

Mission Policy Agreement
United Methodist Volunteers In Mission
New York Annual Conference

(Read prayerfully, sign and mail it to your team leader)

I realize that the following commitment is crucial to the effectiveness, quality, and positive expression of our mission together. As a participating member of the United Methodist Volunteers in Mission team, I agree to:

1. Lift up Jesus Christ with my thoughts, words, and actions.*
2. Develop and maintain a servant attitude toward the people our team serves as well as toward each team member.
3. Pray for and support my team leader and his/her decisions.
4. Respect the host's religious views, realizing that different people have different expressions of faith.
5. Accept the ministry that is going on in the area where I am serving as well as the local approach to the mission, though it may differ from my own approach.
6. Strive for harmony among team members, hosts, and people of the hosts' society, keeping in mind local conditions and customs. To do this I will follow the teachings of Christianity, the Golden Rule, and local societal customs and laws; avoid local taboos; use common sense and good judgment in all things; be considerate, tolerant, and patient with other customs, beliefs, and needs; and generally set a good Christian example.
7. **Abstain from using alcohol, tobacco, illegal drugs, and profanity; wearing inappropriate clothing; and engaging in other objectionable behavior, from the time of my departure until my return home.**
8. Refrain from negativism and complaining. Travel and ministry outside my church may present unexpected and even undesired circumstances. However, my support and creativity will improve the situation.
9. Refrain from gossip. If it is not true, good, and positive, I will not say it.
10. Remember that I am a servant of Jesus Christ called to be in ministry with the host team. I will serve as best I can so that both the spiritual purpose and the task of the mission will be accomplished.

***Volunteers who desire to serve in an emergency or chronic disaster setting are asked to show their faith and love by what they do, not by what they say. It is important to be extremely sensitive to the mission context. Proselytizing, converting others to United Methodism, preaching, and praying publicly are inappropriate.**

Signature

Date