

First United Methodist Church of Hershey

Guidelines for Fundraising and Grants for Short-term Missions and Work Camps

Background

We believe that short term missions and work camps are a vital part of our faith (James 2: 14-17). Raising financial support can be difficult hurdle for short-term missions. However raising financial support may be one way of helping each member to develop an ability to depend on Christ in preparation for the mission work ahead. Raising support can be another step to understanding your walk with the Lord. We believe that where God guides, he also provides (Joshua 1: 9, Philippians 4: 6, Matthew 25: 31-46).

Recommended Procedures

Because the FUMC Benevolence Budget is limited, we encourage short-term mission and work camp participants to fund their trips through personal finances and/or support of family and friends. We suggest participants send out letters of request for both financial and prayer support. After returning from the trip, we also ask participants to send a follow-up letter regarding the experience to the Mission Committee as well as to all those who supported the participant financially or in prayer. Participants may engage in other fundraising activities such as bake sales or other similar types of fundraising. However, if these activities will take place at the church or on church property, participants must first obtain consent of the church council. Approval of consent may be initiated by speaking with the council chair.

Occasionally a team member cannot raise enough funds and does not have the personal resources to pay for the balance of the trip. In this case, the Mission Committee will also consider giving financial assistance based on the following guidelines:

1. When at least half of the announced trip cost is raised, a grant of up to $\frac{1}{4}$ of the announce cost may be requested (the team leader will designate the trip cost). All requests for grants from the missions committee should be submitted in writing at least one month prior to the event. Grant applications can be obtained from the church office.
2. Funds received for the event should be turned over to a mission team or work group registrar appointed by the group and approved by the Missions Committee. The registrar will then establish an account for funds received from individuals and deposit the funds with the church treasurer. If the team has a balance in their account after the event, the balance will not be returned, but placed in an account to be used for future mission trips.