



GLOBAL
METHODIST CHURCH

ACTS 1:8

Annual Mission Health Check

The Global Methodist Church invites every congregation to boldly embrace its God-given mission and celebrate God's work among them while prayerfully pursuing fresh vision, deeper faith, and transformed lives.

This annual missions health check will help you assess your church's mission involvement and equip you with practical next steps to deepen and strengthen your impact.



Kingdom Advancement Commission

Introduction

As a denomination, we are committed to low connectional funding, allowing local churches to prayerfully discern how God is leading them to engage directly in mission—whether by sending and supporting long-term missionaries, partnering with theologically aligned and fruitful missional organizations, or investing in disciple-making to extend God’s Kingdom locally, regionally, and globally.

GMC congregations are encouraged to use the following annual missions health check to help discern their role in fulfilling the Great Commission. Developing a missions strategy and budget can be challenging for churches of any size, but know that God is using congregations of all sizes to reach the unreached through the power of the Holy Spirit.

To support your church in this process, we’ve developed four practical steps—along with helpful suggestions—to guide you as you faithfully step into your God-given calling.

1. Pray



Gather a small leadership team who will pray together and seek God’s direction for your church. Ask God to lead, teach, and inspire you as you begin this process.

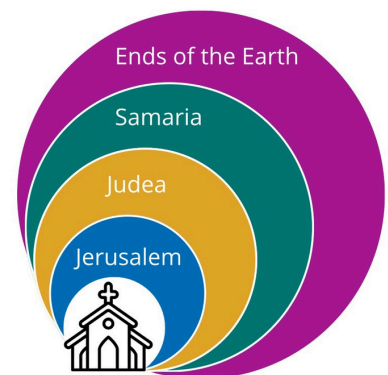
2. Evaluate



Take time to gather information about your church congregation. You can use the Acts 1:8 questions below to evaluate how your church congregation is currently engaged with missions and ministry.

ACTS 1:8 Questions

Every Christian is called to take part in the Great Commission, and the local church is the primary place where believers are intentionally formed and equipped to live out that call. In the opening chapter of Acts, Jesus tells his disciples, **“You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth” (Acts 1:8).**



Our goal as a Global Methodist Church is to see every congregation growing in faithfulness to this Acts 1:8 vision—bringing God’s kingdom to their communities, across cultures, and to the ends of the earth.

Jerusalem represents our local ministries—reaching beyond the walls of the church into places in our communities where the gospel has not yet been heard. **Judea** reflects regional ministries, often involving collaborative efforts across congregations and denominations. **Samaria** points to cross-cultural engagement, reaching people and language groups different from our own, and may include partnerships in other nations. To **the ends of the earth** calls us to bring the gospel to nations and people groups with little or no access to the good news of Jesus Christ—primarily within the 10/40 Window, among populations where fewer than 2% identify as evangelical Christians.

At the heart of our Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and ends of the earth ministries is the call to evangelism and disciple-making. We are able to participate in this work through prayer, faithful service, and generous giving. This health check provides an opportunity to evaluate how your congregation is engaging in this shared mission.

“The mission of Jesus is the reason the Church exists.”

Helping people come to know God through Jesus Christ, making disciples who love God and love others, incorporating them into the Church, and equipping them to join Jesus in His mission - so that God will be glorified among the nations - is at the very heart of what it means to **be the Church**.

Jerusalem

1. Does your church carry out ministry that brings the gospel to the unreached within your community?

For each ministry ask:

- 2. How frequently do we serve this ministry? (prayer, volunteers, donations...)
- 3. Does this ministry evangelize or allow for evangelism?
- 4. Does this ministry create disciples of Jesus?
- 5. Do we make the congregation aware of this ministry - through opportunities to pray, participate, or give?

Ministry Name: _____

Frequency of Involvement: _____

Participates in Evangelism: Yes No

Creates Disciples: Yes No

Is your congregation aware of this ministry?

Ministry Name: _____

Frequency of Involvement: _____

Participates in Evangelism: Yes No

Creates Disciples: Yes No

Is your congregation aware of this ministry?

Judea

1. Does your church partner with regional ministries? Do members of your church volunteer with regional ministries? (List those you know)

For each ministry ask:

2. How frequently do we serve this ministry? (prayer, volunteers, donations...)
3. Does this ministry evangelize or allow for evangelism?
4. Does this ministry create disciples of Jesus?
5. Do we make the congregation aware of this ministry - through opportunities to pray, participate, or give?

Ministry Name: _____

Frequency of Involvement: _____

Participates in Evangelism: Yes No

Creates Disciples: Yes No

Is your congregation aware of this ministry?

Ministry Name: _____

Frequency of Involvement: _____

Participates in Evangelism: Yes No

Creates Disciples: Yes No

Is your congregation aware of this ministry?

Samaria

1. Does your church partner with cross-cultural ministries or a missionary? (List those you know)

For each ministry ask:

2. Has your church provided for this ministry through prayers, service, or a financial gift since the last annual conference?
3. Is this missionary or ministry on the GMC approved partner list?
4. Do we make the congregation aware of this ministry - through opportunities to pray, participate, or give?

Ministry Name: _____

Frequency of Involvement: _____

GMC Approved Partner: Yes No

Is your congregation aware of this ministry?

Ministry Name: _____

Frequency of Involvement: _____

GMC Approved Partner: Yes No

Is your congregation aware of this ministry?

Ends of the Earth

1. Does your church support a ministry or missionary in one of the 10/40 window countries listed in the Definitions section? (List those you know)

For each ministry ask:

- 2. Have you provided for this ministry through prayers, service, or financially since the last annual conference?
- 3. Is this missionary or ministry on the GMC approved partner list?
- 4. Do we make the congregation aware of this ministry – through opportunities to pray, participate, or give?

Ministry Name: _____

Frequency of Involvement: _____

GMC Approved Partner: Yes No

Is your congregation aware of this ministry?

Ministry Name: _____

Frequency of Involvement: _____

GMC Approved Partner: Yes No

Is your congregation aware of this ministry?

Finances:

There are many ways to raise the money needed to financially support the missions. Go to page 13 for more tips on how to get started.

1. How are funds raised for missions in your congregation? Are they a percentage of the total tithed? Raised by collection when there is a need? Pledged yearly? Other?

2. If tithed what percentage is given to missions and where do church tithes go?

3. Are church members aware of how much is given to missions each year? Does Your church annually make a faith promise?



Check out Global Methodist Partners at this link or using this QR code:

<https://tinyurl.com/4wzhezrd>



Jerusalem

Ministry Name: _____
Frequency of Involvement: _____

Participates in Evangelism: Yes No
Creates Disciples: Yes No
Is your congregation aware of this ministry?

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Frequency of Involvement: _____

Participates in Evangelism: Yes No
Creates Disciples: Yes No
Is your congregation aware of this ministry?

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Frequency of Involvement: _____

Participates in Evangelism: Yes No
Creates Disciples: Yes No
Is your congregation aware of this ministry?

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Frequency of Involvement: _____

Participates in Evangelism: Yes No
Creates Disciples: Yes No
Is your congregation aware of this ministry?

Samaria

Ministry Name: _____
Frequency of Involvement: _____

GMC Approved Partner: Yes No
Is your congregation aware of this ministry?

Ministry Name: _____
Frequency of Involvement: _____

GMC Approved Partner: Yes No
Is your congregation aware of this ministry?

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Ends of the Earth

Ministry Name: _____
Frequency of Involvement: _____

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Is your congregation aware of this ministry?

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Frequency of Involvement: _____

GMC Approved Partner: Yes No
Is your congregation aware of this ministry?

3. Consider



1. Are there teachings you can share in your church congregation to help inspire and inform them about God's heart for missions? Consider using some of the options suggested in the resource section.
2. Do you need to organize a prayer team to begin praying for missions and ministry in the church?
3. Do you have a mission policy written out? Refer to the resource section for an example of this document.

4. Celebrate



Does your church regularly hear testimonies from the ministries you are involved with? Is there a way you could regularly share about your church involvement in ministries both locally and globally?

Consider having a missions week or month where your church can hear about all the church's missional activity, celebrate testimonies from the year, meet missionaries and others directly engaged in the missional activities of the church as well as see how they can personally get involved.

Write Your Goals



Based on all the information you have gathered write 2 to 3 meaningful goals for your church in the coming year.

Things you might consider:

1. Commit to a weekly or monthly prayer group where your church will pray for the ministries your congregation is partnered with.
2. Plan a missions week or month where your church will celebrate what you are doing and hear testimonies from these ministries.
3. Share teachings about God's heart to reach the world in children's programs, Sunday services, small groups and more.
4. Pray and seek God for where your church can create Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and Ends of the Earth partnerships.
5. Plan a time when you will fundraise for the ministries your church is involved with.
6. Write down your missions policy.

Assign Responsibility for each task. Decide your next 2 to 3 steps and a timeline for your goals.

Goal 1: _____

NEXT STEPS:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

MINISTRY LEAD: _____

Goal 2: _____

NEXT STEPS:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

MINISTRY LEAD: _____

Goal 3: _____

NEXT STEPS:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

MINISTRY LEAD: _____

Remember to check your progress on each goal at your next meeting and celebrate the work you are accomplishing for God's glory! (HIGHLIGHT THIS) Hang your goals up and check them off. Share progress with the church.

One Church's Story

Among an Unreached People Group

Union Chapel Ministries, Muncie, IN, Rev Gregg Parris

Every Christian and every local church should be intentionally and strategically engaged in fulfilling the Great Commission.

This mantra stems from a serious consideration of the role of the pastor, parishioners and the greater church in fulfilling the Great Commission. It is the result of a careful and prayerful wrestling with the question of the church's apostolic calling. Every pastor knows we have a destiny greater than our local congregation. We must be about the discovery of that destiny and the leaders, strategies, resources necessary to see it fulfilled.

The following is one local church's journey in targeting and reaching into an Unreached People Group: I was first exposed to the idea of Unreached People Groups, the 10/40 Window, etc., at Asbury Theological Seminary under the tutelage of Dr. J.T. Seamands. From that exposure and other references, I became, as a young pastor, a "missions enthusiast." Therefore, our local church developed Great Commission awareness and practices. We routinely supported local and extra local mission initiatives. As we experienced a growing sense of God's call to an Unreached People Group, we realized a more strategic investment of our mission energy and dollars would be to abandon the traditional "shotgun" approach to mission support, i.e. giving as much money to as many cross-cultural workers and agencies as possible, to a "rifle shot" approach, i.e. focusing the vast majority of our energy and resources toward a particular UPG. What followed was a process of discovery lasting six years that culminated in our "adoption of an UPG". God clearly directed us to strategically focus on a nation in Central Asia. We launched our first long-term team, seven people, all members of our local church in 1995. We now have a twenty-eight year story filled with miracles that would fit comfortably into the Book of Acts. Twenty-two parishioners have ministered in Central Asia

To our knowledge, the only exposure to the gospel in that part of the world (along that section of the "Ancient Silk Road") was by cross cultural workers, subsequently martyred, in the fourth century. When we arrived in this traditionally Muslim country in 1995, there were only a few hundred believers in the entire nation. Today there are many thousands of followers of Jesus! Our original MOU stated, "We want to reach as few indigenous people as necessary in order to see a Christ-ward movement established among these peoples."

We continue to support (financial, continuing education, networking) and cultivate meaningful friendships and support paradigms with a good number of indigenous Christian leaders in Central Asia.

Among the many miracles we have witnessed over the years, perhaps my favorite, is from the first young family we reached for Christ in a small obscure village. This young couple had two small boys. Fast forward twenty plus years and today the older of those two boys leads one of our teams planting house churches. Very gratifying.

Our Core Values

1. The local church is God's primary instrument to evangelize the world

This concept is a shock to many, but we believe it is essential to embrace if we are to fulfill the command of Christ to take the gospel to every person. We believe this is scripturally and practically correct. We have a strong commitment to the primacy of the local church in God's plan.

2. Planting new churches is the most effective way to reach lost people.

We believe in working to complete world evangelization. We believe in focusing on planting churches among unreached peoples. We are passionate about church planting.

3. The Senior pastor is the key influence in the local church for the cause of missions.

The pastor must, in cooperation and concert with the church leaders, lead the way to mobilize the local church in missions. The pastor must lead the charge in every area if the local church is to maximize its efforts to reach the world for Christ.

4. The local church must develop a corporate purpose and personality related to missions.

Missions must be who you are as a church, not just what you do. Missions must be your church's personality, not just a program. Missions must be the mission of the church! Acts 1:8 is the corporate strategy for outreach in the local church, encompassing local, regional and global influence.

5. God intends for every believer to be esteemed as a gifted minister on mission with Him to the ends of the earth.

We believe that everyone must be trained and released to evangelize, not just professional clergy. Every believer, no matter how young or how old, is important to God and useful in His kingdom cause. Mobilization requires 1) Biblical Teaching - We must communicate the global heart of God as a basis for missions. 2) Personal Application - Philosophy of life, the way people view themselves in the light of God's global cause, must change. Matthew 6:21-23) Practical Implementation - Avenues of involvement must be created for people to use their gifts, experiences, abilities and resources for His global cause. People must be assisted to identify opportunities and become personally involved (personalization is relevant to the current generation and will become more important to subsequent generations).

6. Team ministry is paramount to planting churches.

We believe that team ministry is a fundamental principle for all relevant ministry, regardless of the ministry focus or aim. The team concept provides support, nurture, encouragement, accountability, submission, appropriate roles and complimentary ministry expressions.

7. We prefer partnerships over mere support relations.

A "support" paradigm is one of supporting others financially in order for them to do ministry on your behalf. This is the traditional mission agency approach: "You give us the resources and we'll do it for you."

We believe in Strategic Partnerships. The “partnership” paradigm implies developing relationships/friendships, acknowledges shared vision/values, out of which grow projects. It must not be an either/or, but a both/and approach. Both “support” and “partnership” approaches are valuable and useful to God. However, it is our conviction that for future generations, the individual cross-cultural workers and mission agencies must see themselves as servants, facilitators, and partners with the local church in the global cause. This shift will enable churches to embrace the New Testament model and allow them to be more effective in fulfilling their God-given role, thus accelerating the cross-cultural mission endeavor.

Therefore, we remain open to synergistic partnerships, believing that much more can be accomplished working together than could ever be accomplished alone.

8. Prayer is essential to fulfilling God’s purposes.

We believe that ultimate fulfillment of the Great Commission will require a great release of God’s power. We believe the church has been called to partner with God in the most important work of prayer. We will continue to enjoin the millions of intercessors God is mobilizing in our day to see His glory released on the nations.

Resources

You can use the Kingdom Advancement Resource Library to find more resources and to get all the materials needed to host an Engage Training.



<https://kingdomadvancement.globalmethodist.org/>

Teachings for Small Groups or Adult Bible Studies

- Momentum Yes: www.momentумыes.com : MomentumYes is a free video series that will inspire and empower you to take the Good News to your neighbors and the nations.
- God’s Heart for the Nations by Jeff Lewis: 8-lesson book study for individual or small group
- Explore the World Christian Lifestyle by Via (formerly Center for Missions Mobilization), <https://store.vianations.org/products/explore>
- The Unfinished Story by Simply Mobilizing, <https://simplymobilizing.com/the-unfinished-story/>: 4 sessions, small group, in-person or online, video and discussion, \$10

Teachings for Children

- Outside the Lines: Connecting Kids to God's Global Purpose, <http://vianations.org/>
- <https://www.mapskids.com/>
- Missions Unpacked for Kids, <https://resources.lcms.org/general/missions-unpacked-for-kids/>
- <https://www.theupstreamcollective.org/post/discipling-children-toward-missions>
- Embrace: Showing and Sharing the Love of Jesus – 6-week small group study on evangelism with accompanying Church Resource kit, and youth and children's curriculum. Also available in 1.5 day workshop format.

Resources to learn more about Unreached People Groups

- Step In by Global Frontier Missions <https://www.globalfrontiermissions.org/step-in>
- Waymakers: www.waymakers.org
- Joshua Project: joshuaproject.net
- Voice of the Martyrs: www.persecution.com
- Operation World: www.operationworld.org
- No Place Left <https://noplacelleft.net>:
- Everywhere to Everywhere <https://www.everywhere2everywhere.org/resources.html>

Events

- MissionRev from The Traveling Team, <https://www.missionrev.org/>: 3-session church-wide conference led by their instructors
- "Beyond these Walls" Conference, <https://beyondthesewalls.com/>

Books

- When Helping Hurts by Brian Fikkert & Steve Corbett
- History of Methodist Missions by Wade Crawford Barclay
- Stetzer, Ed and Daniel Im. Planting Missional Churches: Your Guide to Starting Churches that Multiply. Nashville, TN: B&H Academic, 2016.
- Silver & Bold: Age As an Asset in Global Missions, by Steve Richardson with Maxine McDonald. Pioneers, 2026, 158 pages.

Courses

- The Missions Course by AIRO (formerly The Go Fund), <https://themissionscourse.com/>
- The Chalmers Center: chalmers.org: Together, we're changing how Christians approach poverty alleviation—for good.
- Perspectives: <https://www.perspectivesglobal.org/>

Short-Term Trips

- Standards of Excellence in Short-Term Missions: www.soe.org: equips the short term mission world with excellence.

Other Resources

- World Methodist Evangelism – training, gatherings, and resources to empower Christ followers to share their faith. www.worldmethodist.org
- Every International – provides free video courses and stories as well as other resources to help you engage and share the love of Jesus with international students, refugees, and immigrants in North America. www.everyinternational.com
- Media to Movements <https://mediatomovements.com>
- e3Partners <https://e3partners.org/training-resources/>: Multiplying disciples and churches across the globe until every person & place has been reached for Christ.

Finances

10 Practical Ways to Fund Missions

1.Cast Vision

Give your congregation a clear vision. People give to what they understand and believe in. Regularly share stories, updates, and testimonies that show how missions are making a real difference.

2.Set a Giving Goal

Decide on an amount you want to give as a church. Even small consistent gifts make a big impact in missions.

3.Schedule Dedicated Mission Offerings

Set aside specific Sundays or seasons for mission-focused giving. A clear moment of purpose helps people prepare and give generously.

4.Encourage Your Congregation to make a Faith Promise

A Faith Promise is a voluntary, confidential, annual commitment to give money, over and above a regular tithe, to support missionary work based on trusting God for provision. Individuals ask God what to give to missions and trust Him for that amount.

5.Host Events and Activities

Plan events like dinners, concerts, or community gatherings that both raise funds and increase awareness about missions. You can also consider efforts like bake sales, or auctions.

6.Make It Personal

Give people the opportunity to support specific missionaries or projects. Clear, tangible goals inspire greater generosity.

The history of missions is a history of prayer. Everything vital to the success of the world's evangelization hinges on prayer." — [John Mott, Ethnos Movement International](#)

7. Involve the Whole Church

Encourage participation from all age groups—kids, youth, and adults. When everyone is involved, giving becomes a shared mission.

8. Invite the Church to Give Up Something

Consider sacrificing something for a season (like eating out or coffee) and donate those savings to missions.

9. Give from the General Fund

Pray as a church and consider setting aside a portion of your general fund to give towards mission.

10. Keep Missions in Front of People

Regularly highlight mission needs through announcements, videos, and prayer. Consistent reminders keep the vision alive and active.

Vocabulary

People group: A people group is an ethno-linguistic group with a common self-identity shared by the various members (PG). Members typically share language, cultural characteristics, religion, and common history. People groups don't always live in their country of origin but may exist in a diaspora with each occurrence constituting a different people group, e.g., Kurds of Iraq and Iraqi Kurds living in the US.

The Greek phrase "panta ta ethne" used in Matthew 28:19 (The Great Commission) and typically translated as "nations" is more accurately translated as "people group." In the context of evangelization, "a people group is the largest group within which the Gospel can spread as a church planting movement without encountering barriers of understanding or acceptance" (Lausanne). Barriers of understanding or acceptance might include ethnicity, language, religion, caste, and geography

People groups may be described as reached or unreached and engaged or unengaged. See definitions below.

Reached: Reached refers to the state of having lasting access to the gospel. Key elements of lasting access include: healthy local churches, pastoral training, evangelism and discipleship in

the local language, and Scripture in the local language.

Unreached (Least-reached): Unreached is typically defined as a population with fewer than or equal to 2% Evangelical Christians and fewer than or equal to 5% Professing Christians (JP). The percentage thresholds are based on sociological observations about the critical mass necessary to sufficiently spread ideas to the broader population without outside assistance. (IMB). However, the 2% threshold is problematic because many other factors come into play when analyzing gospel access and advance.

The term Least-reached is often preferential since Reached/Unreached implies an either/or mentality when in reality the status of “reachedness” occurs on a spectrum (JP). Unreached or least-reached can be applied to people groups and places. Unreached is not synonymous with Unsaved or Lost as unsaved and lost people have access to believers, churches, and/or Christian resources (see “Unreached people group”, Rad).

Unreached (Least-reached) people group (UPG): A UPG is “a people group within which there is no indigenous community of believing Christians able to evangelize this people group” (Lausanne). Statistically speaking, these populations consist of fewer than or equal to 2% Evangelical Christians and fewer than or equal to 5% Professing Christians (JP). These are people “among whom Christ is largely unknown and the church is relatively insufficient to make Christ known to its broader population without outside help” (Rad).

Two key factors are typically present in UPGs: 1) The majority of the group may have heard the name Jesus but they know nothing of him or they may have never heard his name, and 2) There is no known church presence or no contact with a community of believers (Rad). Additionally, UPGs often do not have a complete Scripture, or even some Scripture, in either oral or written form, in their native (heart) language. In other words, an unreached people group lacks access to the gospel message.

Similarly, geographic locations where no church planting exists may be referred to as Unreached Places. Churches planted in those locations could serve multiple people groups (IMB).

Engaged: Engaged refers to active church planting being underway. There are four essential elements of effective engagement: pioneering missionary efforts in residence, commitment to work within local language and culture, commitment to long-term ministry, and effort toward a self-sustaining church planting movement (IMB). A UPG might be engaged in that church planting efforts have begun, but until lasting gospel access is established, it is debatable as to whether they are considered reached. Engaged is not the goal; reached is the goal. But people groups must first be engaged to be reached (FV).

Unengaged: Unengaged refers to no known active church planting being underway (JP). In these cases, the essential elements of effective engagement (see Engaged) have not begun or are not all present.

Unengaged unreached people group (UUPG): A UUPG is a people group with no known active

church planting underway. While there might be focused prayer and advocacy for a group, those efforts do not constitute engagement (see Engaged) (IMB). A population of indigenous believers at the 2% or fewer threshold might be present. All UUPGs are a subset of UPGs.

Frontier people group: A frontier people group is a UPG with: 1) virtually no followers of Jesus (<0.1% Christian adherents), 2) no known movements to Jesus (e.g., renewal, Church Planting Movements, Disciple Making Movements), and 3) a need for pioneer cross-cultural workers (JP). Workers sent to these groups usually begin ministry with non-believers rather than partnering with existing believers (as they might in UPGs) because there are no known believers (JP).

The Great Imbalance: The Great Imbalance in missions refers to the fact that 1% of all foreign missions financial resources go to the Least-reached populations of the world and 3% of all cross-cultural workers serve among the Least-reached populations of the world (GFM). These statistics emphasize the need and urgency for strategic gospel engagement to UPGs.

10/40 Window: This is a reference to a rectangular area of North Africa, the Middle East and Asia approximately between 10 degrees north and 40 degrees north latitude. The 10/40 Window is often called "The Resistant Belt" and includes the majority of the world's unreached people groups — approximately 95%.

Be a light and encouragement to other churches!

Take the next step toward **becoming a recognized Acts 1:8 church**
by contacting your conference to learn how to apply.