



**CHURCH OF EXCELLENCE IN MISSION CRITERIA**  
***“ENCOURAGING CHURCHES in MISSION and OUTREACH”***

*Effective January 1, 2017 - December 31, 2020*

1. Identify a Mission Leader who is approved by the church/charge conference.
2. Establish missions as a priority for your church by:
  - Forming a Biblically based Mission Strategy.
  - Providing a means of communicating mission and outreach information on a regular basis within your church.
  - Planning a calendar of year of mission experiences for children, youth, and adults.
3. Plan and implement an annual mission celebration event.
4. Participate in the GBGM Missionary Covenant Relationship program **or** establish a continuing relationship with a United Methodist Missionary.
5. Participate in at least one sustained local mission outreach program.
6. Participate in a mission trip or mission project outside the local community.
7. Essay or devotion: “How mission outreach has blessed my church”.
8. Pay apportionments in full.
9. Collect special offerings or provide financial assistance to:
  - Housing and Homeless (2nd Sunday in February)
  - One great hour of sharing (4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent)
  - Wesley Woods (2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in May)
  - Bishop’s Annual Conference Mission Appeal (Late May or Early June)
  - United Methodist Children’s Home (3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in September)
10. Subscribe to the New World Outlook.
11. Contribute to or participate in an Advance Project in 3 of the areas listed:
  - GBGM Advance
  - North Georgia Conference Advance
  - UMCOR material resources (cleaning buckets, health...)
12. Provide support for one of the NGC Bridges initiatives through participation, giving or hosting a workshop for any one of the Bridges:

East Africa  
Russia

El Salvador  
Philippines

Bahamas  
World Methodist Evangelism

Action Ministries of the North Georgia Conference

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FOR MORE INFORMATION, GO TO  
[www.ngumc.org](http://www.ngumc.org)

## 2017-2020 Church of Excellence in Mission

### *Amplifying information for criteria*

Use the Church of Excellence Application Form to provide contact information found on the NGC web site <http://www.ngumc.org/>. Criteria for qualification are listed on a separate page. **List these criteria by number on a separate page to describe how your church has participated in those areas.** Forward the information by email to the members listed on the bottom of the application form. The deadline for receipt is January 31<sup>st</sup> of the following year. Results will be announced by email no later than March 31<sup>st</sup>. Awards are presented at Annual Conference.

1. A mission leader is the contact person for COE information and serves as the leader of the church mission team. He/she will also be the one to develop the annual mission plan for the year.

#### 2. Implementation of a Mission Strategy

- Making Outreach a goal for your church will require direction on the part of the mission leaders. Take time to prayerfully consider your call to mission and outreach by being intentional and Biblically based. You may consider but not be limited by the Biblical affirmations of mission listed below. Choose any biblical verse that exemplifies the mission nature of your individual church.

Isaiah 42:6-9

Mark 1:17

Genesis 12:1-2

Acts 1:8

Luke 4:18-19

Matthew 22:36-40

Micah 6:6-8

John 17:20-21

Matthew 25:34-40

Matthew 5:13-16

Ephesians 4:11-13

Matthew 28:19

- A mission corner, bulletin board, notes in the worship bulletin, e-mail updates or a mission moment during the church worship service are ways to communicate the mission program of your church. Tailor the means of communication that best works for your own church.
- Attach a copy of your church mission calendar of events with the COE application form.

3. The annual mission event is a celebration of the mission ministry of the church and provides an opportunity to display mission opportunities available for your congregation. This event provides opportunities and invitation for those who may or may not have been involved in mission. This may be done by testimony of those who have participated in mission or by providing information to those who may not be involved. Support and information is available from Scott Parrish at 678-533-1374 or [scott.parrish@ngumc.net](mailto:scott.parrish@ngumc.net).

4. Participate in the Covenant Relationship program with a GBGM missionary or an equivalent of a Methodist sponsored missionary program.

This partnership is more than a financial commitment. It is a dynamic relationship where the church and missionary pray for one another and communicate regularly. By deepening its own awareness of the struggles and triumphs of the missionary, the congregation participates in a work that is truly connectional. A GBGM covenant relationship form is included on page 5 of this document. The GBGM Covenant Relationship program is established when a church partners with a missionary commissioned by the General Board of Global Ministries. The church provides financial and spiritual support for the program of the missionary. The missionary covenants to communicate and establish a relationship with the congregation. Financial support is specified as \$5 per church member per year up to \$2,500 for the entire congregation. For example, a church with 100 members would covenant \$500/year for three years for a total of \$1500. A church with 500 or more members would covenant \$2,500/year for 3 years for a total of \$7,500. Your church is always welcome to support the missionaries at a higher level. You may go to the web site <http://umcmmission.org> and click on "MISSIONARIES" (bottom of page) then "missionary profiles" or contact any of the individuals listed on the bottom of the COE application for help in selecting a GBGM covenant missionary or to invite an itinerating missionary. For missionary contact or recommendations for missionary support, Scott Parrish at 678-533-1374 or [scott.parrish@ngumc.net](mailto:scott.parrish@ngumc.net); or Terry Raymond at [terry767@bellsouth.net](mailto:terry767@bellsouth.net) or 770-843-2791.

If the missionary is not associated with GBGM the covenant relationship must be documented. A statement of giving must be provided with the application form. The amount given must follow the guidelines of the GBGM financial support as stated above. The missionary must be affiliated with the United Methodist Church (deacon, deaconess, home missioner or elder).

## 2017-2020 Church of Excellence in Outreach

### *Amplifying information for criteria—continued*

5. Local missions are those that are in the vicinity of your church and are of an *on-going nature*. It may be a woman’s shelter, food pantry, clothes closet, visitation ministry or any other local ministry that serves your community.
6. A mission project or trip that is not in your local area or a mission trip outside the community of your church. A trip to the Sager Brown UMCOR depot in Baldwin, LA to help assemble material resource kits is an example. Other examples: Action Ministries, the NGC Methodist Children’s Home, and Red Bird Mission [www.rbmission.org/Ministries](http://www.rbmission.org/Ministries) or any one of “The Bridges” mission initiatives of the North Georgia Conference. *You may know where there is need in your own county or district. A mission trip to another state or an international mission trip will also satisfy the criteria.* This criterion emphasizes church (*not individual*) participation in a mission project that may be on-going or of limited duration. It is encouraged to have a mission team leader trained in the “6 Best Practices” of UMVIM in last 3 years. For UMVIM Best Practices go to [http://umvim.org/send\\_a\\_team/international/international\\_overview.html](http://umvim.org/send_a_team/international/international_overview.html)
7. Essay or devotion: “How mission outreach has blessed my church”. (500 words or less). You may include a picture of the mission activity. With your permission, the mission moment may be selected to appear on the conference website as a Monday Morning devotion.
8. Pay apportionments in full. Self-explanatory.
9. Collect the following offerings or provide financial assistance to each of the following:
- |  |               |                                     |
|--|---------------|-------------------------------------|
| Housing and Homeless   | Advance #2950 | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday in February  |
| One Great Hour of Sharing  | Advance #1010 | 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent      |
| Wesley Woods   | Advance #1150 | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday in May       |
| The Bishop’s A.C. Mission Appeal   | Advance #1145 | Annual Conference                   |
| United Methodist Children’s Home   | Advance #1000 | 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday in September |
| Or contact directly @ <a href="http://www.umchildrenshome.org">www.umchildrenshome.org</a> |               |                                     |
10. The church or mission leader of the church subscribes to the New World Outlook. This is the Methodist magazine of mission activity, emphasis and work of the church through the General Board of Global Ministries. Subscribe online at <http://www.umcmmission.org/find-resources/new-world-outlook>. 2016 Cost is \$24 for 1 year, \$42 for 2 years, \$60 for 3 years.
11. Contribute to or participate in an Advance project in 3 of the areas listed below:
- GBGM advance <http://www.umcmmission.org/Give-to-Mission/The-Advance>
  - North Georgia Advance NGC advance numbers beginning with 10xx to 20x. <http://www.ngumc.org/funds>
  - UMCOR material resources <http://www.umcmmission.org/>  
(changed to keep on one line with 3 bullet points)
12. Support one of the North Georgia Conference Bridges Initiative. A detailed description NGC Bridges is found on the North Georgia Web site at <http://www.ngumc.org/bridges>.

**2017-2020 Church of Excellence in Outreach**

*Amplifying information for criteria—continued*

**BRIDGES Conference Advance Designated Gifts Numbers and Contact Persons**

1045 Bridges - General Fund

1078 Bridges - Action Ministries Rev. John Moeller at [jmoeller@actionministries.net](mailto:jmoeller@actionministries.net)

1075 Bridges - East Africa

Rev. Bernice Kirkland at [bernice.kirkland@ngumc.net](mailto:bernice.kirkland@ngumc.net) or Rev. Tonya Lawrence at [tonya.lawrence@ngumc.net](mailto:tonya.lawrence@ngumc.net)

1070 Bridges – Bahamas

Rev. Richard Winn at [richard.winn@ngumc.net](mailto:richard.winn@ngumc.net) or Stephen Soulen at [stephen.soulen@ngumc.net](mailto:stephen.soulen@ngumc.net)

1060 Bridges - El Salvador

Rev. Carol Cook at [carol.cook@ngumc.net](mailto:carol.cook@ngumc.net)

1055 Bridges – Israel

Rev. Scott Parrish at [scott.parrish@ngumc.net](mailto:scott.parrish@ngumc.net)

1068 Bridges – Philippines

Rev. Kenny Ott at [kenny.ott@ngumc.net](mailto:kenny.ott@ngumc.net)

1065 Bridges – Portugal

Rev. Dana Everhart at [dana.everhart@ngumc.net](mailto:dana.everhart@ngumc.net) or Rev. Joseph McBrayer at [joseph.mcbrayer@ngumc.net](mailto:joseph.mcbrayer@ngumc.net)

1072 Bridges - Russia/Moscow

Rev. Doug Thrasher at [doug.thrasher@ngumc.net](mailto:doug.thrasher@ngumc.net)

1077 Bridges - World Methodist Evangelism

Winston Worrell at [winston.worrell@ngumc.net](mailto:winston.worrell@ngumc.net)

- See more at: <http://www.ngumc.org/bridges#sthash.mPJtIqD.dpuf>

For further information, contact Scott Parrish, Idelia Ulmer, or Terry Raymond. Contact information is at the bottom of the “Criteria” page of this document packet.