

DIOCESE OF CONNECTICUT
COMPANIONS IN MISSION COMMITTEE
Getting Started in Mission Partnerships

I. Dream

Vocation is “the place where your deep gladness meets the world’s deepest need.” Buechner

- ◆ Have you heard a call to you about a specific place/ministry?
- ◆ Has God been nudging you? (*Dreams, coincidences, scripture*)
- ◆ What are you passionate about?
- ◆ What pains you most?
- ◆ What connections already exist in your parish/town/family?

Prayer: Ask God to show you where you’re being called.

II. Discovery

- ◆ Investigate the issue or locale – read, travel, talk to others
- ◆ Start networking; talk to people who are working in that area. Call Companions in Mission.
- ◆ Start to build a list of questions – and answers.
- ◆ Find out who else here is interested in that kind of work or part of the world.
- ◆ Establish contact with someone in that area.

Prayer: Ask God to lead you to the people and information you need, to open doors. .

III. Discernment

- ◆ What do you need to go further?
- ◆ What gifts do you bring/ what gifts do you need?
- ◆ Who do you need to go further?
- ◆ Who are your partners in the other place? Meet with them and explore mutuality.
- ◆ How will you connect spiritually with your partners – in worship, prayer...
- ◆ What is God saying? Get people in your parish praying with you and for you and the proposed partnership/project. Don’t do this without prayer!

Prayer: Ask God to show you the gifts and resources – and ask for confirmation of this call.

IV. Development

- ◆ Gather a committed steering group together. (*If possible, send some of them to the place you’re feeling called to work, to build more people-to-people connections – or bring someone to the U.S.*)
- ◆ Develop mission statement, clear goals, a timeline, and budget. (*Not set in stone, but something to work with*)
- ◆ Develop action plans re: fundraising, publicity, team-building, mission trips, the project itself – communicate with your partners the whole way.
- ◆ Build buy-in and support in your parish – make it “our” project, not “Kate’s Project” - make presentations, write articles

- ◆ Gather a prayer-team that will intentionally keep the project in prayer and offer spiritual support, discernment and wisdom.

Prayer: Ask God to guide your planning and to bless your plans, to bring you the resources you will need.

V. Dissemination (Spreading Seeds)

- ◆ Identify potential partners – who else might want in?
- ◆ Solicit support in the wider community – think civic organizations, corporations, media. Make presentations, write articles, send photos
- ◆ Solicit support from other churches.
- ◆ Invite your congregation to think creatively about how to support the project, to invite their friends and family in (Christmas cards, dinner parties, concerts)
- ◆ Scatter broadly - use every opportunity to talk about the project/invite others into it.

Prayer: Ask God to show you fertile fields, to bless your seed sowing.

VI. Deployment

- ◆ Start putting your plans into action.
- ◆ Get the business support you need to maintain accountability to partners and funders – accounting, legal advice, public relations, (letterhead?)
- ◆ Look into whether or not you need to set up a non-profit organization.
- ◆ Get your fundraising organized and rolling steadily.
- ◆ Establish effective methods of communicating overseas (it's worth spending money to help your partners get internet connections!). Be sensitive to cultural differences in communicating – notice when you've been obscure or offensive and talk it through.
- ◆ Keep refining the plan with your partners – plan to have someone from your group visit the project at least every 6 months.

Prayer: Ask God to bless your plans, to protect your team, to multiply your offerings.