter 1: Why mission?)
- Think about a mission partnership you have been part of. Would you describe it as a mission “to” or “with” others? Did it transform you? If so, how? If not, why do you think it didn’t?

Exercise

1. What are the underlying principles for your congregation’s mission activities?
2. Read the box “What do we believe about mission?” What do *you* believe about mission today? Why are you committed to participating in your congregation’s mission program?

What do we believe about mission?

Mission is God's work. This work – centred in the gospel of Jesus Christ and made real through the enabling power of the Holy Spirit – has been given to the church by God, for the sake of the world God loves.

We think of this work as having four cornerstones – evangelism, nurture of the people of God, service in the world, and the struggle for justice.

We believe that this work happens everywhere – in our places of work and play, in our congregations, in our neighbourhoods, in our country and in our world.

We believe that involvement in mission is a privilege and a responsibility for every Christian. Such involvement requires understanding, love, prayer and action. It requires the capacity to give and to receive.

– Education for Mission draft discussion paper
“Guidelines for Mission Involvement”

YIM volunteer Jessica Henderson
with children at Mistawasis Memorial
Church in central Saskatchewan.

Photo: Courtesy of J. Henderson



From the Survey: What is mission today?

The following are some of the statements by survey respondents about what mission and outreach means for us today. Read each in turn and reflect:

Do you agree or disagree?

What would this “look” like if acted upon?

What does mission and outreach mean for you today?

- “Our basic assumption, based on scripture, is that the whole church must be involved in missions... We therefore should not consider missions a hobby or a pastime in which to be involved occasionally or when we can spare some time. It is not just a once-a-year preoccupation characterized by an annual Missions Sunday or missionary conference. Nor should it be regarded as one of the many interests and departments of the church. Mission is not an option, it is a mandate. The whole church must be occupied with it.”
- “Mission is not about raising money. It is about raising our people’s awareness of the love of our Lord for ALL people. He died for each person out there in the world.”
- “We see ‘mission work’ as overseas. We need to remind ourselves of work ‘at home’ too.”
- “We have stated goals to assist efforts to support those in need locally and globally. It is time these were reworded to reflect the ‘partnership’ aspect of mission.”
- “We try to help anyone in dire need who comes to our attention, in the community or wider ranging community.”
- “It is not a priority. People focus mainly on their church’s own yearly deficit and little on any outreach programs.”
- “As small as our congregation is, I believe any attempt to touch the lives of people ‘outside’ the congregation in the spirit of Christian compassion is our primary role.”
- “To discern one or two relevant needs in our community and meet them with excellence.”
- “To move the congregation from the sanctuary into the world.”
- “Mission must be personal, hands-on and heart-felt.”

Who does mission in our congregations?

If we understand that God’s call to go out into the world and love our neighbour is a call to each of us, then we *all* have a responsibility to participate in mission. However, there is still a need for responsible leaders who will inspire and encourage participation. Those people leading in mission have the challenge and privilege of modeling the meaning of mission and mission partnership in all they say and do in the church — as they receive ideas, suggestions, requests from within their faith community as well as from outside their community. In some congregations, it is clear who is responsible for leading, encouraging and supervising mission activities. The survey results revealed that sometimes there are clear guidelines. In other cases, people experience uncertainty or confusion, not only about the *why* and *what* of mission, but also about *who* is responsible for mission.

Use one or more of the following tools to help reflect on who is responsible for mission and outreach activities in your congregation.

a) Mission Meditation

Three gospels include accounts of Jesus “sending out” people early in his ministry. These accounts, while similar, fall into two categories:

1. Sending out and instructing the 12 disciples (Matthew 10:1, 9-11, 14; Mark 6:7-13, Luke 9:1-6)
2. Sending out and instructing the 70 missionaries (Luke 10: 1-11)

Read the above passages and then reflect together.

- Whom did Jesus choose to send out? What do you know about these people and their qualifications?
- Compile a list of all the activities these missionaries were told to do and comment on them.
- Pray for guidance in understanding God’s instructions for “sending out” you and people in your congregation.

b) Mission & Outreach “Instructions”

At the end of this chapter are three statements:

1. Mission Statement of The Presbyterian Church in Canada
2. *The Book of Forms* on Stewardship and Mission (Section 113)
3. Sample Mission and Outreach Committee Mission Statement.

Use these statements to help you create or reappraise your church’s mission and outreach “instructions” or guiding framework.

- Read each statement. Highlight words and phrases that are particularly challenging or meaningful.
- What appeals the most and the least about each statement? Reflect on why this might be.
- Brainstorm some words and phrases that you would like in a guiding mission statement for the mission and outreach program of your church. If you have a statement already, what words and phrases are most meaningful?
- List the steps that would be necessary to prepare or revise your mission statement.

**Friends gather at
Anishinabe Fellowship
Centre in Winnipeg, Manitoba.**

Photo: Courtesy of Anishinabe



Exercise

Do a mission and outreach audit of your congregation. Draw a line down the middle of a sheet of paper to make two columns. Title one column “Who?” and the other “What?” Under the corresponding title, list all the people leading and participating in congregational mission and outreach activities and list all the different activities.

1. How do people get involved in congregational mission activities (e.g. appointed, invited, volunteer)?
2. What people in your faith community do not seem to be included in your list of “Who?”
3. What guidelines do your mission and outreach leaders have regarding their responsibilities?
4. Close with a prayer of thanksgiving for everyone named and unnamed who has participated in your congregational mission program, and for the diversity and depth of involvement in our denomination as indicated by the survey (see below).

From the Survey: **Who does mission in your congregation?**

Every congregation is different and the way each responds to God’s call will be different, depending on its circumstances. The survey results confirm this, as people wrote about the variety of groups and individuals carrying the responsibilities for mission and the different ways that roles are assigned.

The following is a summary of the survey responses (based on 202 returns from 158 different churches) to a question about who provides leadership in mission and outreach in the congregation.

Category	Frequency (# of times mentioned)
Committee(s)	128
Individual(s)	117
WMS/AMS group	92
Task group(s)	28
Team(s)	15
Minister/Elder(s)/Session	15
Church/Sunday school	14
Women’s group	10
Youth Group	6
Newsletter/Bulletin Inserts	2
Other	6

The survey responses indicate that there are many, many people in our congregations who are committed and who work hard to provide leadership in numerous ways that will further the mission activities of individuals and groups in their church.

According to the survey responses, whether leadership is by individuals or by groups, congregational mission programs include the following responsibilities:

- reporting
- evaluating
- planning
- budgeting
- fundraising
- recruiting
- evangelizing
- serving
- studying
- educating
- worshipping
- enjoying fellowship

Mission Statement

The Presbyterian Church in Canada

Who are we?

Disciples of Christ

Empowered by the Spirit

Glorifying God and

Rejoicing in Service

What do we do?

Relying on the power of the Holy Spirit, we proclaim the love and good news of Jesus Christ through our words and actions.

As a Reformed church, we rely on the truth and inspiration of scriptures for God's guidance into the future — a future that we approach with wonder and anticipation, knowing God is with us.

As worshipping communities joyfully celebrating the sacraments, we are supported, strengthened and equipped to share the love of God revealed in Jesus Christ.

How do we do this?

- Our mission, in a world where many do not know the gospel, is to tell the biblical story in ever new and creative ways.
- Our mission, in a world wounded by sin, is to point to the redemptive work of Christ and the life-changing presence of the Spirit.
- Our mission, in a world burdened with anxiety and apprehension, is to provide a place of sanctuary, tranquility and renewal in the name of the One who said, "I will give you rest."
- Our mission, in a world where many are oppressed, excluded or ignored, is to call for personal righteousness, justice and reconciliation in the Church and in the world and to hear, respect and cherish all God's children.
- Our mission, in a world of limited resources, is to use God's gifts wisely and fairly for the good of all.
- Our mission, in a world of many nations, peoples, denominations and faiths, is to learn from one another and work together for the healing of the nations.

In all times and seasons, we give glory to the God of all creation, to Jesus Christ, the Son, and to the Holy Spirit by whose presence all are blessed.

— Adopted by the 121st General Assembly
(1995 *The Acts and Proceedings*, pp. 201-202)

The Book of Forms

The Presbyterian Church in Canada, 1993

Chapter III: The Session

Christian Education (112)

112.2 The session is responsible for ensuring the education of the entire congregation in its witness to the local community and in its mission to the world and for encouraging members both individually and corporately to share the gospel with others.

Stewardship and Mission (113)

113. The session is responsible for all aspects of stewardship and mission, both spiritual and material, within the congregation.
- 113.1 The session will keep before the congregation the life and work of the church around the world, encouraging participation in that work through prayer, service and gifts.
- 113.2 The session is responsible for seeing that the congregation develops and maintains programmes of mission and outreach both related to its immediate community and beyond.
- 113.3 The session will arrange for outreach to children, youth and adults in the community by encouraging them to participate in worship and programmes of education and fellowship, and by inviting them to acknowledge Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord.
- 113.4 The session will see that the congregation provides for persons in need of financial or material assistance both among its members and in the community. The session may ask the congregation to elect a deacons' court for this purpose.
- 113.5 The session will seek to ensure that the congregation in its commission to spread the gospel among all persons is contributing according to its ability, both for the maintenance of its own witness and ministry to the community and for the mission of the whole church.
- 113.6 The session is responsible for all decisions relating to stewardship, including how and when the financial needs of the church at all levels are to be presented to the congregation so that the programmes of life and mission may be supported adequately.
- 113.6.1 The session will ensure that the congregation is made aware of the allocation for the General Assembly budget (known as *Presbyterians Sharing...*) submitted by the presbytery, and report to the presbytery the response of the congregation to that allocation.
- 113.6.2 The session may approve and arrange for special offerings to be received for other religious and charitable purposes in addition to those appointed by the General Assembly or other courts of the church.



Overlooking a refugee camp for displaced persons from Afghanistan in Pakistan.

Photo: Jonathan Frerichs, ACT

Sample Mission and Outreach Committee Mission Statement

Some survey respondents included a copy of the goals and responsibilities of their congregation's mission and outreach committee. Below is one example.

Mission Statement for The Mission and Outreach Committee St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Ancaster, Ontario, 2000

The Mission and Outreach Committee of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church intends to provide leadership for the congregation in the areas of social justice and personal evangelism. We will move toward this goal by doing the following activities:

- We will continue to promote the Canadian Foodgrains Bank (CFGFB) through information, fund raising, speakers from CFGFB, and a growing project.
- We will promote the Presbyterian World Service and Development (PWS&D) in the congregation through information, fund raising, and speakers from the PWS&D.
- We want to make the congregation more aware of the work of *Presbyterians Sharing...*, which is involved in many national and international mission projects. This goal could be accomplished through workshops, invited speakers, distribution of literature, and videos.
- We will continue to place in the church bulletin requests from local agencies in the Hamilton area for volunteer help and contributions.
- We will educate the congregation in the area of personal evangelism by organizing a workshop on evangelism, inviting speakers to share their vision, and providing instructional literature.

By God's grace and in his strength, we hope to achieve these goals.



Chapter 4:

Developing congregational mission and outreach programs

The survey results reveal that Presbyterians across Canada are involved in an incredible variety and quantity of mission and outreach activities right now! Many, many Presbyterians are evangelizing, nurturing, serving and struggling for justice in their local community, in other communities across Canada and in communities around the world.

At the same time, almost everyone expressed the desire to develop more effective mission and outreach programs. Survey participants indicated that it would be very helpful to:

- Hear about the mission and outreach activities of other congregations
- Learn how to analyze the needs of the local community
- Increase people's understanding and support of our denomination's mission and outreach programs and partners
- Know how to assess the work of other organizations
- Improve the ways decisions and choices are made about mission and outreach activities.

This chapter will address these five aspects of developing mission and outreach programs, beginning by sharing eight stories from the surveys. As these stories demonstrate, there are no set rules as to how, when or where a Presbyterian congregation engages in mission and outreach. Survey participants repeatedly acknowledged that, ideally, each congregation's mission and outreach program will be unique.

Uniqueness is a key characteristic. A congregation's mission and outreach program will be unique, firstly, because the interests and talents of the people in each congregation are unique. Survey participants expressed appreciation for the denominational stewardship materials that help them in this area. Secondly, a congregation's mission and outreach program will be unique because the characteristics

of its local community vary greatly. Many survey participants wanted their congregation to be more active in its local community. Thirdly, a congregation's mission and outreach program will be unique because of the different connections each congregation will make with global and local mission, justice initiatives, community development and relief efforts, and particularly with the programs and partners of The Presbyterian Church in Canada.

A – SHARING STORIES

Many survey participants involved in specific programs offered to share their experiences. The following stories are shared (virtually verbatim) from the survey responses with the church's contact address added. The stories are shared as examples of the variety of mission and outreach ministries that are taking place in our congregations.

Exercise

Read the stories that follow. After reading each story reflect on these questions:

- What interests you here?
- What can you and your congregation learn from this?
- What might be your congregation's next step(s) in identifying mission and outreach activities?

1. Spirit Alive

We do not have a Mission & Outreach Committee. We do have the Spirit Alive Committee. Spirit Alive...

- ... is a program designed to facilitate spiritual growth through fellowship with one another and with God**
- ... will enhance our knowledge and understanding of God**
- ... will enhance our knowledge and understanding of important issues of the day**
- ... will introduce our church to our friends and neighbours**
- ... will facilitate participation of all in the activities of our church**

If the committee met today its members would discuss two major points:

- What are some programs that would be relevant and interesting to members of our congregation and to the community?**
- Who will be the recipients of the free will offerings taken up at these programs?**

We are a small congregation but these programs are well supported and have enabled us to make six donations. The Fall 2003 schedule included seven evening programs, one in September and two in each of October, November and December. Program themes included Music, Food and Entertainment, Caring and Helping, and Community Outreach.

For more information contact: McKercher Drive Presbyterian Church, 945 McKercher Dr., Saskatoon, SK S7H 4T9. Telephone: (306) 955-4500.

2. Home Mission

Our situation is different from standard congregations, due to the make-up of our congregation. Our greatest mission and outreach success has changed us.

At the end of 1970, ours was a very vibrant congregation with a membership of 656. First, due to the linguistic conditions in Quebec, the congregation dwindled with members moving out of the province. Then it became an aging congregation.

Presently our membership is less than 100. However, many of our members came to us from Ghana, in particular, and elsewhere. Their membership dates to the 1980s and 1990s. For some we assisted in court, with applying for immigration papers, etc. They joined us, remained loyal and committed to the congregation and have become dedicated and active members, adding to the life of the church and increasing the Sunday school.

Today we have four Ghanaian members on session plus members serving on the board of managers. Their children are attending Sunday school, and some are teachers and members of the choir. One may say that it has been somewhat like a home mission within our church. Some have graduated from university and moved into good jobs. Very rewarding to see!

Due to the make-up of the congregation, meetings during the week cannot be well attended because of working hours. For instance, session meets on a Sunday afternoon. Our mission, and the desire of our members, is that the nature of our church remains like this.

Our greatest need is growth. We are working on this.

For more information contact The Presbyterian Church of the Town of Mount Royal, 39 Beverley Avenue, Montreal, QC H3P 1K3. Telephone: (514) 733-0112.

3. Outreach to a Multicultural Community

The main sources of mission and outreach leadership are individuals and committees. If they met today their main agenda items might be:

- How might we do outreach more effectively in our diverse multicultural community?
- What programs might we offer to increase our visibility in the community?

Our greatest challenge is that we are surrounded by a diverse multicultural community where Christians are a minority group. A Vacation Bible Camp was initiated in 1998 and we have seen benefit from this in our Sunday church school. Also, our music programs have met with good success. We have learned that personal invitation to programs and worship has been most successful; also, expanding our music program to include children and youth has been successful.

For more information contact St. Mark's Presbyterian Church, 7366 Darcel Ave., Mississauga, ON L4T 3W6. Telephone: (905) 677-4514.

4. Focus on Refugee Sponsorship

We try to witness by helping and, over the years, a focus has been on refugee sponsorship. Our greatest successes include the safe arrival in Canada of many sponsored refugees and welcoming into membership persons from refugee backgrounds. In the 2003 annual report we reported the following regarding refugee projects:

No new refugee sponsorships were undertaken in 2003 because we still have so many files open, waiting for overseas processing to be completed. Sponsorships are currently taking three to five years for completion because of the backlog of applications in Canada's posts abroad. Fourteen refugees (two couples, five single males and a family of five) that we had sponsored arrived during the year and are being looked after by their families here. We received notice of the rejection of four refugees, and one was withdrawn. This means our number pending has dropped to between 60 and 70 (accuracy is difficult because of changing situations abroad) plus the family of nine in Kampala on whose behalf we are still negotiating with the UNHCR for sponsorship.

For more information contact First Presbyterian Church, 61 Picardy Place, Winnipeg, MB R3G 0X6. Telephone: (204) 775-0414.

5. Entering Mission through Presbyterian Cornshare

The main sources of mission and outreach leadership in our congregation have been individuals, the WMS group, and Presbyterian Cornshare – a partnership of PWS&D and Canadian Foodgrains Bank (CFGB). For over 10 years, with matching funds from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), this small church has raised over a million dollars. It has been a hands-on and real life experience.

Canadian Foodgrains Bank made sense here. Farmers are doing what they do best. It fits our local profile and skill set. And it has opened us up to other issues, like hunger, AIDS, world trade. It is the door through which we enter to think about mission.

For more information contact Knox Presbyterian Church, Monkton, ON NOK 1P0.
Telephone: (519) 347-2130.



An agricultural project
in El Salvador.

Photo: PWS&D

6. Consignment Clothing Store and Outreach Mission

Our main source of mission and outreach leadership is our “New to You” consignment store, begun 25 years ago. Apart from serving the clients and customers in the store the best we can, we try also to help those in need to receive clothes, quilts, and even money in our immediate area, all of Ontario, and abroad.

Although some members of our congregation have received help, the main function New to You serves in the congregation is to give many ladies a volunteer position that they feel comfortable and happy doing, and one that is useful. We have many volunteers from the community and we also hire Community Living people and single moms. In our local community we provide help to needy families, burned out people, assistance with day care. Groups and missions in other parts of the country have received clothing and quilts. Hundreds of boxes of clothing have been sent to Europe. At the moment we are putting together a container for Peru. We have also given quilts to school sick rooms, foster children, mental health clients, Community Living clients, nursing homes, burned out families, and women’s shelters.

Apart from all the giving of goods, the store’s greatest success was hiring two young women on mother’s allowance. These women have learned skills, gained self-esteem and confidence and become self-sufficient. One returned to school and finally realized a long-term goal of becoming a nurse. There are also always two teens on staff.

We have learned:

- How to set up a consignment store
- How to be creative and to recycle
- How to find or create satisfying volunteer jobs
- How to recycle clothing and materials into 1000’s of quilts (tied quilts)
- How to give without asking for anything in return.

For more information contact “New to You,” Mt. Zion Presbyterian Church, Box 358, Ridgetown ON NOP 2C0. Telephone: (519) 674-3487.

7. Christian Philosophy Café Outreach Project

Our mission and outreach leadership comes from teams. We provide financial support to a number of overseas missionaries as well as supporting projects in our local community and other parts of Canada.

Our Mission and Evangelism Ministry Team recently ran a six-week Christian Philosophy Café, held on consecutive Sunday evenings. Our team dressed as waiters, built a café and served fancy desserts to create a ‘comfort zone’ for friends and neighbours brought to church by members of the congregation for a question and answer on current media hot topics and questions of life. It was a unique off beat philosophical approach to an Alpha-type program, offering evangelical outreach to non-Christians. And highly successful!

We feel the best way to attract non-Christians is something with appeal – non-threatening opportunities where Christians can witness by example. Our Christian Philosophy Café worked this way.

For more information contact St. Andrew’s & St. Stephen’s Presbyterian Church, 2641 Chesterfield Ave. North Vancouver, BC V7N 3M3. Telephone: (604) 987-6800.

8. Multi-focused Approach to Mission and Outreach

Our committee members have chosen to support the following areas of focus:

1. PWS&D-Canadian Foodgrains Bank
2. House of Friendship (Local Shelter)
3. Children's (Summer) Arts Program
4. *Presbyterians Sharing...*
5. Habitat for Humanity
6. Children's Breakfast Club

We have stated goals to assist efforts to support those in need locally and globally. It is time these were reworded to reflect the "partnership" aspect of mission.

Our greatest success was when members of our church went on a mission trip to Guatemala in 1997. This was an incredible learning experience for everyone. We have also been successful in our work with the Canadian Foodgrains Bank. Our children's arts program and the breakfast club we run with a United Church in the area are highlights. In our busy, fast paced, materialistic society, it is a challenge to find the time to reflect on issues and encourage a response. We have learned that we have tremendous resources as a group of people with a common goal. We need to support one another in these endeavours. It's not always easy!

For more information contact Calvin Presbyterian Church, 248 Westmount Rd., Kitchener, ON N2M 4Z1. Telephone: (519) 744-4061.

B – ANALYZING THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

In local mission and outreach programs, members and adherents in our congregations have opportunities for face-to-face encounters with their neighbours. In these encounters they can experience first-hand the mutual benefits of being in relationship with people who were previously strangers. For some people, local mission situations can be the most challenging — personally and spiritually. We may find ourselves struggling to discern how to live faithfully when our spiritual, social or political values collide.

- How do you build mutual relationships with people different from yourself economically, socially, ethnically, mentally, physically, spiritually, or in some other way?
- How do you deal with your feelings of guilt, your prejudices, your pride?
- How do you let go of your position of power?

These and other questions may arise. For this reason, it is recommended that those involved in local mission participate in study and reflection sessions similar to those that accompany hands-on overseas mission experiences. With deepening understanding of the situations that contribute to the barriers and oppression experienced by neighbours in our local communities, we begin to grasp the complexities and needs of mission in other parts of the country and worldwide.

The following are four tools that can be used to reflect on your local community. For complete information on the book references, refer to Chapter 7: Suggested Resources.



Rev. Grace Kim speaks with resident of nursing home. Korean Canadian Family Ministry, Toronto, Ontario.

1) Statistical profile

Some people turn to the most recent census data to compile statistics; others to municipal office records. Sometimes a local community service agency has prepared a report based on its own data gathering.

Use statistics to profile your community with regard to these aspects:

- Social demographic (e.g. race/ethnicity, cultures, class structure, social problems)
- Economic (e.g. industry, successes, problems, environment, connections beyond local)
- Political (e.g. general trends, political & informal leadership)
- Ecclesial (e.g. religious climate, health of local churches)

Then you might reflect on questions such as these:

- What are the realities around us that conflict with God's vision of new heavens and new earth?
- What are the injustices we should prayerfully and prophetically oppose?
- What community organizations and groups are already working in ways that reflect and welcome God's new heavens and new earth?
- What efforts among the poor in our community should we celebrate?
- What efforts should we learn from as we develop our own response to the poor?
- What efforts should we join?

— Chapter 6: "New Heavens, New Earth" in *And Who is My Neighbor?* page 108

2) Finding the focus

In his book, *Community Ministry: new challenges, proven steps to faith-based initiative*, Carl S. Dudley suggests a process whereby the ministry focus will emerge from the congregation's social context and identity.

Dudley suggests six steps for determining the social context:

- Define the community
- Identify the people in the community
- Find the “invisible” people in the community
- Analyze the social, economic, political and religious forces in the community
- Converse with a wide variety of people in the community
- Get a “preliminary inclination” of what the new ministry might be

Dudley suggests four steps for understanding congregational identity:

- Identify the church's biblical foundations
- Understand the church's rich heritage
- Build on the congregation's history and stories
- Analyze the congregation's strengths and limitations

The last half of Dudley's book explains how, once the above information is gleaned, a congregation can use this information to organize and mobilize toward ministry in the community.

3) Community exposure tour

Another tool is the community walk. Plan a series of walks through your community, in one large group or in small groups and pairs, on different days, at different times and beginning at different places. Adapt this tool for your urban or rural needs but do get out to walk. By removing the barriers created by being in cars and buses, we often find ourselves in and with our community (e.g. people, buildings, open spaces, the environment) in new ways. For each walk provide participants with questions like the following:

- What do you see that makes you feel comfortable?
- What do you see that makes you feel uncomfortable?
- What do you see that reminds you of yourself?
- What do you see that seems strange, unfamiliar?
- In what place do you want to linger?
- What do you notice that is probably usually kept hidden or a secret?
- What do you see that is wrong or illegal?
- What was surprising? Beautiful? Ugly?
- What different types of people did you see (e.g. children, seniors, parents)?
- What was lacking? What did you expect to find but you did not?

— *Living the Kingdom in Our Neighbourhood, Level One*, pages 4-6

After a walk, invite participants to share their observations and experiences.
What have you learned about your community's health and needs?

4) Sensitive encounters

Forming relationships with people in your community who are very different in significant ways requires sensitivity and self-awareness. Opportunities to form relationships exist in many of our community food banks, soup kitchens, and

“Out of the Cold” programs as well as in many community centres and special residences where services are offered free to people of all ages from all backgrounds and where volunteers are welcome. If a group from your church is interested in “building bridges” between people of different economic and social backgrounds, encourage the group to plan carefully, trying to anticipate the perspectives of the various participants before the encounter takes place. A helpful article is “Arranging Encounters Between Middle- and Low-Income Groups” by Marvin Friedman Hamm in the Appendix of Gerald W. Schlabach’s book *And Who Is My Neighbour?* To prepare for multicultural gatherings, see also the book *The Wolf shall Dwell with the Lamb: A Spirituality for Leadership in a Multicultural Community* by Eric H. F. Law.

Exercise

1. Which of the four tools for analyzing the local community interest you? Why?
2. What would be the next steps for your group or congregation to develop its mission and outreach activities in the local community?

C – CONNECTING WITH DENOMINATIONAL PROGRAMS AND PARTNERS

The Presbyterian Church in Canada has a long history of involvement in mission in Canada and in countries around the world — in Central America and the Caribbean, South America, Eastern Europe, Africa and Asia. One of the changes affecting mission today is that we can no longer assume that all members and adherents of our congregations are familiar with the mission and outreach programs supported by The Presbyterian Church in Canada. These programs are often a result of partnerships that were established with people in Canada and in countries overseas many years ago. Since the way we do mission has changed, these partnerships have also changed. And these partnerships continue to change as we walk together, learning from one another, striving to bring about God’s realm.

Education about the denomination’s mission work and its partners is important. We learn “what” is being done. We learn about the people who are making a difference, the places where they live and the challenges that they face. As we do so, we develop a sense of connectedness with our church partners; we learn about God’s people and creation outside of our own communities; we deepen our understanding of how current national and international events and issues impact people other than ourselves.

Denominational mission education is also about “why” we do mission as a denomination. There is a theological basis for our denomination’s mission activities. Our mission programs and mission partnerships reflect the values of our distinctive religious tradition. They allow us to do together what we could never do alone.

Denominational mission and outreach is about being part of one family, sharing in ministry together, being in partnership with one another and being in partnership with others across our country and around the world. Support from congregations is essential for our church to be faithful to its long term partnership commitments. The support through *prayer*, *financial contributions* and *active involvement* from all our members and adherents allows The Presbyterian Church in Canada to be and to do what it does, to the glory of God. Examples of this support are given below.

For information on the denominational educational tools, contacts and resources, refer to Chapter 5: Tools and Connections for Mission Ministry (pages 38–48); Chapter 6: Mission Resource Contacts (pages 49–51); and Chapter 7: Suggested Resources (pages 58, 59–61).

1. We participate in our denomination's mission program through prayer

In Sunday worship services and in meetings of mission groups, members and adherents of The Presbyterian Church in Canada pray for their mission partners in Canada and in other countries. And our mission partners pray for us. Prayers are especially appreciated by

- Mission personnel (i.e. missionaries) commissioned by our church to serve with Canada Ministries or International Ministries.
- Mission partners who welcome our mission personnel into their communities.
- Mission partners who see themselves empowered and their communities strengthened by our church's involvement.
- Members and adherents in our congregations who appreciate that our partners pray for us. Representatives of many of our partner churches often say that in every worship service their congregations pray for The Presbyterian Church in Canada and its members.

2. We participate in our denomination's mission program through financial support

Members and adherents of The Presbyterian Church in Canada give monetary gifts through their church envelope offerings, designated givings or special fundraising to *Presbyterians Sharing...* (including Canada Ministries, International Ministries, Justice Ministries and International Affairs); Presbyterian World Service & Development (PWS&D); Women's Missionary Society (WMS); Atlantic Mission Society (AMS); and *Something Extra* projects. When we take advantage of these opportunities to give financially, we are participating in mission in Canada and internationally. For example, we

- Provide grants to partner churches and church councils in many countries.
- Assist our partners in developing strong indigenous leaders.
- Commission mission personnel to serve with partner churches and organizations in many countries around the world. International mission personnel have included physicians, nurses, an ethnomusicologist, accountants, community development workers, engineers, clergy, agriculturalists, a nutritionist, teachers and university lecturers.
- Provide emergency relief to victims of natural disasters like flooding, famine and earthquakes.
- Equip marginalized people with vocational training or start-up funds to enable them to become successful wage-earners and agriculturalists.
- Support initiatives of communities in other countries to improve their level of health care and education.
- Enter into an agreement with the Canadian government to administer a refugee sponsorship program.



**A Bhil man praying
at Zion church in
Jobat, India.**

Photo: Wilma Welsh

- Enable people of all ages, particularly women and children, in impoverished communities to take specific steps to improve their quality of life.
- Contribute to the building and growth of new congregations in Canada.
- Encourage specialized ministries in Canada such as native ministries, inner-city ministries, refugee ministries, rural and remote ministries, chaplaincies and ethnic ministries.
- Contribute to ecumenical work on justice issues and make it possible for our church to develop a justice network and newsletter.
- Support youth initiatives like Canada Youth and the ongoing Youth in Mission program that enables Canadian youth to learn about mission and meet partners face-to-face.
- Provide support for congregations in areas of faith education, worship, evangelism, mission education and stewardship.
- Fund theological colleges to train clergy and other professional church leaders.
- Through gifts to *Something Extra*, congregations provide support for special projects of our Canadian and international mission partners.

3. We participate in our denomination's mission program through active involvement

Members and adherents of The Presbyterian Church in Canada also give time and talents and energies in numerous ways in face-to-face encounters with denominational partners. We find that these experiences teach and transform us. Some examples include:

- Forming task groups or mission teams or committees; committing ourselves to explore a mission study together, plan a worship service with a mission focus or organize a mission education event.
- Planning mission and outreach programs, sharing "A Moment for Mission" in worship, attending a mission fundraising event or educational event.
- Writing letters, or attending a demonstration, to advocate for people who are powerless or ignored, lobbying for political actions that might bring peace and justice to people suffering violence and injustice.
- Making sandwiches, baking desserts, knitting pneumonia vests and giving such items and our time freely.
- Learning all we can about a particular issue like HIV/AIDS and about a particular mission partner affected by the issue, sharing our knowledge, and finding ways to effect change and empower people.
- Cooking or serving meals to people needing food, providing clothing or shelter or a car ride.
- Welcoming a stranger and offering hospitality in our churches and homes (e.g. the stranger may be a member of our local community, a mission speaker or missionary, a representative of a partner church or partner organization in another country, a refugee).
- Receiving hospitality from a mission partner in Canada or in another country, as when a group from our congregation goes on a mission trip.

Exercise

1. How does your congregation connect with the mission programs and partners of The Presbyterian Church in Canada through prayer? Through financial givings? Through active participation? List examples of each.
2. Brainstorm ideas about how to enable members of your congregation to participate more fully in our denomination's mission and outreach work a) in Canada and b) around the world.

D – ASSESSING THE WORK OF OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

Sometimes someone in your group or congregation knows about a mission and outreach organization that is not Presbyterian and they encourage supporting it. What information do you need to decide whether or not to get involved? Here are some tools to assist you.

1. Organizational information

What organizational attributes are important to your congregation? How do you know that an organization works with people in ways that are loving and just? The Presbyterian Church in Canada approaches mission and mission partnerships according to certain principles. A familiarity with these can help in the assessment of other organizations. Gather all the information you can about the organization that has requested support. This might include mission statements, annual reports, statement of principles and financial statements. Study them and then study some of the following material from our church:

- Education for Mission draft discussion paper “Guidelines for Mission Involvement.” See excerpts in boxes “Mission is...” and “What do we believe about mission?” on pages 10 and 13 in this handbook.
- *Living Faith*. See suggested readings on page 10 of this handbook.
- The mission statement of The Presbyterian Church in Canada provided on page 17.
- Presbyterian World Service & Development (PWS&D) has a number of concise statements on its mandate, policies with respect to gender and the environment, guidelines for children- and youth-focused programs, and a code of conduct for global education and promotion. These documents are available by contacting PWS&D or from its website (<http://www.presbycan.ca/pwsd/about.htm>).

Afterwards list what you like about the organization, what concerns you, and what additional information you need before making a decision.

2. Financial guidelines

It is important to donors that their financial contributions are handled responsibly and according to Canadian laws.

- Ensure that the organization has a proven competence and a known transparency and accountability. Confirm that annual external audits are undertaken for all partners with whom the organization engages in project and development funding. It is important that the organization has done due diligence to ensure that the money is going where it is intended, and is not directly or indirectly being diverted towards other agencies or other purposes.

Current legislation (Bill C-36) could have negative ramifications for an organization’s charitable tax status in the event that it is charged with sending monies that are either directly or indirectly providing services for “terrorist organizations.” To see how the Life and Mission Agency of The Presbyterian Church in Canada has responded to this concern, contact Education for Mission and ask for the document, “Best Practices in Reference to Bill C-36.”

The Education for Mission Advisory Committee’s mandate is to provide support for congregations as they engage in faithful and vital mission. A significant aspect of this is to educate our congregations about the mission programs and partners of The Presbyterian Church in Canada. We hope that it is the priority of congregations to participate in and support our denominational mission partnerships through *Presbyterians Sharing...* and Presbyterian World Service & Development (PWS&D).

As stated in a report to the 2004 General Assembly (2004 A&P, p. 353), “Without these funds and this participation, we simply would not exist as a denomination. That is why basic support for *Presbyterians Sharing...* should have the first call on the money available in a local church for wider mission. All other mission givings, which are also important, should be over and above this.”

The committee recognizes that congregations form partnerships with other organizations, particularly in their local communities. This section is included to help congregations as they consider these partnerships.

- Talk about what percentage of your financial donation you want to go directly to the mission activities and the people the organization serves. Some not-for-profit organizations spend as much as 60% of their funds on administration and fundraising. Others spend as little as 10% or even less.

Obtain financial information (e.g. annual report, financial statements) from the organization(s) you have been supporting or are considering supporting. Obtain comparable information from Presbyterian World Service & Development (PWS&D). Compare these, discussing points of particular interest. Then prepare your own guidelines, listing what is most important to you about handling donated monies.

3. Project guidelines

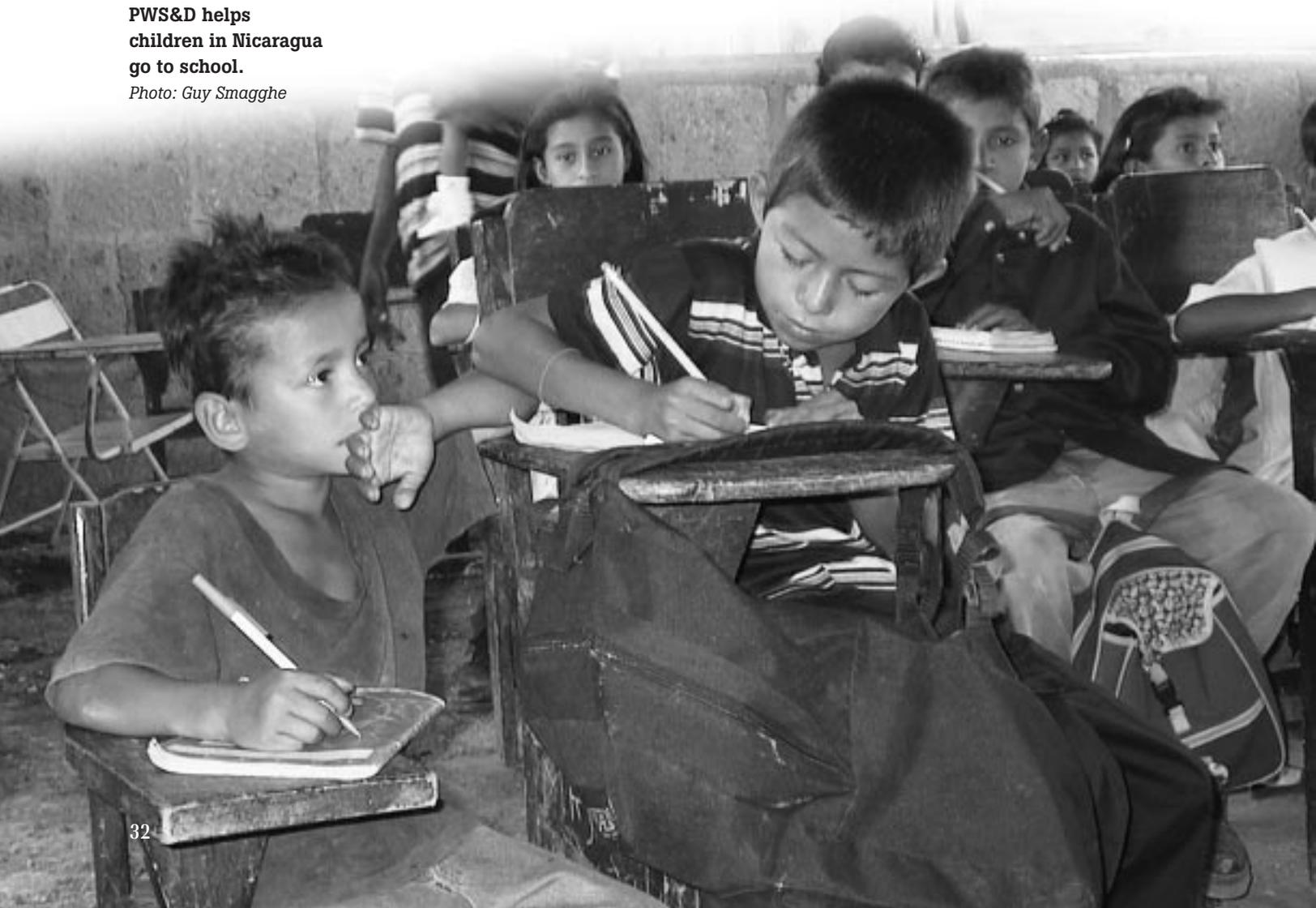
Sometimes congregations are invited to participate in projects run by other denominations or groups. How do you decide if your participation is a good use of your resources? How do you know if the project represents an approach to mission consistent with our denomination's approach? For example, many projects are aimed to help children. Think of a mission project that helps children in another country — perhaps a project that your congregation has been involved in or has been considering. With that project in mind, read the questions in the box “Choosing A Children’s Overseas Mission Project.”

Afterwards consider together:

- Which of the questions do you think are most important? Why?
- How can these questions help your congregation?
- Generate a list of your own questions for a mission project supported or being considered by your congregation.

PWS&D helps children in Nicaragua go to school.

Photo: Guy Smagghe



Choosing A Children's Overseas Mission Project

1. What is the purpose of the project?
2. Does the project invite study to understand the global context in which the children live?
3. Does the project address the root causes of the suffering or need?
4. Have you considered alternative ways to make a longer-lasting difference?
5. Are the donated items appropriate to our PCC respect for people of other faiths? (See *Living Faith* 9.2.1)
6. Does the distribution of donated items contribute to our PCC value of being in partnership with others? (Has the partner requested or approved the gift? Did we seek guidance from staff as to what is needed?)
7. How are children involved in the process? (Are they more than receivers? Are they asked what they need? Is there respect for the ingenuity and power of children to make a difference in their own lives?)
8. What criteria are used and who decides which children will receive donated items? Could some children be left out?
9. Do the donated items contribute to the health of children?
10. Are the donated items culturally appropriate? (Do they export our western emphasis on consumerism?)
11. Are donated items bought in Canada when they could have been purchased in the children's community/country and thereby have supported local industry?

— Dorothy Henderson in *For Leaders of Children and Youth Ministry*, February 2002

E — MAKING PROGRAM DECISIONS

“God asks each of us to make wise choices in the ways we support mission in the local community, across the [country], and around the world.”

— *Gathering for God's Future*, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), 2003

Mission activities develop in response to requests that come from a variety of sources including our own denomination, other churches and other organizations — Christian and non-Christian; local, national and global. Many survey participants indicated that they spend time at group meetings reviewing and deciding about requests for their congregation's support. When members and adherents have a shared understanding about their congregation's call and mandate to do mission and outreach, they will feel more equipped to discuss and discern what they are being called to do as God's people at that time and in that place.

Congregational mission and outreach programs can be developed and strengthened by an ongoing interaction of worship, prayer, mission education and mission activities. In order to make informed decisions about *what* to support and *with whom* to get involved and *how* to extend God's love, people require information. Once engaged in mission, people may welcome additional information and opportunities to reflect on their questions, observations and personal reactions.

Use one or more of the following tools to help reflect on the choices involved in developing a congregational mission and outreach program.

1. Program Discussion

Read the questions below and discuss them. Have one person record the main points of your discussion.

- What are issues and activities for which people in your church community have energy and enthusiasm (e.g. a country or language, a particular type of work like health care or agriculture, an issue like HIV/AIDS or refugees)?



**Children from
Community-Based
Orphan Care
program, Blantyre
Synod, Malawi.**

Photo: J.F. Beauchesne

- What are some of the significant talents and resources of your members and adherents?
- What values are most important to you (e.g. something that teaches independence, helps build the whole community and not just individuals, is environmentally friendly, benefits the marginalized, supports an organization where local people hold decision-making roles)?
- How will you balance support for denominational mission with support for mission done by other organizations?
- How will you balance local and global mission?
- List familiar, popular mission and outreach activities of your congregation. How do you balance the need to repeat these with the need to be flexible so that you are able to respond “to the new thing” that God might be doing in your midst?
- What form will your support take (e.g. financial, advocacy, donations of items, hands-on involvement)?
- If some of your support will be financial, how will you generate the money (e.g. special fundraising events, special worship offerings, a mission and outreach line in the church’s budget)?
- How will you do mission education (e.g. mission studies, speakers, workshops)?
- What will be your measure(s) of success?

2. Mission Budget Reflections

Reflect on the resources of time and talent, gifts in kind, and money in your congregation.

- How will you encourage people to offer these resources?
- Read the two boxes about “Mission budgeting” and share reactions.
- Will the current level of giving determine your congregation’s mission program goals or will the mission program goals determine the resources you seek from the congregation? Discuss.

Mission Budgeting #2

A narrative budget is a way of presenting the congregation’s yearly budget in story form. Drawing all budget items into five or six major ministries of the congregation, a narrative budget reflects how all aspects of the budget are important in fulfilling the congregation’s mission.

“When members of a congregation can see that their budget addresses real needs in the lives of people, and that their involvement is vital in supporting such mission, they are more likely to:

- give generously
- discuss the needs
- tell the mission story to others
- see their own stewardship as an expression of faith and a declaration for mission.”

— *The Narrative Budget: Telling Your Congregation’s Mission Story*, a resource about how to develop a narrative budget may be ordered from The Book Room

Mission Budgeting #1

Do you have a mission-driven budget or a budget-driven mission?

As you look at how your congregation will be involved in mission, you will also be thinking about the resources that are needed, including financial resources. Will the budget be your starting point or will you first attempt to discern where God is leading? When we begin with the budget, our vision may be limited. However, when the vision is there, the passion for giving will be strong. People will be enthused to give, people will give sacrificially. Begin with the vision and then develop the budget.

“Sometimes, people think the stumbling block to growing mission is money – or rather, the lack of money. Someone will inevitably say, ‘We can’t do that; we don’t have enough money.’ When congregations grow the mission, the giving comes. Grow your mission, and God will supply the money for the mission.”

— Kennon L. Callahan in *Giving and Stewardship for an Effective Church*

Ken Kim, International Ministries mission worker in Guatemala, with his wife Kennis and their four children.

Photo: Ron Wallace.



Discerning God's Will

Many people fear that God may require them to do almost impossible tasks. If a person asks God to reveal the divine will, he or she may have to quit his or her job, become a missionary, or sell the boat...The God questions may well be the most important questions we ask: God, is this your will; yes or no? What are you guiding us to be or do?

— "Shall we ask the God questions?"
in *Discerning God's Will Together:
A Spiritual Practice for the Church*, p.16

3. Mission Meditation

Reflect on how you make important decisions about your mission and outreach ministry.

- Read the box "Discerning God's Will."
- Read a passage from scripture like Samuel 3 where Samuel hears God speak to him.
- Share your experiences of discernment, of hearing God speak to you.
- Compose a litany prayer about the possibilities in mission and outreach for your congregation. Use the response: "Speak, Lord, we are listening. What are you guiding us to be or do?"

Exercise

1. What are some of the major choices and decisions that mission leaders in your congregation must make?
2. Describe the current process for deciding which mission programs and activities to support. What are the strengths and weaknesses of this process?
3. How are decisions usually made about the mission budget? What are the strengths and weaknesses of this process?
4. Discuss the tools provided above. Which tool(s) might be useful? How could the tool(s) be adapted to assist your congregation?

Dr. Richard Allen,
an International
Ministries mission
worker, leads a
workshop on
HIV/AIDS in Kenya.

Photo: J.F. Beauchesne



From the Survey: **How do we develop congregational programs?**

The following statements from survey respondents identify some of the challenges and learnings, and suggestions about developing mission and outreach activities. Read each in turn.

What possibilities arise for your congregation?

Some of the challenges

- "People's lack of time, interest, awareness, money for mission and outreach."
- "People's focus on their own needs, desires, struggles or the needs and struggles of their church rather than the needs and struggles of their neighbours – i.e. in the local or global community."
- "The gravity of the mission issues themselves (e.g. development and relief, refugee, justice)."
- "With a small congregation focusing on survival it is difficult to convince people that establishing some mission/outreach programs may create greater interest, support and growth in church."
- "We have had an active Mission and Outreach group and WMS for years. Biggest problem is recruiting workers."
- "The most challenging issue is local outreach, getting excited about caring for our neighbours here. It's a bit easier to care when you don't have to live with the people you are helping. And for my smaller church, the challenge is mustering up motivation and energy for outreach when they are working so hard at keeping open."

Some of the learnings

- "Encourage strong, enthusiastic leadership."
- "Pray, together and frequently, about mission and outreach."
- "Try to get all people in your congregation involved – all ages. Make sure people know they all have something to contribute."
- "Involve lots of people from the congregation – including the minister and people of all ages."
- "Have a complementary stewardship program so that mission and outreach provides people with opportunities to 'use their gifts' and the congregation with the opportunity to 'build on its strengths'."
- "Be flexible in encouraging and acknowledging a variety of ways to participate and in supporting new ideas."
- "Provide frequent, clear, personal communication – people welcome information and education about mission and people want to receive follow-up information."
- "We are currently looking at 'how' we work within our congregation. At this point we put most of our energy into running projects and appeals. We are considering trying to make our mission/outreach work part of our annual budget."

General comments

- "Slowly we have been educating this congregation to the real needs of helping others – not of our own congregation alone, but in our village, our country and wherever there is need. We are becoming a very mission-minded congregation..."
- "A congregation needs to find its own identity. Like any human being a congregation has its own unique set of 'fingerprints.' Its history, development, present abilities and limitations affect its 'raison d'être' for today. Its surroundings, its local society, its growth level (or lack of it), should challenge a mission group to ask, 'What can we offer with what we have got?'"
- "Every congregation is uniquely placed within its community. How we take advantage of this will make the difference in addressing the needs in the immediate neighbourhood."
- "Encourage members to think outside of the box."



Chapter 5:

Tools and connections for mission ministry

Note: For contact names, mailing and email addresses, telephone numbers and websites, see Chapter 6: Mission Resource Contacts (p.49). For resources, see Chapter 7: Suggested Resources (pages 59-64).

Survey participants acknowledged the tools and connections that had helped them in their mission ministry. They also asked for information about what other congregations were finding useful and what else was available. This chapter attempts to provide this information.

A – MISSION TOOLS

1. Announcements

Many congregations include in their Sunday worship a Minute for Mission using Mission Capsules, Minutes for Justice, a PWS&D emergency appeal or PWS&D update. A person comes forward and speaks for a minute or so about a mission partner or issue, providing one or two points of information.

Mission Capsules, sent quarterly in the *PCPak* to congregations, provide brief descriptions of specific aspects of our church's mission program and are often used for this purpose. Minutes for Justice are now also available from Justice Ministries. Some congregations use *Presbyterians Sharing...* and PWS&D resources or excerpts of articles from the *Presbyterian Record*, *Glad Tidings*, *The Presbyterian Message* or *PWSDevelopments*. In some congregations, members involved in mission may prepare their own Minute for Mission to provide information about a mission partner — local or international — who is of special interest to their congregation. Regular announcements in church by people organizing and involved in mission help others to know who can be approached if there are questions.

Articles in the congregational newsletter, Sunday bulletin inserts or special flyers can focus people's attention on different aspects of mission. A variety of forms can be used including a picture or logo, a prayer, a paragraph summary of recent developments or even a short quiz.

2. Calendars

Some mission groups and congregations recognize special days pertaining to worldwide justice and human rights issues. Worship materials are available on the Internet or from Church Offices for many of these special days. Some congregations try to be aware of special days that are relevant to other faith groups in their community or in the world. Multi-faith calendars (e.g. see www.multifaithaction.org/calendar_overview.htm) can assist groups and congregations with particular interest and concern about people of other faiths.

Education for Mission produces an Advent calendar annually with a story and artwork from one of our denominational partners.

The World Council of Churches (WCC) encourages its members to use the Ecumenical Prayer Cycle (<http://www.wcc-coe.org/wcc/news/01-02.html>) to remember God's people worldwide in prayer (see box).

The sample calendar that follows includes some of the special days recognized by many Presbyterian congregations. Special Sundays approved and encouraged by General Assembly appear in boldface.

What are the significant dates for your local community that your congregation might want to observe? Add these to your congregation's "mission-minded" calendar.

The Ecumenical Prayer Cycle enables us to journey in prayer through every region of the world and through every week of the year affirming our solidarity with Christians all over the world, brothers and sisters living in diverse situations, experiencing diverse problems and sharing diverse gifts. Lord, hear our prayer...

Sample "mission-minded" calendar

January	Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
February (first Sunday)	PWS&D Sunday www.presbycan.ca/pwsd/pwsdsun2004.pdf
1st Friday in March	World Day of Prayer
March 8	International Women's Day
March 22	World Water Day
April 7	World Health Day
April 4	Refugee Rights Day (Canada)
April 22	Earth Day (Canada)
April (last Sunday)	Mission Awareness Sunday www.presbyterian.ca/wms/missionsundayA/missionsunday.html
May 26	National Day of Healing and Reconciliation with Aboriginal People
June 5	World Environment Day
June 20	World Refugee Day (UN)
June 21	National Aboriginal Day (Canada)
September 21	International Day of Peace
September (last Sunday)	Presbyterians Sharing... Sunday www.presbyterian.ca/presbyteriansharing/sunday.html
October	Worldwide Communion Sunday
October 16	World Food Day
November 1	Remembrance Day
November	Restorative Justice Week
December 1	World AIDS Day
December 6	National Day of Remembrance & Action on Violence Against Women (Canada)
December 10	Human Rights Day



PWS&D helps empower women in Guatemala.

Photo: Guy Smaghe

3. Displays

People involved in church mission programs recommend regular, clear communication to the congregation about the mission issues of concern and the mission programs being supported. Visual displays on bulletin boards or on mobile space dividers need to be kept up-to-date and regularly changed to maintain interest. With advances in computer technology, more and more photographs of our mission staff, partners and activities are available online and may be printed. For example, the pictures in this handbook have been downloaded from the church's website. Photos and articles are also available from magazines like the *Presbyterian Record*, *PWSDevelopments*, *Glad Tidings* and *The Presbyterian Message*. Mission bulletin inserts, posters, and brochures — from The Presbyterian Church in Canada and from organizations like KAIROS or the Canadian Foodgrains Bank — can also be used to make attractive displays.

4. Fairs and Meals

Some congregations find a mission fair will create interest in their mission programs and encourage greater participation. Mission fairs or fests take various forms — sometimes they are held over coffee after worship, sometimes they are held for a couple of hours, others are a half-day or whole day event. Depending on the time allotted, mission fairs include some of the following: displays showing the mission activities of the congregation and of the whole church, special guest speakers, intercultural information and sharing, video presentation, worship and refreshments. Placemats and children's activity booklets are available from PWS&D. Some of our church's studies and all of the *Learning/Sharing Partner Studies* include recipes. International cookbooks can also be helpful. Videos are available for loan or purchase from The Book Room, and organizations like AVEL, National Film Board, and KAIROS.

If you have questions about the organizational details of a mission fair or if you want materials for a display, contact Education for Mission. If you would like to arrange for a mission speaker contact the Mission Interpretation Coordinator for a mission speaker, or PWS&D for one of their staff or volunteers.

5. Profiles

Many congregations profile the mission staff of our church to inform people about the scope and nature of the mission work that we support around the world. Information about mission staff can be featured in the worship bulletin, on a display board or in a church newsletter. Stories about their experiences can illustrate sermons for children and adults. Prayers for the mission staff and the mission partners they serve can lead the whole congregation in support for, and participation in, the building of God's reign.

Glad Tidings and *The Presbyterian Message* regularly include information and correspondence from mission staff. *Mission Connections*, *Mission Profiles* and *Stories of Mission* (excerpts of the annual reports of our mission staff) can be ordered from The Book Room or online.

6. Something Extra Projects

This publication includes partner information and descriptions of special mission projects of Canada Ministries, International Ministries and Presbyterian World Service & Development (PWS&D). Our partners accomplish much with very few resources. Many individuals, groups and congregations get involved with a *Something Extra* project and through their gifts they help a partner accomplish even more. www.presbyterian.ca/mission/somethingextra/

A child holds up a craft made at Nazko Bible Class, part of the Cariboo ministry in the interior of British Columbia.

Photo: Courtesy of Cariboo Ministry

7. Speakers

Mission groups and congregations can learn a great deal from people who are involved in mission on a daily basis, people who can speak passionately and clearly about the partnership relationship and the program activities. Speakers may come from the local community or from somewhere else in Canada or internationally.

Many congregations like to invite our mission staff on furlough to speak to them. Some mission staff in Canada are also available along with staff from church offices. Presbyterian World Service & Development (PWS&D) brings southern partners to Canada twice a year for speaking tours and meetings. PWS&D staff and committee members have often visited partners and can talk about the work. For assistance in arranging Presbyterian mission staff or partners to come to speak, contact the Mission Interpretation Coordinator or PWS&D.

8. Special Sundays and Services

Special Sundays have been set aside by our General Assembly for congregations to celebrate the mission and ministries of our church: *Presbyterians Sharing...* Sunday, Presbyterian World Service and Development (PWS&D) Sunday and Mission Awareness Sunday. Special services and workshops organized by coalitions in which we have memberships (e.g. World Day of Prayer, KAIROS) provide us with specific information and words to assist us in our prayers.





Church of North India village health care workers bring basic health care to remote villages in the Bhil region of India.

Photo: Wilma Welsh

9. Studies

Mission studies enable individuals, groups and congregations to reflect on the meaning of mission through scripture, stories, activities, prayers and hymns.

Since 1995 our church has been producing mission studies with either a country or issue focus that enable us to learn about our church's mission partners. There are also studies for children and youth on similar themes with accompanying short videos.

Mission studies can be ordered from The Book Room. In addition to our own studies, The Book Room carries other Bible study material with a mission focus. The Book Room staff can offer assistance and suggestions if a specific issue or country interests your group.

10. Tours

Many congregations find that some of their members are interested in having a first-hand mission experience. People's learning increases and their faith deepens by experiences obtained through visiting and serving for a couple of hours at places like a local soup kitchen, a food bank, an Out of the Cold program, an after-school program, Meals on Wheels, a special residence or hostel. Some community organizations welcome visitors and provide tours and special presentations; others are in need of volunteer time and energy. Members of some congregations have made the financial and time commitment to participate in an exposure trip where they meet and work alongside one of the church's Canadian or international partners.

Whether you are planning a local, Canadian or international first-hand mission experience, it is recommended that those involved gather before and after to discuss expectations, concerns, motivations and the meaning of being in relationship with others as mission partners and as children of God. Reading scripture, sharing our faith and praying together are important parts of these gatherings, helping us to grow as a faith community focused on mission.

Mission visits to our church partners and mission staff may be arranged through the mission interpretation office. For information and helpful resources about arranging and preparing for exposure trips to Canadian or international church partners, contact the Mission Interpretation Coordinator. (See also *Youth in Mission*, p. 44.)

B – MISSION CONNECTIONS

1. Worship

While congregations are encouraged to have special mission Sundays throughout the year, many are also committed to grounding every Sunday's worship in God's call to love our neighbour. Most New Testament readings relate to Jesus urging us to live out our love of God in service to others, particularly to the weakest and most marginalized people.

Sermon illustrations can come from information and stories about our mission staff and mission programs including justice, community development, relief efforts and peacemaking. Current community and world affairs can be connected with the day's Bible passages, and prayers can include the concerns of mission programs and partners. Some churches regularly invite guest speakers who are involved locally or internationally in mission. Some churches also regularly invite congregational members involved first-hand in mission to share a story of what this experience has meant to them.

Read the comments about worship and mission in the following three boxes and then consider:

- When has your church's worship been the beginning of your church's mission?
- What could be done or is being done to "globalize" the worship life of your congregation?
- What are some of the obstacles to connecting church worship with local and global mission?

Worship and Mission #1

Worship is the beginning of mission...

As the glory of God is revealed in corporate worship, so those who are inside are sent out in mission and those who are outside are drawn in by the revelation of the glory of God. If our worship is not attracting the attention of those who do not know God, then it fails to please God.

– "Seven Principles of Orthodox Mission" in
Church Mission Society, Oct-Dec. 1999

Worship and Mission #2

Globalizing the worship life of the congregation is essential because it connects global mission to the heart of the congregational life and with the widest number of members. The many gifts of human community and culture such as music, language, rituals, symbols, and art, are finite means through which God's infinite grace is communicated and experienced. The opportunities to make worship meaningful and challenging are numerous. We can introduce a global variety of these gifts in worship and music, including songs, instruments, and symbols from many nations and traditions. By expressing our faith in the practice of another culture, we are allowing that culture to express its faith to us.

– *Embracing God's World – Involving the Congregation in Mission*,
PC (USA) p. 68

Worship and Mission #3

To prepare sermons to inspire mission, consider this approach. When theologian Karl Barth (1886-1968) was asked how he set out to write his sermons, he said, "I take the Bible in one hand and the newspaper in the other."

Congregations and worship leaders wanting to reflect on mission as God's work might want to use Barth's approach. In learning about, and responding to, current issues and concerns of their community, faithful people discern the signs of the times by critically analyzing media reports, prayerfully considering biblical mandates, and being the hands, feet, and heart of Jesus.

Youth in Mission (YIM) is a program of The Presbyterian Church in Canada that encourages young people (ages 16-30) to get involved in mission. YIM volunteers choose to participate in short-term mission opportunities in Canada and around the world. Opportunities include manual labour, children's and camping ministries, or music, drama and sports programs. Trips also include a strong educational component as young people learn about mission and experience a new environment. For more information about this program contact the YIM Coordinator.

2. Children and Youth Ministry

Several years ago, The Presbyterian Church in Canada produced this poster — "Want to see a real live missionary? Look in a mirror." It is what we hope for all children and youth in our churches. We want them to see themselves as missionaries to people close to them, as well as to people far away. Part of our task in congregations is to provide mission education for our young people. A good mission education program encourages children and youth to respond with care and compassion.

Use the evaluation questions in the box below to help you evaluate your congregation's mission program with young people. (Answer "Yes," "No," "Partly" or "Don't Know")

Evaluation Questions for Congregational Youth Ministry

1. Is a mission study offered to young people on a regular basis?
2. Do church school teachers have a file folder with the profiles of mission personnel supported by *Presbyterians Sharing...* to which they can refer?
3. Does your congregation offer mission events that include young people?
4. Do church school participants have the opportunity to bring offerings for a specific mission project?
5. When young people participate in Profession of Faith classes, is mission education included?
6. Does your church library have a mission section? Does it include material for young people?
7. Do you show videos on mission?
8. Do you maintain attractive mission display boards?
9. Are the youth involved in their own mission and outreach activities on a regular basis?
10. Does your congregation promote Youth in Mission (YIM)?

— Adapted from "Children and Mission" by Dorothy Henderson, *Equip*, August 1996

Making new friends at a Youth in Mission Bible camp in Eastern Europe.

Photo: Courtesy of Sonya Henderson



3. The Arts

Current educational theory has made us aware of different styles of learning. We can apply this knowledge to mission education so that a greater number and variety of people learn about mission. Some congregations find that the arts, in particular, offer us opportunities to learn from others, to share our faith, to motivate others, and to give unique expression to God's love for our neighbour. For example:

Visual art — Creating banners, quilts and stained glass art have been the most familiar ways for artists in our church to tell stories of their faith visually. Consider other forms of art in your faith community. Some of our partners have traditions of painting murals or weaving tapestries in which situations of their life struggles and faithful living are depicted.

Drama — Role-playing increases our understanding of others. For example, a group could dramatize an evening at an Out of the Cold program including all the different roles present.

Music, lyrics and dance — As we sing the words and music and follow the rhythm and dance steps of our mission partners, we hear and feel their emotions, and feel connected with them.

On the Sunday when we announced the PWS&D emergency appeal to help flood victims in Mozambique, the congregation sang a song from Mozambique during worship. We had been speaking about a far away land and people; as we sang the words of their song and moved to the rhythm of their music, we felt more deeply their struggle and our own struggle – to live faithfully when bad things happen.

— Rev. Hugh Donnelly,
Beaches Presbyterian Church, Toronto

The Arts and Mission ... Is There A Connection?

By Carolyn Boyer

*“God created the arts in order that life might be held together by them,
so that we should not separate ourselves from spiritual things.”*

— St. John of the Cross

Consider the true story of the *Amistad* as told in director Steven Spielberg's provocative film of the same name (DreamWorks 1998). In 1839 a group of enslaved Africans were arrested and put on trial for murder in a New Haven, Connecticut court after overpowering their captors while in transit to the United States on the Spanish slave ship *La Amistad*. Concerned Christians presented copies of the Bible to the frightened prisoners, who neither spoke nor read English. Although the words held no meaning, the illustrations depicting the life of Jesus: arrested, imprisoned, executed, and risen, offered the 39 captives hope and a desire to learn more of the Christian story.

In 2003 St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Barrie, Ontario, sponsored an Easter art exhibit with the theme, *“Who do you say that I am?”* The theme poster contained 16 images of Jesus by artists from around the world. Each image portrayed Jesus from a different cultural perspective. The exhibit itself included interpretations of Jesus' identity by local artists as well as a selection of prints and other art forms representing many cultures. Open to the community, the exhibit encouraged reflection and conversation

An Art Mission Project

***From Baghdad to Peace Country* is a 28 minute National Film Board video featuring Canadian painter, Deryk Houston. Houston journeyed to Baghdad in 1999 where the humanitarian catastrophe in Iraq showed the devastating impact on children. Since then, Houston has created iconic images of peace using the earth as his canvas. The video shows his earth sculptures in Baghdad, Vancouver Island and Scotland, where his materials range from stones and wildflowers to grass and hay. The cameras follow him and his young son on his latest project on a mountainside in the Peace district of B.C. Borrow from the public library or contact www.nfb.ca.**

on the meaning of Jesus' life and ministry, as well as expanding awareness of non-Western perceptions and representations of the gospel story.

The mission statement of The Presbyterian Church in Canada encourages congregations *"to tell the biblical story in ever new and creative ways."* One way in which this can be done is through the arts. As in the story of the *Amistad*, art forms can be a universal language that communicates the gospel of God's grace in the midst of cultural diversity.

The arts take many forms. The vast array of visual arts (painting, sculpture, stained glass, architecture, photography, etc.), instrumental and vocal music, dance, literature (drama, poetry, parable, etc.), and culinary art hold opportunities to promote and embody mission and ministry.

"The invention of the arts, and other things which serve the common use and convenience of life, is a gift of God by no means to be despised, and worthy of commendation."

— John Calvin

Brian Johnston, an International Ministries mission worker, directs the Male Choir of the Hungarian Reformed Seminary in Cluj, Romania.

Photo: Courtesy of Brian Johnston

For reflection and discussion:

1. In what ways does your congregation make use of the arts to communicate the gospel and the mission of your church?
2. How has your exposure to art forms expanded your understanding of cultures or spiritual experiences other than your own?



4. The Sciences

Justice and care for God's natural creation have become priorities in this century. Environmental and biotechnological issues interact with many human issues including hunger, poverty and disease. Through its Justice Ministries and ecumenical community development involvements, The Presbyterian Church in Canada is participating in initiatives to address these priorities. Yet, none of the survey respondents mentioned environmental or biotechnological issues. We wonder why.

Seeking Ecological Justice

Solutions to ecological problems such as global warming can only come from a sense of human empathy and solidarity that might temper the short-sighted greed of purely commercial society. A white child born in New York, Paris, or London will consume, pollute, and waste more in his or her lifetime than 50 children born in a developing country – while the latter children are the most likely to die from ensuing pollution and global warming. Christians, especially those in the rich nations and among the wealthier elites of poor nations, need to preach and demonstrate a gospel that has the power to liberate men and women from idolatry and greed, and to work with all who aspire for a more responsible use of the world's resources.

– Vinoth Ramachandra in “Pray Globally Act Locally”
in *Sojourners*, May, 2004, p. 17

Renewing the Earth

Until recently, we have often restricted the focus of our lives to our relationship with God or our relationship with each other. The time has come for us to focus as well on our relationship to the Earth. We must recognize the debts which we owe to the Earth. We must recognize how our actions affect the Earth and its entire web of life. We need to learn to live in a way which nurtures the Earth and respects its needs and natural cycles. Various theologies and philosophies have pictured humanity as master of the Earth; we must shift our understanding so that we can see that human society is interdependent with the Earth. Without this, our very survival and the survival of entire ecosystems will be called into question.

– “Renewal of the Earth” in *A New Beginning: A Call for Jubilee*,
Canadian Ecumenical Jubilee Initiative, 1998

For reflection and discussion:

- Read *Living Faith* 2.4 “Our Care for the World.” Discuss how God's creation is in need of love and justice. Brainstorm some actions that could be taken. Explore ways that your church could respond to God's call to care for creation.
- Read the boxes “Seeking Ecological Justice” and “Renewing the Earth.” Then sit meditatively outside in a green space, if possible, or inside with a plant, a pet and/or a bowl of water. Meditate on how the Earth and its non-human life have nurtured you. What one thing could you do to practice ecological justice?

From the Survey:

What tools and connections have helped your mission ministry?

The following are some of the statements by survey respondents about the mission ministry tools and connections they have used or need. Read each in turn and consider its relevance for you.

What will you do to find out more about the tools and connections that interest you?

- “Each member of our missions and evangelism team has responsibility for promoting and distributing current information (by means of a Mission Minute in weekly bulletin) of his/her particular mission. We have one mission per month promoted this way for every month of the year.”
- “In order to stir more interest with the PCC missions, the congregation needs to have more hands-on participation... information on mission trips that are open to members, updates, newsletters on a regular basis to get the congregation interested, excited and, therefore, willing to participate in.”
- “We might consider the use of visual aids to establish the regular needs of others and to show how our mission money is being spent. This could be part of our regular church worship service.”
- “We are connected to presbyterian.ca which provides a wealth of information. We get additional updates via our contact person.
- “Our missions effort has changed in the last few years. We have partnered with a church in Nicaragua. A couple of teams have gone there, and next March a larger group is going on a mission trip. This is very good. It gets more people involved in a ‘hands-on’ experience.”
- “Stories work well. Pictures (posters or videos) work well.”
- “I like the bulletins – also the Advent and Lenten programs that we are able to use.”
- “*Something Extra* pamphlets are helpful; *Mission Capsules* helpful; could use more ideas for Mission Awareness Sundays (although we had very successful ones in the past).”
- “If you are looking for a project use PWS&D website and contact PWS&D for a speaker. We are a small group (7) but we found the congregation loved a theme like “Loonie a Loaf” or “Kick Off” for collection of sports!”
- “Our ministers greatly appreciate the stewardship resources from Church Offices, Stewardship and Education for Mission.”
- “Our pastoral associate conducts the children/worship as part of an after-school program. I do the mission so I have used the children’s studies *Partners in Ukraine*, *Partners in Malawi*, and at present, *Partners in India*.”
- “Continue with missionary profiles. (We’ve seen about 10.) They were excellent and useful. Things we can use in our church bulletins as weekly inserts are better read than bulletin board material. We also have a monthly newsletter where brief items can be highlighted.”
- “The PCPak is most informative and helpful and updates us on current activities concerning mission in both Canada and overseas. The mission profiles are very acceptable.”
- “You have to be creative – try different methods and avenues.”
- “We might consider the use of visual aids to establish the regular needs of others and to show how our mission money is being spent. This could be part of our regular church worship service.”



Chapter 6:

Mission resource contacts

A – THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CANADA

The Presbyterian Church in Canada
50 Wynford Drive, Toronto, ON M3C 1J7
Tel: 416-441-1111, 1-800-619-7301
Fax: 416-441-2825
Website: www.presbyterian.ca

National and regional staff people are available to serve you. Do you have a question about mission? Do you wonder where to begin mission education with your group or congregation? What study resources might be helpful? What assistance is available for organizing a mission worship service, a training event or workshop, or a mission fair? Or perhaps you want information about PWS&D and *Presbyterians Sharing...*, or you want to sponsor a refugee. Contact the appropriate staff listed below.

Department or Staff	Phone Extension	Website/email address
The Book Room		bookroom@presbyterian.ca
Susan Clarke Bookroom Manager	239	sclarke@presbyterian.ca
Stephen Orticello Resource Consultant	231	sorticello@presbyterian.ca
Judith Marnoch Resource Consultant	333	jmarnoch@presbyterian.ca
Gerry Waugh Resource Consultant	234	gwaugh@presbyterian.ca

(Inquire about curricula, Bible studies, other written resources, videos, CDs and cassettes)

Education for Mission

www.presbyterian.ca/mission
www.presbyterian.ca/mission/interpretation

Heather Chappell Program Assistant	267	hchappel@presbyterian.ca
Barbara Nawratil Mission Interpretation Coordinator	259	bnawratil@presbyterian.ca

Stewardship/Presbyterians Sharing . . .

www.presbyterian.ca/presbyterianssharing
www.presbyterian.ca/stewardship

Heather Chappell Program Assistant	267	hchappel@presbyterian.ca
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Evangelism

www.presbyterian.ca/evangelism

Grace-ann McIntyre Program Assistant	269	gmcintyre@presbyterian.ca
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Justice Ministries and International Affairs

www.presbyterian.ca/justice

Gail Turner Program Assistant	250	gturner@presbyterian.ca
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Children and Youth

www.presbyterian.ca/youth

Matthew Donnelly Program Assistant	268	mdonnelly@presbyterian.ca
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Youth in Mission (YIM)

www.presbyterian.ca/yim

Reuben St. Louis YIM Coordinator		yim@presbyterian.ca
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International Ministries

www.presbyterian.ca/international

Margaret Zondo Administrator	254	mzondo@presbyterian.ca
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Canada Ministries

www.presbyterian.ca/canadaministries

Matthew Goslinski Administrator	247	mgoslins@presbyterian.ca
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Presbyterian World Service & Development (PWS&D)

www.presbyterian.ca/pwsd

Colleen McCue

Program Coordinator Finance
and Administration, Refugees 252

cmccue@presbyterian.ca

Karen Plater

Resource and Communications
Coordinator 243

kplater@presbyterian.ca

Women's Missionary Society (WMS)

www.presbyterian.ca/wms

Alexis Dimson

Program & Marketing Coordinator 319

adimson@presbyterian.ca

Holly Wilson

Editor, *Glad Tidings* 322

hwilson@presbyterian.ca

Atlantic Missionary Society (AMS)

www.presbyterian.ca/ams

Janice Carter

Editor, *The Presbyterian Message*

jancarte@nb.sympatico.ca

**Young boys
participate in an
after-school program
at Flora House in
Winnipeg, Manitoba.**

*Photo: Courtesy
of Flora House*



B – PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CANADA

Action by Churches Together (ACT) International

150 route de Ferney, P.O. Box 2100, 1211 Geneva 2, Switzerland

Tel: +41 22 791 6033

Fax: +41 22 791 6506

Email: act@act-intl.org

Website: www.act-intl.org

Action by Churches Together (ACT) International is a global alliance of churches and relief agencies assisting thousands of people recovering from emergencies in more than 50 countries worldwide.

Canadian Foodgrains Bank (CFGB)

400-280 Smith St., Box 767, Winnipeg, MB R3C 2L4

Tel: 204.944.1993 Toll Free: 1.800.665.0377

Fax: 204.943.2597

Email: crgb@foodgrainsbank.ca

Website: www.foodgrainsbank.ca

The Canadian Foodgrains Bank is a Canadian-based Christian organization that helps provide food and development assistance to people in need on behalf of our 13 Canadian church members. Today, Canadian Foodgrains Bank ranks among the largest private food aid providers in the world. Donations made by Canadians have helped Canadian Foodgrains Bank and its members provide over 800,000 metric tonnes of food to people who are hungry throughout the world.

Church Council on Justice and Corrections (CCJC)

507 Bank Street, Ottawa, ON K2P 1Z5

Phone: 613.563.1688

Fax: 613.237.6129

Email: ccjc@ccjc.ca

Website: <http://www.ccjc.ca>

The Church Council on Justice and Corrections is a national faith-based coalition of eleven founding churches. It promotes a restorative approach to justice with an emphasis on addressing the needs of victims and offenders, mutual respect, healing, individual accountability, community involvement and crime prevention. Resources are produced annually and can be ordered online.

Interagency Coalition on AIDS & Development (ICAD)

1 Nicholas Street, Suite 726, Ottawa, Ontario K1N 7B7

Tel: (613) 233-7440

Fax: (613) 233-8361

Email: info@icad-cisd.com

Website: www.icad-cisd.com

Interagency Coalition on AIDS & Development's mission is to lessen the spread and impact of HIV/AIDS in resource-poor communities and countries by providing leadership and actively contributing to the Canadian and international response.

KAIROS

129 St. Clair Ave. West, Toronto, ON M4V 1N5

Tel: 416-463-5312 Toll-free: 1-877-403-8933

Fax: 416-463-5569

Website: www.kairoscanada.org

KAIROS unites churches and religious organizations in a faithful ecumenical response to the call to “do justice, to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God” (Micah 6:8). It is a national ecumenical justice initiative with local groups across the country. It educates and advocates on economic, social and ecological justice, and on human rights, including aboriginal rights. KAIROS deliberates on issues of common concern, advocates for social change and joins with people of faith and goodwill in action for social transformation.

Inter Church Committee for Refugees (ICCR)

129 St. Clair Ave. W., Toronto ON M4V 1N5

Tel: 416-921-9967

Fax: 416-921-3843

Email: iccr@web.net

Website: www.web.net/~iccr/

Inter Church Committee for Refugees’ mandate is to promote an equitable, generous and compassionate response to refugees by Canada and by Canadians. The work includes monitoring the world refugee situation and Canadian responses, developing joint church positions, reports, briefs and letters to the Canadian government and relevant international forums. ICCR also works with national churches on difficult cases and educational materials.

Program Committee on Education for Mission (PCEM)

National Council of Churches (USA)

475 Riverside Drive, Suite 880, New York, NY 10115.

Tel: 212-870-2738 (Patrice L. Rosner)

Email: prosner@nccusa.org

Website: www.nccusa.org/miessioneducation

The National Council of Churches is the leading force for ecumenical cooperation among Christians in the United States. One NCC initiative is the Program Committee on Education for Mission whose objective is to help member denominations, in Canada and the United States, inspire their congregations to commit themselves to being partners in God’s mission. It provides a forum for mission educators to study missiological trends, identify themes on significant mission issues, and develop programmatic resources in those areas.

Women’s Inter-Church Council of Canada (WICC)

394 Bloor St. West, Suite 201, Toronto, ON M5S 1X4

Tel: 416-929-5184

Fax: 416-929-4064

Email: wicc@wicc.org

Website: www.wicc.org

Women’s Inter-Church Council of Canada invites Christian women to experience working ecumenically, to share spirituality, to organize around concerns as women, and to take action together for social justice and human rights. It publishes the journal *Making Waves*.

World Alliance of Reformed Churches (WARC)

PO Box 2100 150 route de Ferney
1211 Geneva 2, Switzerland
Tel: +41 22 791 6240
Fax: +41 22 791 6505
Email: warc@warc.ch
Website: <http://www.warc.ch/>

The aims of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches are to strengthen the unity and witness of Reformed churches, to interpret and reinterpret the Reformed tradition, to work for peace, economic and social justice, human rights, and the integrity of the environment, to promote fully inclusive community, and to further dialogue with other Christian communions and other religions.

World Council of Churches (WCC)

PO Box 2100, 150 route de Ferney
CH-1211 Geneva 2, Switzerland
Tel: +41 22 791 6111
Fax: +41 22 791 0361
Email: publications@wcc-coe.org
Website: www.wcc-coe.org/wcc/english.html

The World Council of Churches' mandate is to make "the church in every place a voice for those who have no voice." It has a firm commitment to justice, rooted in the ecumenical perception of God's preferential option for the poor. Its programs relate to five themes: faith and order; mission and ecumenical formation; justice, peace and creation; international affairs, peace and human security; and diakonia and solidarity.

C – OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

AVEL

Email: avel@united-church.ca
Website: <http://www.united-church.ca/avel/home.shtm>

AVEL provides rental for a wide variety of videos including many with a mission connection. Regional AVEL offices are available across Canada. Check your phone book or go online.

National Film Board of Canada (NFB)

Sales and Customer Service, D-10
PO Box 6100, Station Centre-Ville
Montreal, Quebec H3C 3H5
Tel: 1-800-267-7710, 514-283-9000 (Montreal area)
Website: www.nfb.ca

NFB produces and distributes Canadian-made films and videos. Videos can be ordered online or by phone. A free catalogue can also be ordered.

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

100 Witherspoon Street, Louisville, KY 40202

Tel: 800-872-3283; 502-569-5000

Fax: 502-569-5018

Email: presbytel@pcusa.org

Website: www.pcusa.org

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) has approximately 2.5 million members and 11,200 congregations. Resources can be ordered online or by telephone.

Restorative Justice & Dispute Resolution Branch

Correctional Service of Canada Restorative Justice Week

340 Laurier Avenue West, Ottawa, ON K1A 0P9

Fax: (613) 943-2171

Email: restorativejustice@csc-scc.gc.ca

Website: http://www.csc-scc.gc.ca/text/forum/restore2004/home_e.shtml

Transfair Canada

252 Bank St. Suite 302, Ottawa, ON K2p 1X3

Telephone: 613-563-3351, 1-888-663-FAIR

Email: fairtrade@transfair.ca

Website: www.transfair.ca

Contact Transfair Canada for information about fair trade organizations in Canada and their products.

World Food Day

Unit for Liaison with National Committees (GIDN)

General Affairs and Information Department

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

Fax: +39 06 570 53210

Email: World-Food-Day@fao.org

Website: www.fao.org/wfd/

**Rev. Elias Morales with
members of the Spanish
Ministry at North Park
Presbyterian Church in
Toronto, Ontario.**

*Photo: Courtesy of North
Park Spanish Ministry*





Chapter 7:

Suggested resources

CHAPTER 1: WHY MISSION?

Concepts of Mission by Glory E. Dharmaraj, The United Methodist Publishing House, Cincinnati, Ohio, 1999.

Embracing God's World: Involving the Congregation in Mission, Presbyterian Church (USA), 1990.

Interactive Sessions for Faith in Action: Understanding Development Ministries from a Christian Perspective by Gabrielle Beaseley, PC (USA) 2001.

The Bible and the Outsider: A contribution for the 1997 Ecumenical Year of Churches in Solidarity with Uprooted People by J. Charles Hay, Inter Church Committee for Refugees, Toronto.

"The World is Our Parish" An address given by Clifton Kirkpatrick of Presbyterian Church (USA) upon receipt of the E.H. Johnson Award from The Presbyterian Church in Canada, June 8, 2004.

<http://www.presbycan.ca/assembly/2004/sounds/CliftonKirkpatrick-EHJohnson.pdf>

CHAPTER 2: WHAT IS MISSION TODAY?

"Christians are on the frontlines everywhere — first" by Brian Stewart in *Presbyterian Record*, October 2004, pages 18-22.

"Crisis in Mission" in *Interpreting the Present Time: History, the Bible, and the Church's Mission Today* by Cyril H. Powles, Anglican Book Centre, Toronto, 1994.

"From Surrogate Missions to Hands-On Missions" in *Congregational Megatrends* by C. Jeff Woods, The Alban Institute, 1996.

Interactive Study Guide to Living Faith by Carolyn Boyer, The Presbyterian Church in Canada, 2004.

Living Faith: A Statement of Christian Belief published for The Presbyterian Church in Canada by Wood Lake Books, 1984. <http://www.presbyterian.ca/documents>

Mission on the Edge: Crossing boundaries in the twenty-first century, E. H Johnson Memorial Trust Mission Consultation November 14-16, 2003. Published by the trustees of the E.H. Johnson Memorial Trust. <http://www.presbyterian.ca/ehjohnson/missionontheedge.pdf>

Mutuality in Mission: A Theological Principle for the Twenty-First Century by Glory E. Dharmaraj and Jacob Dharmaraj, The United Methodist Publishing House, Cincinnati, Ohio, 2001.

Partners with the Poor — An Emerging Approach to Relief and Development by Jerry Aaker, Friendship Press, New York, 1993.

When God's People Travel, Volume 3: Bible Studies for Mission by Alice Winters. Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), Louisville KY, 2003. Themes include: What is mission? Who is called to mission? What is partnership in mission?

CHAPTER 3: WHO DOES MISSION IN OUR CONGREGATIONS?

Faith in Action: Understanding Development Ministries from a Christian Perspective by Stephen Knisely, Presbyterian Church (USA) 2001.

Taking Control of Your Mission Agenda by Bonnie Greene, The United Church Publishing House, Toronto, 1991.

CHAPTER 4: DEVELOPING CONGREGATIONAL MISSION AND OUTREACH PROGRAMS

B – Analyzing the local community

And Who Is My Neighbor? Poverty, Privilege, and the Gospel of Christ by Gerald W. Schlabach, Herald Press, 1990.

Community Ministry: new challenges, proven steps to faith-based initiatives by Carl S. Dudley, The Alban Institute, 2002.

Living the Kingdom in Our Neighbourhood (Level One and Level Two): Learning about Ourselves, Our Communities and Our Mission by Cheryl Bradbee, 1994. Order from The Navigators Resource Centre, Box 27070, London, ON N5X 3X5. Phone: 519-660-8465, 1-800-839-4769 Fax: 519-660-4922 e-mail: resources@navigator.ca

The Wolf Shall Dwell with the Lamb: A Spirituality for Leadership in a Multicultural Community by Eric H. F. Law, 1993.

Where in the World Are You? Connecting Faith and Daily Life by Norma Cook Everist and Nelvin Vos, Alban Institute, 1996.

C – Connecting with denominational programs and partners

The Acts and Proceedings (“the blue book”) of the annual General Assembly of The Presbyterian Church in Canada contains details about our denominational mission programs and partners. Each congregation receives a copy in the fall. Ask to borrow a copy from your minister or clerk of session. It is also available online at <http://www.presbyterian.ca/documents/index.html>

Read the annual reports of:

- Canada Ministries
- Education for Mission
- Evangelism and Church Growth
- International Ministries
- International Affairs Committee
- Justice Ministries
- Presbyterian World Service & Development (PWS&D)
- Women’s Missionary Society (WMS)/Atlantic Mission Society (AMS)
- Youth in Mission (YIM)

(For specific denominational resources, see the next page under Chapter 5.)

E – Making program decisions

The Narrative Budget: Telling Your Congregation’s Mission Story, Canadian Interchurch Stewardship Committee, 1999.

Congregational Awareness Studies: Four self-directed studies of church leaders — Church Health, Church Leadership, Congregational Mission/Vision, Planning for Evangelism, produced by Evangelism, Church Growth and Worship of the Life and Mission Agency, 2003.

Discerning God’s Will Together: A Spiritual Practice for the Church by Danny L. Morris & Charles M. Olsen, Upper Room Books, Nashville, 1997.

Effective Church Finances: Fund-Raising and Budgeting for Church Leaders by Kennon L. Callahan, Jossey-Bass Publ., San Francisco, 1997.

Facing Reality: A Tool for Congregational Mission Assessment by Tom Bandy, Abingdon Press, 2001.

Gathering for God’s Future — Witness, Discipleship, Community: A Renewed Call to Worldwide Mission, adopted by the 215th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), 2003.

Giving and Stewardship in an Effective Church by Kennon L. Callahan, San Francisco: Harper Publ., 1992.

With the help of the Institute for Development Education, a PWS&D partner, this fisherman received a loan to buy fishing nets. Now he can support his family.

Photo: Guy Smaghe

CHAPTER 5: TOOLS AND CONNECTIONS FOR MISSION MINISTRY

A – Mission Tools

Resources from The Presbyterian Church in Canada

Magazines and newsletters

- *Glad Tidings*, Women's Missionary Society (WMS)
- *In Our Small Corner*, newsletter of Justice Ministries
<http://www.presbyterian.ca/justice/newsletter/index.html>
- *Presbyterian Record* <http://www.presbycan.ca/record/>
- *PWSDevelopments*, Presbyterian World Service & Development (PWS&D)
<http://www.presbycan.ca/pwsd/pwsdnews.htm>
- *The Presbyterian Message*, Atlantic Mission Society (AMS)

Other publications

Education for Mission/Presbyterians Sharing...

Most of the following resources are available from The Book Room. For Mission Profiles, contact Education for Mission.

- *Mission Capsules* <http://www.presbyterian.ca/mission/missioncaps/index.html>
- *Presbyterians Sharing...* bulletin inserts
- *Something Extra* booklet
<http://www.presbyterian.ca/mission/somethingextra/index.html>
- *Advent Calendar*
- *Who is my neighbour?* Two maps showing Canadian and international partners
- *Mission Connections*
- *Mission Profiles*
- *Stories of Mission* <http://www.presbyterian.ca/documents/storiesmission/>
- *Stu Bear Goes on a Mission Visit*

Justice Ministries/International Affairs Committee (IAC)

- *Minutes for Justice* <http://www.presbyterian.ca/assemblyoffice/iac/index.html>
- *Social Action Handbook*
<http://www.presbyterian.ca/documents/socialaction/index.htm>

Presbyterian World Service & Development (PWS&D)

- *PWS&D Emergency Appeals and Updates*
<http://www.presbycan.ca/pwsd/index.html#appeals>
- *PWS&D Advent and Lenten Liturgies* <http://www.presbycan.ca/pwsd/liturgies.htm>
- PWS&D annual resources (placemat, coin box, poster, offering envelope, etc.)

Special Worship Services

The worship resources listed below are available from different departments of The Presbyterian Church in Canada and can be ordered by phone, mail, or online.

- *Mission Awareness Sunday*
<http://www.presbyterian.ca/wms/missionsundayA/missionsunday.html>
- *Presbyterians Sharing... Sunday*
<http://www.presbyterian.ca/presbyteriansharing/sunday.html>
- *PWS&D Sunday* <http://www.presbycan.ca/pwsd/pwsdsun2004.pdf>



A Youth in Mission volunteer works with new friends in Ghana.

Photo: Erin Crisfield

- *Standing with the Persecuted: A worship resource encouraging Presbyterians to raise their voices in prayer and action against religious persecution*
<http://www.presbyterian.ca/justice/resources/standingwithpersecuted.pdf>
- *World AIDS Day Worship Resource* <http://www.presbycan.ca/pwsd/hiv aids/index.html>

Stewardship

Check with the *Presbyterians Sharing...* office or website www.presbyterian.ca/presbyteriansharing/index.html for resources directly related to mission. For example, congregations may want to use the children's resource *Stu Bear Goes on a Mission Visit*.

Studies

The following adult and youth studies, produced by The Presbyterian Church in Canada and sold in The Book Room, focus on our denominational mission activities and partners:

- *Mission Partnerships and The Presbyterian Church in Canada*
- *Living as a Jubilee People*
- *Sharing God's Mission Together: A Study of the Covenant of Partnership between The Presbyterian Church in Canada and the Presbyterian-Reformed Church in Cuba*
- *God's People, God's Planet: Living Lightly on the Earth*
- *Making Connections: The Bhil People of India*
- *Mission Possible: A Study for Canadian Presbyterians Interested in Having a Mission Experience in Canada or Internationally*

The following recent Learning/Sharing youth and children studies with accompanying short videos, produced by The Presbyterian Church in Canada, are available from The Book Room. They focus on our denominational mission partners:

- *Partners: Meeting Friends in Ghana*
- *Partners: Meeting Bhil Friends in Central India*
- *Partners: Meeting First Nations Friends in Canada*

Other Resources

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle, World Council of Churches <http://www.wcc-coe.org/wcc/news/01-02.html>

Extending the Table...A World Community Cookbook by Joetta Handrich Schlabach, Herald Press, 1991.

Multifaith Calendar, produced annually by the Multifaith Calendar Committee, Multifaith Action Society, Vancouver, B.C.
www.multifaithaction.org/calendar_overview.htm

Perspectives on Cuba and its People by Theodore A. Braun. Friendship Press: New York, 1999.

Spirit, Gospel, Cultures: Bible Studies on the Acts of the Apostles. (No. 4 in the WCC Mission Series). WCC Publications, Geneva, 1996.

The Wounds of Manuel Saquic: Biblical Reflections from Guatemala by Jim Manly. United Church Publishing House, 1997.

Where in the World are You? Connecting Faith and Daily Life by Norma Cook Everist and Nelvin Vos. An Alban Institute Publication, 1996.

B – Mission connections

1. Worship

Creative Worship (Vols. 1 & 2) by Ian Price and Carolyn Kitto, Wood Lake Books, Winfield, B.C., 2002 & 2003.

Gifts of Many Cultures: Worship Resources for the Global Community by Maren C. Tiabassi and Kathy Wonson Eddy, United Church Press, Cleveland, Ohio, 1995.

Global Praise #1, The General Board of Global Ministries, The United Methodist Church, 1997 (rev).

Living the Christ Life: Rediscovering the Seasons of the Christian Year by Louise Mangan, Nancy Wyse, Lori Farr, Wood Lake Books, Winfield, B.C., 2001.

Newspapers (daily and community) and newsmagazines

On Frequent Journeys: Worship Resources on Uprooted Peoples, Edited by Rebekah Chevalier, United Church Publishing House, Toronto, 1997.

Prayers Encircling the World — An International Anthology by Westminster John Knox Press, 1999.

Spiritual Resource Kit and A Christian Leaflet (on Restorative Justice), Correctional Services of Canada, Ottawa. http://www.csc-scc.gc.ca/text/forum/restore2004/home_e.shtml

Social Action Handbook, Justice Ministries, The Presbyterian Church in Canada. <http://www.presbyterian.ca/documents/socialaction/index.htm>

Standing with the Persecuted: A worship resource encouraging Presbyterians to raise their voices in prayer and action against religious persecution, Justice Ministries, The Presbyterian Church in Canada. <http://www.presbyterian.ca/justice/resources/standingwithpersecuted.pdf>

The Bible (various translations)

The Book of Praise includes hymns with music and/or lyrics from different countries and sometimes verses in languages other than English, 1997.

With Many Voices: Worship music from around the world in many languages and musical styles, arranged by Andrew Donaldson, edited by Don Anderson, Binary Editions, Toronto, 2002.

World AIDS Day Worship Resource, PWS&D, The Presbyterian Church in Canada. <http://www.presbycan.ca/pwsd/hiv aids/index.html>

Young people participate in a YIMFormation retreat weekend at Crieff Hills, Puslinch, Ontario.

Photo: Courtesy of Mary Ingram



2. Children and Youth Ministry

Church school curricula include ideas for hands-on mission activities connected with Bible stories, mission studies and videos.

Advent Calendar, produced annually by Education for Mission.

Educating for Peace and Justice: Religious Dimensions, K-6 by James McGinnis, Institute for Peace and Justice, St. Louis, Missouri, 1993.

Food for All: A Buffet of Ideas about Hunger, PWS&D & CFGB curriculum.
http://www.foodgrainsbank.ca/g7c_edu.php

Helping Children Care for God's People: 200 Ideas for Teaching Stewardship and Mission by Delia Halverson, Abingdon Press, 1994.

In Exile — For A While, a refugee simulation exercise for youth by Mennonite Central Committee, 2003. www.mcc.org/inexile

It's Not Fair — A Handbook on World Development for Youth Groups, Christian Aid, London, UK, 1993.

Make a World of Difference: Creative Activities for Global Learning, by Office on Global Education, Church World Service, Friendship Press, New York, 1990.

Mission Possible: A Study for Canadian Presbyterians Interested in Having a Mission Experience in Canada or Internationally, The Presbyterian Church in Canada, 2000.

Learning/Sharing Partners Studies for Children and Youth with accompanying videos.

Tales of the Heart: Affective Approaches to Global Education by Tom Hampson and Loretta Whalen, Friendship Press, New York, 1991.

Teaching Kids to Care and Share: 300+ Mission and Service Ideas for Children by Jolene L. Roehlkepartan, Abingdon Press, Nashville, 2000.

3. The Arts

Some church school curricula demonstrate strong commitment to a variety of arts and can be helpful to mission groups. For example the posters and the booklet *Behold: Arts for the Church Year* from *Seasons of the Spirit* curriculum can be used effectively with people of all ages. Call The Book Room to discuss curriculum resources.

Similarly, some of the denominational groups and partner organizations (see Chapter 6) produce posters and provide photographs or graphics.

Art and Soul... Signposts for Christians in the Arts by Hilary Brand and Adrienne Chaplin Solway, imprint of Paternoster Pub. Cumbria, UK 1999.

Image and Spirit... Finding Meaning in Visual Art by Karen Stone, Augsburg Fortress, Minneapolis, MN, 2003.

Imaging the Word: An Arts and Lectionary Resource (Vol. I, II, III) by Kenneth T. Lawrence, Jann Cather Weaver, Roger William Wedell, Pilgrim Press, 1994.

The Art of Soul: An Artist's Guide to Spirituality by Regina Coupar, Novalis 2002.

Image Update: a biweekly e-newsletter from *Image: A Journal of the Arts and Religion*, see http://www.imagejournal.org/imageupdate/44_040215.htm

(See also the resources listed earlier in the section "Worship.")

4. The Sciences

Caring for Creation Study Guide, Earthkeeping: Food and Agriculture in Christian Perspective, Edmonton, 1998.

Finding Our Voice: A Study Guide for Personal or Small Group Reflection on Biotechnology & Cloning, Justice Ministries, The Presbyterian Church in Canada, 2000.
<http://www.presbyterian.ca/justice/resources/findingourvoice/index.html>

God's People, God's Planet: Living Lightly on the Earth, 2001-2002 Mission Study for Adults and Youth, The Presbyterian Church in Canada, 2001.

How Much is Enough? Hungering for God in an Affluent Culture by Arthur Simon, Baker Books, Grand Rapids, 2003.

Life Abundant: Rethinking Theology and Economy for a Planet in Peril by Sallie McFague, Fortress Press, Minneapolis, 2001.

Sacred Earth, Sacred Community: Jubilee, Ecology, and Aboriginal Peoples, KAIROS, 2000.

Spiritual Values for Earth Community, David G. Hallman, WCC Publications, Geneva, 2000.

A medical program supported by PWS&D partner Madurai Non-Formal Education Centre (MNEC).

Photo: PWS&D





Appendix A:

Education for Mission congregational survey

This handbook is a result of the Education for Mission survey, which 202 people from 158 churches completed and returned in early 2004. The respondents indicated that the sort of information we have included in this resource would be helpful to them in their congregational mission ministries. The first four chapters of this handbook include some of the survey responses. Members of the advisory committee for Education for Mission were inspired by the ways so many of our brothers and sisters across the country were striving to live faithfully to the gospel call to mission. Through this resource we have tried to share some of their ideas and respond to some of their requests. With the distribution of this handbook, we begin planning the next step: planning a forum that will enable some of us to gather face to face to share our experiences and learn from one another.

On the following pages, you will find for your information and use:

- A copy of the survey letter
- A copy of the blank survey
- The list of congregations participating in the survey, in alphabetical order by province

The Presbyterian Church in Canada L'Église presbytérienne au Canada



November 10, 2003

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The Education for Mission Advisory Committee members have for some time wanted to assist and encourage the mission and outreach initiatives of congregations. We know that most congregations have individuals and groups actively involved in local, national, and/or international mission and outreach.

We have considered a number of ideas, but we have decided to begin by surveying congregations. The survey results will help us decide on the specific content of a mission resource that would be helpful for your congregation. We have tentatively discussed that the content might include information about

- the theological basis for mission
- different ways congregations organize mission
- what Presbyterians are doing in mission and in mission education
- resources and contacts available through The Presbyterian Church in Canada
- other resources and contacts.

Our goal is to have this resource available by summer of 2004.

We have attached the survey. **Please make copies as required and give them to one or more people who are involved in your congregation's mission and outreach program.** We expect that in many cases those people will not be elders or clergy. We also suggest that respondents focus their energy on those questions that are particularly significant to their experiences. As indicated at the end of the survey, **please return completed surveys on or before January 15, 2004.**

In advance, and on behalf of the Committee members, thank you for your response. We thank God for the witnessing faith and discipleship of so many Presbyterians; and we look forward to encouraging one another as we strive to live out our calling to love and serve our neighbours.

In Christ's service,

Annemarie Klassen
Associate Secretary
Stewardship and Education for Mission

50 Wynford Drive, Toronto, ON M3C 1J7 telephone 416-441-1111 toll free 1-800-619-7301 fax 416-441-2825

Congregational Mission and Outreach Survey

(To be completed by individuals involved in your church's mission and outreach)

1. Please check ✓ the appropriate boxes to indicate the main sources of mission and outreach leadership in your congregation.

individual(s) committee(s) WMS group team(s) task group(s)

other (please specify: _____)

2. If these people/groups held a meeting today, what might be the main agenda items?

3. What do you feel are the primary role and responsibility of the mission and outreach program in your church?

4. In recent years, what do you think have been some of your congregation's main mission and outreach initiatives...

a) in your congregation? _____

b) in your local community? _____

c) in Canada beyond your local community? _____

d) internationally? _____

e) other? _____

5. What do you feel have been the greatest successes of your church's mission and outreach efforts?

6. What do you feel are the most challenging issues in this ministry?

7. What have you learned that might help other people trying to organize mission and outreach in their congregations?

8. What information and resources might assist you and your church's mission and outreach efforts?

(Please check ✓ as many as you wish and add to the list.)

- Information about the theology of mission and outreach
- Information about organizing a church's mission program
- Information about analyzing needs in a church's local community
- Information specific to our denomination's mission and outreach
 - PWS&D
 - Justice Ministries
 - Canada Ministries
 - International Ministries
 - WMS/Atlantic Mission Society
- List of The Presbyterian Church in Canada resources (printed, videos, speakers) and contacts
- List of resources and contacts of other organizations
- Information about specific issues (please specify) _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

9. To which individual(s) and/or group(s) in your congregation should we send mission and outreach resources?

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email address: _____

Church's name and location: _____

10. Additional Comments: Please add or elaborate on the kind of information that might be most relevant and helpful to supporting mission and outreach in your congregation.

Thank you for taking the time to answer these questions.

Please mail, fax or email your completed survey on or before **January 15, 2004** to:

Education for Mission, The Presbyterian Church in Canada
 50 Wynford Dr., Toronto ON M3C 1J7
 Fax: 416-441-2825
 Email: hchappel@presbyterian.ca

November 2003



Appendix B:

List of congregations participating in survey

British Columbia (13)

Comox Valley Presbyterian Church
Comox BC

Gordon Presbyterian Church
Burnaby, BC

Haney Presbyterian Church
Maple Ridge, BC

Knox Presbyterian Church
Victoria, BC

Langley Presbyterian Church
Langley, BC

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church
Kamloops, BC

St. Andrews Presbyterian Church
Nanaimo, BC

St. Andrew's & St. Stephen's Presbyterian Church
North Vancouver, BC

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church
Penticton, BC

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church
Victoria, BC

St. John's Presbyterian Church
White Rock, BC

Trinity Presbyterian Church
Campbell River, BC

West Shore Presbyterian Church
Victoria, BC

Alberta (10)

Dayspring Presbyterian Church
Edmonton, AB

First Presbyterian Church,
Edmonton, AB

Forbes Presbyterian Church
Grande Prairie, AB

Knox Presbyterian Church
Wanham, AB

Memorial Presbyterian Church
Rocky Mt. House, AB

Mill Wood Presbyterian Church
Edmonton, AB

Varsity Acres Presbyterian Church
Calgary, AB

St. Giles Presbyterian Church
Calgary, AB

Sherwood Park Presbyterian Church
Sherwood Park, AB

Strang Presbyterian Church
Dixonville, AB

Saskatchewan (6)

Westminster Presbyterian Church
Estevan SK

McKercher Drive Presbyterian Church
Saskatoon, SK

Parkview Presbyterian Church
Saskatoon, SK

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church,
Biggar, SK

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church
Swift Current, SK

St. Philip's Presbyterian Church
Sandwich SK

Manitoba (5)

First Presbyterian Church
Brandon, MB

First Presbyterian Church
Winnipeg, MB

Knox Presbyterian Church,
Neepawa, MB

Melita Presbyterian Church
Melita MB

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church
Flin Flon, MB

Ontario (106)

Albion Gardens Presbyterian Church
Etobicoke, ON

Amos-Dromore, Knox-Holstein, Knox-Normandy
Presbyterian Churches
Holstein, ON

Bridlewood Presbyterian Church
Toronto, ON

Burn's Mosa Presbyterian Church
Glencoe, ON

Calvin Presbyterian Church
Kitchener, ON

Central Presbyterian Church
Brantford ON

Central Presbyterian Church
Cambridge, ON

Centreville Presbyterian Church
South Monaghan, ON

Chalmers Presbyterian Church,
London, ON

Chippawa Presbyterian Church
Niagara Falls, ON

Clarkson Rd. Presbyterian Church
Mississauga, ON

Dayspring Presbyterian Church
London, ON

Elmwood Presbyterian Church
London, ON

Erskine Presbyterian Church
Ottawa, ON

Esson Presbyterian Church,
East Oro, ON

Graceview Presbyterian Church,
Etobicoke, ON

Greenbrier Presbyterian Church,
Brantford, ON

Kenyon Presbyterian Church
Dunvegan, ON K0C 1J0

Knox Presbyterian Church
Acton, ON

Knox Presbyterian Church
Burlington, ON

Knox Preston Presbyterian Church
Cambridge, ON

Knox Presbyterian Church
Cannington, ON

Knox Presbyterian Church
Conn, ON

Knox Presbyterian Church,
Dundas, ON

Knox Presbyterian Church
Georgetown, ON

Knox Presbyterian Church
Goderich, ON

Knox Presbyterian Church
Kincardine, ON

Knox Presbyterian Church
Komoka, ON

Knox Monkton, Knox Cranbrook Presbyterian Churches
Monkton and Cranbrook, ON

Knox Presbyterian Church
Oakville, ON

Knox Presbyterian Church
St. Catharines, ON

Knox Presbyterian Church
Stokes Bay, ON

Knox Presbyterian Church
Strathroy, ON

Knox Presbyterian Church Thedford, ON	St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church Gordonville, ON
Knox Presbyterian Church Tiverton, ON	St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church Hagersville ON
Knox Presbyterian Church Wallaceburg, ON	St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church Hilsburgh, ON
Knox North Easthope Presbyterian Church Stratford, ON	St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church Kinburn, ON
Knox-on-the-Hill Presbyterian Church Fonthill, ON	St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Lindsay, ON
Lakeshore St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church Tecumseh, ON	St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church Mt. Forest, ON
Leaside Presbyterian Church Toronto, ON	St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church Orillia ON
Melville Presbyterian Church Brussels, ON	St. Andrew's Presbyterian. Church, Parry Sound, ON
Morningside-High Park Presbyterian Church Toronto, ON	St. Andrews Presbyterian Church Scarborough, ON
Mount Pleasant Presbyterian Church. Mount Pleasant, ON	St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church Sterling, ON
Mt. Zion Presbyterian Church Ridgetown, ON	St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church Strathroy, ON
New St. James Presbyterian Church London, ON	St. Andrews Presbyterian Church Streetsville, Mississauga, ON
Paris Presbyterian Church Paris ON	St. Andrew's-Chalmers Presbyterian Church Uxbridge, ON
Parkwood Presbyterian Church Ottawa, ON	St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church West Huntingdon, ON
Riverside Presbyterian Church Windsor, ON	St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church Windsor, ON
St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church Ancaster ON	St. Columba Presbyterian Church Belleville, ON
St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church Arnprior ON	St. Giles Presbyterian Church St. Catharines, ON
St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church Bowmanville, ON	St. Giles Presbyterian Church Sarnia, ON
St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church Brampton, ON	St. Giles Kingsway Presbyterian Church Toronto, ON
St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church Carleton Place, ON	St. Mark's Malton Presbyterian Church Mississauga, ON
St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Cobourg, ON	St. Mark's Presbyterian Church Toronto, ON
St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church Etobicoke, ON	St. Matthews Presbyterian Church Sarnia, ON
St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Fergus, ON	St. John's Presbyterian Church, Cresswell, ON
St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church Ganonoque, ON	St. John's Presbyterian Church Kapuskasing, ON

St. Paul's Presbyterian Church
Ingersoll, ON

St. Paul's Presbyterian Church
Brampton, ON

St. Paul's Presbyterian Church
Burlington, ON

St. Paul's Presbyterian Church
Carluke, ON

St. Paul's Presbyterian Church
Kemptville, ON

St. Stephen's Presbyterian Church
Peterborough, ON

St. Timothy's Presbyterian Church
Ajax, ON

St. Timothy's Presbyterian Church
Etobicoke, ON

Scottlea Presbyterian Church
St. Catharines, ON

West St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church
St. Catharines, ON

Willowdale Presbyterian Church
North York, ON

Tomstown Presbyterian Church
Englehart, ON

Trafalgar Presbyterian Church
Oakville, ON

Trinity Community Presbyterian Church
Oro Station, ON

Weston Presbyterian Church
Weston, ON

University Presbyterian Church
Downsview, Toronto, ON

Wasaga Beach Community Presbyterian Church
Wasaga Beach, ON

Westminster Presbyterian Church
Paisley, ON

Westminster Presbyterian Church
Smith Falls, ON

Westmount Presbyterian Church
London, ON

Woodbridge Presbyterian Church
Woodbridge, ON

Woodville Community Presbyterian Church
Woodville, ON

Valetta Presbyterian Church
Tilbury, ON

Unnamed congregation
Oakville, ON

Unnamed congregation
Whitby, ON

Quebec (5)

Athelstan Presbyterian Church
Athelstan, QC

Briarwood Presbyterian Church.
Beaconsfield QC

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church,
Inverness, QC

The Presbyterian Church of the Town of Mount Royal
Town of Mount Royal, QC

Westminster Presbyterian Church
Pierrefonds, QC

New Brunswick (2)

St. Columba Presbyterian Church
St. John, NB

St. Paul's Presbyterian Church
Warwick, NB

Nova Scotia (4)

First Presbyterian Church
New Glasgow, NS

Knox Presbyterian Church
Baddeck, NS

St. George's Presbyterian Church
River John, NS

St. James Presbyterian Church
Truro, NS

Prince Edward Island (4)

First Presbyterian Church
Picton, PEI

St. Mark's Presbyterian Church
Charlottetown, PEI

Tyne Valley Presbyterian Church
Tyne Valley, PEI

Wood Islands Presbyterian Church
Belle River, PEI

Unnamed congregations (3)