

MISSION & OUTREACH
@
ST. ANDREW'S
PRINCIPLES, PROCESS & POLICY

(revised 2012)

The Presbyterian Church in Canada has worked hard at developing principles for mission that express who we are as a denomination and how we work with others in our world. The congregation of St. Andrew's upholds these principles as our approach to discerning our vision for mission as a congregation of God's people. We include "outreach" when we speak of "mission" and define it as "mission within the City of Guelph". Some of the following principles may not apply to outreach activities. The principles are as follows:

The Presbyterian Church in Canada's Mission Principles and Partnership

Then his mother and his brothers came; and standing outside, they sent to him and called him. A crowd was sitting around him; and they said to him, "Your mother and your brothers and sister are outside, asking for you." And he replied, "Who are my mother and my brothers?" And looking at those who sat around him, he said, "Here is my mother and my brothers! Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother." *Mark 3:31-35*

The Presbyterian Church in Canada's mission is always carried out in partnership. This is a guiding principle both for the International Ministries, the Women's Missionary Society and Presbyterian World Service and Development arms of our church.

In the case of International Ministries, the partnership is a covenant relationship between two national churches or councils. The priorities of each national body should always be respected.

In the case of PWS&D, partnerships may be with national church bodies or community-based non-government organizations, (NGO's). Partnership agreements aim at mutuality and equality with both partners giving and receiving at different levels. The Women's Missionary Society is an autonomous organization with a strong emphasis on Mission that is part of the PCC.

When visiting our overseas partners, the members of a mission trip are acting as ambassadors for The Presbyterian Church in Canada as well as their own presbyteries and congregations. Sometimes individuals or congregations being visited will approach the team or even individuals with requests, or proposals for projects, twinning or partnerships. The best approach is to record the information and tell them that when they return to Canada their presbytery or congregation will discuss the request or proposal with the national Church Offices and then a decision will be made on how to proceed.

As for Titus, he is my partner and co-worker in your service; as for our brothers, they are messengers of the churches, the glory of Christ.

*Mission & Outreach Coordinating Committee of St. Andrew's
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2 Cor 8: 23

So if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. *Phil 1:17*

The Presbyterian Church in Canada's Mission Principles

...Living in the creative tension of, at the same time, being called out of the world and sent into the world, it (the church-in-mission) is challenged to be God's experimental garden on earth, a fragment of the reign of God, having "the first fruits of the Spirit" (Rom. 8:23) as a pledge of what is to come (2 Cor. 1:22)

David Bosch, Transforming Mission

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.

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.

As stated, The Presbyterian Church in Canada understands mission as relational as expressed in partnership. Any mission trip or mission project should reflect the following principles of partnership as articulated by The Presbyterian Church in Canada. The congregation of St. Andrew's will seek to reflect these principles when discerning its vision for mission.

The Presbyterian Church in Canada's Partnership Principles

The concept of partnership assumes that goals can best be accomplished by two or more organizations that agree to submit themselves to a common task or goal – mutually receiving and giving and surrounded by prayer.

Mutuality

Partnership is equal and involves both partners giving and receiving. Decision-making, resources and other gifts are shared. Glory Dharmaraj in her book Mutuality in Mission states that "This work deals mainly with the missional concept of mutuality, as we consider it a central theological issue the church will have to face in the 21st century."

In other words:

Partnership is mutual it is not one way mission.

Partnership Fosters Independence and Interdependence not Dependence

Partnership fosters self reliance and self support—strong partners moving to reach out to the world rather than focus on survival. Like in marriage the two partners are mutually dependent on each other, each with different gifts and strengths.

In other words:

Partnership fosters independence and self-reliance it does not serve our own need to "do good".

Transparency

Communication and financial matters will be open and honest. Partners are clear about their own understandings, motives and principles of mission. Partners are open about budgets and accountable for finances.

In other words:

Partnership is trusting and transparent; it does not have hidden agendas or use money manipulatively.

The Presbyterian Church in Canada's Partnership Principles continued...

Prophetic Witness

Partners look to Christ and the gospel as they boldly seek to witness to a broken world about God's healing and reconciling love in a way that respects the mission principles of contextualization and indigenization.

In other words:

Partnership is freedom to be a witness to the Gospel, it is not paternalistic.

Hospitality

Mutual hospitality and breaking of bread is one of the great biblical imperatives. The sharing of hospitality breaks down barriers establishes healthy vulnerability and is the foundation for long-term relationships.

In other words:

Partnership is being, at times guest, and at times host. It offers hospitality as if entertaining angels unaware it is not acting as the host in all situations.

Missionaries

Missionaries serve only as guests. They go to the place of mission as guests not hosts. They are strangers, visitors, migrant workers. Once their work is established they move on to a new place to start all over again.

In other words:

Partnership involves people in order to offer a human face to both partners; it is not an imposition of the missionary's sensibilities, culture or sense of timing.

Discerning a Mission Trip or Mission/Outreach Project Together The Process at St. Andrew's

1. If you are interested in participating in a mission trip or have an idea for a congregational mission/outreach project, first speak to the minister or a member of the Session Team responsible for Mission and Outreach about your interest. They may be able to assist you in exploring the opportunities available.
2. Read the document, "Mission & Outreach @ St. Andrew's" to ensure you fully understand and can accept The Presbyterian Church in Canada's principles for Mission and Partnership and St. Andrew's application of

- them. The latter policy will be used as a guide in discerning whether a project/proposal will be recommended to the Session for its endorsement.
3. If you wish to have your chosen mission trip or mission/outreach project officially supported by the congregation of St. Andrew's (to receive financial support from the congregation, be able to solicit support through announcement and advertising and/or organize fundraisers on the church's premises), please request such support formally by writing to the Session in a timely fashion. The letter should include the following:
 - a. Name of organization organizing the mission trip or mission/outreach project;
 - b. Date and duration of trip or timeline of the project;
 - c. If the organization is not The Presbyterian Church in Canada or Presbyterian World Service and Development, please include information on its mission and mandate and a recent Annual Report (not applicable to outreach projects);
 - d. The total cost of the trip or project;
 - e. A detailed itinerary and statement of focus for the trip or an outline of the goals and expectations for the project;
 - f. A personal statement as to why you wish to participate in the trip or why you think that St. Andrew's should undertake the project.
 4. Your letter and any supporting documentation will be received at a regular Session meeting and a decision will usually be made by the following regular Session meeting.
 5. The project/mission trip/proposal will be discussed by the Session as a whole or a Session Team responsible for Mission & Outreach.
 6. In all cases, your letter will be acknowledged as received by the Session.
 7. In situations where the organization is not known to the Session members, a request for more time to research and evaluate the particular organization will be made.
 8. In some cases, you may be asked to meet with the minister and a few of the Session members and/or members of a Team responsible for Mission & Outreach to discuss the trip or project in more detail before a decision is made.

Discerning a Mission Trip or Project Together
The Process at St. Andrew's continued...

9. It is hoped that we, as a congregation of God's people, might make these important decisions together in a spirit of unity and mutual understanding.

10. Any decision will be conveyed in writing and will outline the scope of the congregation's support of your mission trip or project.

Mutual Understandings Policy of St. Andrew's

1. First priority will be given to mission trips and projects that are endorsed or offered by The Presbyterian Church in Canada, Presbyterian World Service and Development and/or the Women's Missionary Society.
2. Trips and projects offered by other non-profit organizations like Presbyterians Aiding Nicaraguans, Habitat for Humanity, Samaritan's Purse, World Vision, Missionary Ventures, etc. will be considered on an individual basis.
3. All Mission Trips and projects will be considered in light of the overall mission and vision of St. Andrew's. It may be that it is not the right time in the life of the congregation to focus attention on a particular mission, trip, or project. Often, the mission and ministry of a congregation is a balancing act between good and good.
4. Appeals for financial or material support of the mission project or trip from the congregation can be made upon receipt of written approval by the Session.
5. Appeals for support for a mission project or trip to congregational groups or teams can be made upon receipt of written approval by the Session. If approval is not granted, this does not prevent individuals from being generous. It is understood, however, that those individual solicitations will be clear in stating the scope of the congregation's level of support for a particular mission project or trip at the outset.
6. On-site fundraising activities may occur upon receipt of written approval by the Session. This includes any congregational advertising for off-site fundraisers.

Mutual Understandings Policy of St. Andrew's continued...

7. The use of the name, St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Guelph in any solicitations for support from community groups/companies/individuals will not be permitted without the written approval of Session.
8. Financial Support of Mission Trips in particular (*see note below*):

*Mission & Outreach Coordinating Committee of St. Andrew's
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- a. Will be offered on a ONE time individual basis in the following ways:
- i. Youth and Young Adults (12 – 25) – may expect that 25% of the cost of their trip up to a maximum of \$500 will be offered by the Session of St. Andrew's as a donation towards the trip (dependent upon available funding)
 - ii. Adults (26 – up) – may expect that 10% of the cost of their trip up to a maximum of \$200 will be offered by the Session of St Andrew's as a donation towards the trip (dependent upon available funding)
 - iii. Depending upon the scope of the Session's endorsement of the trip, individual or group fundraising events may be permitted on-site. The Session's donation as mentioned above is not dependent upon the success of an individual or group's fundraising activities.

Special Note on Mission Trips:

In North America and Europe, mission trips are becoming a very popular way of doing mission in a hands-on way and therefore deserve a special comment in this document. Mission Trips are an excellent way for individuals in congregations to see first hand the meaningful work of our denomination and its partners in different places throughout the world. Many describe the experience as transformative as they grow to know and better understand their hosts and their communities. In participating in a mission trip, one is coming alongside another person to respectfully learn and share in the other's culture, faith and context. The mutual sharing that occurs when we are open to each others' particular situation can both challenge and enrich faith.

It is true that those of us from affluent societies can learn from the rich spirituality and profound faith of people who live with scarcity and poverty. On the other hand, coming from a context of wealth and excess confronts us with the need to reconcile the Gospel with global inequalities that create the scarcity and poverty we are witnessing on our trip. Deciding to go on a mission trip is not a decision to be made lightly. It is not a vacation or a sightseeing tour. It is a decision that is to be made thoughtfully, prayerfully and responsibly.