

# Synod of the Covenant: A Just Peace Church

## 2018 Mission to the U.S.A. Program Application Program Dates: October 12 to November 2, 2018

Name of Church \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State and Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Church Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Church email \_\_\_\_\_

Name of presbytery \_\_\_\_\_

Name of pastor \_\_\_\_\_

Pastor's email (required) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone (required) \_\_\_\_\_

How long has the pastor been serving this congregation? \_\_\_\_\_

Name of associate pastor, if applicable \_\_\_\_\_

Name of lay contact person \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Who will serve as the primary contact for this program? \_\_\_\_\_

Has your congregation participated in the Mission to the USA program in the past?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ If yes, when? \_\_\_\_\_

Congregation's membership \_\_\_\_\_

Please specify the category in which you wish to apply. The travel expense contribution is a suggested donation:

- Congregation of up to 100 members--\$200 contribution toward travel expenses plus \$150 per week gift of cash for mission partner's personal expenses (\$650 total suggested contribution)
- Congregation of up to 200 members--\$400 contribution toward travel expenses plus \$150 per week gift of cash for mission partner's personal expenses (\$850 total suggested contribution)
- Congregation of up to 300 members--\$600 contribution toward travel expenses plus \$150 per week gift of cash for mission partner's personal expenses (\$1050 total suggested contribution)
- Full Supporting Congregation--\$1000 contribution toward travel expenses plus \$150 per week gift of cash for mission partner's personal expenses (\$1450 total suggested contribution)

Congregations can apply in any category. If finances are a hindrance to participation in the program, talk to the program coordinator, and arrangements can be made.

Please answer the following questions, using as much space as needed.

1. How do you hope the congregation will benefit from participation in the Mission to the U.S.A. Program?
2. How do you hope the MUSA program will complement the congregations or presbytery's focus, programs, or efforts?
3. Does your congregation or presbytery have any international partnerships? If so, please describe briefly.
4. Describe your congregation's understanding of its mission in your community and in the world.
5. Describe your worship style and any particular theological outlook.
6. Describe your programming for children and youth, including participation in worship.
7. Describe some specific opportunities and activities in your congregation and in your community in which you might arrange participation for your Mission Partner?
8. What educational events and opportunities will the congregation plan prior to the arrival of your MUSA Mission Partner, in order to learn about his or her home country?
9. Do you have a suggested preference for gender (male or female), or ordination (clergy or lay person)? If so, please explain.
10. Will the pastor and lay contact person be available to attend the orientation at the synod office on Friday, Oct. 12 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and the debriefing session on Friday, Nov. 2 from 10:00 a.m. to noon?  
**Attendance is a very important part of the program.**

Please return this completed form to: [musa@synodofthecovenant.org](mailto:musa@synodofthecovenant.org)

Eileen Best, Program Coordinator  
Synod of the Covenant  
6450 Weatherfield Ct., Unit 1A  
Maumee, Ohio 43537  
Phone: 800-848-1030 ext. 208  
Fax: 419-754-4051

**APPLICATION DEADLINE IS JUNE 1, 2018**

**Mission to the USA**  
**Synod of the Covenant**  
**Suggestions for Hosting a Mission Partner**

The Mission to the USA program is coordinated by the Synod of the Covenant. Each fall the Synod invites church leaders to spend three weeks in the United States. International partner denominations often send pastors. Each of the mission partners is hosted by a local congregation in the Synod. Thank you for your interest in this program. These suggestions are offered to help to make the program go smoothly. But each experience is unique and churches are encouraged to work out plans for their own situation.

Many plans need to be made before the mission partners arrive. A committee should be formed to handle the arrangements. This can be a mission team or a group of people who are interested and gathered for this experience. The church leaders and the pastor are expected to attend an orientation at the beginning of the program and a debriefing at the end. The church is responsible for making all of the arrangements for the three weeks.

**Housing**—the mission partner will stay in the homes of church members. One family could host for the whole time or the time can be shared by up to three families. It is suggested that there be no more than three host homes because becoming accustomed to a new situation too often can be tiring and stressful. The host family provides a welcoming environment. Check with the mission partner about dietary needs. The host family provides all meals unless there are other arrangements. Be sure the Mission Partner is comfortable with any pets in the home. Offer to do laundry or show them how to do it themselves. Access to the internet is greatly appreciated.

**Meals**—all meals will be provided by the church, either with the host family or by others. Church members who are not hosting could invite the Mission Partner to their homes for lunch or dinner or take them to a restaurant.

**Money**—The mission partners have been offered an honorarium for their time. The church needs to provide \$150 in cash for each week of the visit. This can be given weekly or all of it can be given at the beginning of the visit. The mission partner is free to use this money in any way, including taking it home. The church is also asked to help with the cost of the airline ticket. If either of these are a hardship for the church, the synod can help. Money should not keep an interested church from hosting. The synod will reimburse the mission partner for expenses incurred for the trip, such as getting a passport and visa or travel to the airport. The synod makes all of the travel arrangements.

**Scheduling**—the mission partner will participate in the life of the church. He or she can be invited to preach one Sunday (best if it is not the first Sunday to give time to get over jet lag),

lead Bible study, participate in a Presbyterian Women's gathering, teach an adult and/or children's education class, participate in youth group, join in a mission opportunity, attend session or committee meetings, make pastoral calls with the pastor, and anything else that is happening at the church. If possible, provide the mission partner with a quiet place to work with a computer, if needed, and internet access. They may need to prepare sermons or Bible studies and to send emails home.

The church will also want to plan lots of special activities to provide opportunities for everyone to get to know each other. Some ideas are a welcome dinner with food from the mission partner's country, visits to other churches, attend presbytery meeting or event, opportunities to speak to community groups, such as a Rotary or Lions clubs, visits to local schools (all levels) and colleges, a farewell party. Some things can be just for fun—a hike in a park, visits to local attractions, trip to a nearby city. Time for shopping is always appreciated! Ask the mission partner what he or she is interested in seeing or experiencing. Make use of any special talents—musical gifts, working with children, or whatever the mission partner has to offer.

Plan how the mission partner will get from one event to another. A volunteer may be enlisted to be the driver for the day. Keeping track of the schedule and keeping everyone informed can be challenging. One church opened a gmail account so they could use the calendar for the schedule. Anyone who had the password had access to the calendar. It is best if only one person makes changes to the schedule to avoid confusion. Be sure to schedule time for rest and “down time.”

The mission partners want to get to know their host churches, but they also want to share how God is working in their lives and in their country. They have a story to tell. Offer many opportunities for them to do that. Often the best and deepest conversations come in one on one or small group conversations. It is good to have a group that meets with the mission partner multiple times, such as a weekly Bible Study group, the mission team, or a church staff meeting. As trust develops, the quality of sharing deepens. Come to this experience with respect and an open mind for new ideas, new perspectives, and the leading of the Holy Spirit. Expect surprises, deep friendships, and great joy.

For more information about the Mission to the USA program, check the Synod website—

<http://synodofthecovenant.org/synod-ministries/musa/>

Contact Eileen Best, program coordinator, at [musa@synodofthecovenant.org](mailto:musa@synodofthecovenant.org)

or call 419-754-4050 Ext. 208.