

**International Partnership Conference 2017**  
***Best Practices for Mission Partnerships\****  
**Implementation of the Fourteen Resolutions**  
**From the**  
**International Mission Partnership Conference at Nairobi**

**I. Spiritual Development**

*A. Begin with a spiritual aspect such as prayer or Bible study*

- Worship together
  - Exchange sermons
  - Exchange pastors
- Shared Bible study -
  - Partners can alternate writing the Bible study
- Share prayer requests
  - Shared simultaneous prayer times for specific prayers
- Shared devotionals - can be written by partners
- Share partnership concerns, news joys, etc. in weekly bulletin, newsletter or announcements from the pulpit
- Begin and end meetings, gatherings, conferences, phone calls, with prayer
- Hold spiritual/renewal retreats
- Utilize tangible reminders for prayers for partners, i.e., bookmarks, wristbands, pins, etc.

**II. Relationship Development**

*A. Remember that communication is a key to keeping the partnership active*

- Identify point of contact person(s)
- Establish a regular basis of communication
- Use technology
  - Phone call/conference call, email, Skype, Facebook, blog
- Record worship services and share by mail, CD, DVD and online; Skype worship services
- Establish a Memorandum of Understanding( MoU)
- Know channels of communication to report new building projects
- Utilize Web Sites
  - partnership news and developments
  - trip reports
  - announcements, news and photos
  - travel plans
  - share resources
  - welcome new partnerships
  - map of partnership activity
- Always practice candid communication, especially when sharing what does work and what doesn't work.
- Publicize information (bulletin boards, newsletters, bulletins, etc.)

*B. Be in community with one another*

- Exchanges of partner visits
  - Be intentional about ways to share the trip experience upon return home.
- Have Bible study
- Play with children
- Share a meal
- Worship together

- Organize discussion groups
- When working on a project, work side by side
- When partners visit, provide opportunities to participate in church and community programs
- Provide opportunities for visitors to interact with the host congregation (meals, host homes, church meetings/ gatherings, participate in worship)
- Learn language
- Participate in home stays
- Include young children in relationships - VBS, pen pals, Sunday School classes

*C. Recognize diversity in gifts and strengths*

- Identify gifts and skills before trips - interview potential travelers to discover gifts that individuals bring to the group -
- share training resources on the web site
- Receive the gifts of others....hospitality, evangelism, trades, occupations
- Listen, ask questions , don't just do
- Match gifts and skills in cross cultural exchange - skills needed vs. skills available

*D. Learn from one another through education and orientations*

- Reverse ambassadorship and communicating the experience - make this the expectation in training before the trip - give a face to the place
- Seek to understand and appreciate cultural/ethnic differences
- Allow sufficient time for training and orientation
- Include post trip debriefing
- Be intentional about setting times for trips and visits
- Provide opportunities for visitor to participate in worship/church school/Presbytery/schools to share news and culture
- Use Mission curriculum for Sunday school, VBS, and youth group
- Promote and support leadership development (lay leader, pastor, elders, and evangelists)
- Promote and support leadership development especially for women

*E. Be sure that acceptance is always present*

- Come together for needs assessment and listen
- Use a written MoU
- Be sure that all stakeholders are on board
- Inform leadership and seek approval when warranted
- Plan for sustainability

### **III. Partnership Development**

*A. Shape and share a common vision*

- Seek spiritual guidance - pray, wait, discern
- Through building relationships you can shape and share a vision - get to know the community
- Understand that common vision is more than the project
- BUILD THE RELATIONSHIPS! - Not always linked to projects
- Go beyond a project, use more than project language to shape vision
- Take the time required to develop a mutual vision - don't rush - assess needs
- Practice patience - takes time
- Understand nature of partnership
- Plan retreats for the purpose of developing a common vision

*B. Develop a structure that is based through channels and not individuals*

- Leadership will change during the life of a partnership
- Know the community to know the channels
- Structure should be broad, not with just a pastor
- Share extracts of minutes of Session meetings, partnership meetings to know that you are working with an institution, not an individual
- Create a partnership board, partnership committee, management committee
- Be inclusive of the whole community
- Share responsibilities

*C. Establish proper accountability*

- Determine what works for the relationship when moving into a partnership, no one size fits all
- Create MoU for partnership development - employ addendums for projects within partnership

*D. Continually do research and assess needs*

- Do reciprocal needs assessment:
- Seek information
  - national news (print, TV & web)
  - research relevant topical material - history, biographies, mission texts
  - use online information from mission co-workers, students - *PCEA/PC(U.S.A.) information*

*G. Meet every three years (in Kenya) as an International Partnership Network*

- PCEA International partners will facilitate
- Develop a steering committee
- Publicize on web site and via email well in advance

*Unanimously adopted on Thursday, February 23, 2017.  
And subscribed to by*

1. *Presbyterian Church of East Africa;*
2. *Presbyterian Church, USA*
3. *Church Of Scotland;*
4. *Presbyterian Church of Korea*
5. *Kenya Mission Network*