

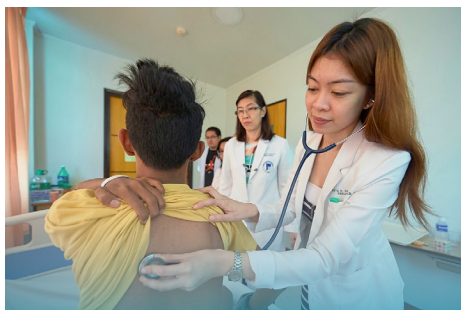


Missionary Service Covenant Partner Relationships

Covenant. It's a big word with lots of meaning. Latin in origin, covenant means "coming together." Covenants are common throughout Scripture. The Hebrew translation of covenant used in the Old Testament is "to bond together or fetter." The Greek translation in the New Testament is "binding together." A biblical covenant is a relationship based on mutual commitments, typically involving promises, obligations and rituals.

The United Methodist Discipline states "our connectionalism is ...a vital web of interactive relationships" (Book of Discipline 2016, P 132).

Covenant Partner Relationships build upon these already understood connectional relationships and provide an opportunity for missionaries and churches or individuals to support one another spiritually, emotionally, missionally and financially.



Not all of us are called to mission service but all of us can participate in *missio Dei*—God's mission. **Covenant Partner Relationships** provide opportunities to journey with a missionary serving in health care, education, pastoral leadership, agriculture, justice and advocacy by supporting one another with prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness. **Covenant** with a missionary strengthens the church as it makes disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

The cost to support a global missionary for one year is \$69,806. Through the connectional system, local churches, annual conferences, friends and family have the opportunity to support a missionary through **Covenant Partner Relationships**. Suggested monthly donations are \$2,500, \$1,000, \$500, \$50, \$10/person/church or other amounts of the donor's choosing.



Photos: Paul Jeffrey

Those in covenant with missionaries

- pray for their health, safety and work and are similarly included in the missionary's prayers,
- communicate regularly with the missionary through email, social media, Zoom or Skype,
- host the missionary virtually or in-person, and
- invite the missionary to teach a Sunday School class, read Scripture in worship or lead a VBS session.

Access a list of over 200 missionaries in 60 countries who would welcome your support.

Complete the **Covenant Partner Relationships** form in support of a missionary.

umcmmission.org/covenantrelationships