

## Discerning God's Call for Your Church

Your mission committee has an important job. How will you be good stewards? There are so many needs and organizations to minister to those needs. How do you decide what to support or who to partner with? What is your congregation passionate about? Does the ministry match up with what/who your church feels God is calling you to participate in?

- ❖ **Pray for where God wants you to join Him. We don't do mission God does.**
- ❖ **Read and dwell in scripture – See where God is working and who God is calling you to partner with.**  
**Scripture to dwell in:**
  - **How does this ministry make disciples for Christ?**
    - **Romans 10:13-14** *"For, Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved. But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him?"*
  - **How does this ministry show the love of Christ to all people?**
    - **Acts 1:8** *"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem (your community), in all Judea (your country), and Samaria (the depressed or undesirable), and to the ends of the earth"* (unreached people) This is not an option – Jesus commanded us to make disciples in our neighborhoods and around the world. Is this ministry directed towards urban, small town, rural? Is it focused on unreached people groups? Is the ministry focused locally, nationally or internationally?
  - **How does this ministry empower people to become all God intends them to be?**
    - **1 Thessalonians 5:11:** *"Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing".*
  - **How does this ministry support the physical needs of the "least of these"?**
    - **Micah 6:8** *"What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?"* Also, **Matthew 24:34-40**
  - **How does this ministry help us to build a relationship with others or how can we actively participate in this ministry?**
    - **Ecclesiastes 4:9-10** *"Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. For if they fall, one will lift up the other; but woe to one who is alone and falls and does not have another to help."*
    - How much involvement will the church have with this ministry?
      - Financial support?
      - What are the opportunities to build a relationship with the partner?
        - ◆ Are you supporting a missionary? They are a great bridge connecting you to the people in another place.
        - ◆ Are you supporting a long term partnership such as the Presbytery's Sudan/South Sudan partnership or the Dominic Republic Partnership?
      - Are there opportunities to visit a partner in field?
      - Are there members actively participating in the ministry?
  - **Is this ministry financially accountable?**
    - **1 Timothy 6:10:** *"For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many grief's."*
    - Money can be for good purposes but if given without checks we can actually bring disaster on those we are helping. Good resource books: "When Helping Hurts" by Steve Corbett and "Toxic Charity" by Robert D. Lupton
    - Is most of the money given going to the ministry or eaten up in administration costs? 85% or more to ministry
- ❖ As you envision your mission planning include resources for mission education and mobilization of your members such as conferences, mission trips, mission education events, study using books/video/audio resources.