



# Fairhope United Methodist Church

155 South Section Street  
Fairhope, Alabama 36532  
(251) 928-1148  
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## Adult Short-Term Mission Journey Application (Complete and return to Team Leader)

Please complete the following application to help inform the Fairhope UMC Mission Committee of your desire and qualification to participate in a mission journey. Please submit this application by the deadline date. Please print clearly and answer all questions to the best of your ability, using the back of pages if necessary. The Fairhope UMC Mission Committee would like to thank you for your interest in spreading the word of Christ to others!

### General Information

Mission trip for which you are applying \_\_\_\_\_  
Dates of Intended Project \_\_\_\_\_ Application Deadline \_\_\_\_\_  
Today's Date \_\_\_\_\_ Estimated cost of trip \_\_\_\_\_  
Name (as it appears on passport) \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone (Home) \_\_\_\_\_ (Work) \_\_\_\_\_ (Cell) \_\_\_\_\_  
Email Address (Home) \_\_\_\_\_ (Work) \_\_\_\_\_  
May we contact you at your work email address? \_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Citizenship: \_\_\_\_\_  
If you are not a U.S. citizen, will the host country grant you a visa?  
Marital Status  
If married, have you confirmed your spouse's approval of your participation?  
Passport Number \_\_\_\_\_ Passport Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_  
T-shirt size:

Do you have any health, medical, or dietary restrictions? If so, please explain.

Are you currently taking any prescription medication for medical reasons?  
If so, please describe.

**Church Involvement**

- 1) Please mark as appropriate: I am \_\_\_ a member \_\_\_ a non-member  
\_\_\_ a regular attendee \_\_\_ a new attendee of Fairhope UMC (less than 6 months).
- 2) With what ministries at Fairhope UMC have you been involved?
  
- 3) If you are not involved with Fairhope UMC, please describe your present involvement with your home church. Please give details of ministry contact person's name and information.

**Mission Experience**

- 1) Why do you want to be part of this particular mission journey?
  
- 2) Have you participated in a short-term mission journey in the past? If "yes", when and where?
  
- 3) How might your skills, talents, training or gifts be useful on this particular project?
  
- 4) What is your experience with languages other than English? Are you fluent in a language other than English?
  
- 5) What are your expectations regarding this journey?

### **Mission Commitment**

1) **A mission journey requires a major time commitment.** In addition to the trip itself, the team meets for training prior to the trip. After the trip, all projects require a debriefing meeting and a report to the church. Will you commit to the necessary time requirements for this journey?

2) What possible time conflicts might you have during the preparation and debriefing periods?

3) Relationship building is a challenging, yet rewarding, part of any team experience. Failure to comply with your trip's Team Leader or the Fairhope UMC Mission Committee could jeopardize your participation in this, and future, trips. Are you willing to respect and submit to the authority of the Leadership of the team?

4) As a team member and/or leader, I agree to make all recordings, photographs and images I capture during my trip available to Fairhope UMC for duplication at the expense and discretion of Fairhope UMC. I grant permission to Fairhope UMC to use images or recordings captured of me during the trip without recompense or further notification. I Agree I Do Not Agree

5) You will need to raise your own financial and prayer support for this project (discussed later). Are you committed to this process and willing to trust God's direction through the results?

6) Various cultures hold different attitudes toward certain behaviors. Do you **hereby pledge**, for the sake of Christ's church worldwide, **to follow the guidance of the Team Leader and the expectations set forth in the "Participants Guidelines for Mission Journeys"** in all matters including matters such as appropriate attire, touching between the sexes, dancing, use of alcohol and tobacco, etc.?

7) Please write a brief testimony describing how you became a Christian and your spiritual journey since.

**Participant Guidelines for Mission Journeys  
(Read and keep for future reference)**

**I. General Guidelines**

- A. All participants must have received Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.
- B. It is the responsibility of the individual to obtain all necessary documentation (passports/visas) and vaccinations that are required for the journey.
- C. Youth on overseas journeys (outside the US borders) should have previously participated in a domestic journey and cross cultural training. Exceptions should be presented on the recommendation of the Team Leader to the Mission Committee for Approval.
- D. Expressions of boyfriend/girlfriend relations should be avoided in order to respect the customs of the culture in which you are serving.
- E. All team members shall be responsible for raising their own support.
- F. All team members are responsible for participating in fundraising for specific projects on their trips (if any).
- G. Every participant shall send out financial and prayer support letters or in the event an individual intends to provide his or her own financial means to participate, he or she shall still send out a letter raising prayer support.
- H. Upon completion of the Mission Journey, team members are expected to share your mission experience with your congregation.

## II. Guidelines for Fund Raising

Fundraising for mission teams provides not only the resources for the trip but also increases overall awareness of the project and prayer support for its success. The main expense in most trips is the cost of the individual participating. In-country expenses include lodging, meals, transportation. Airfare is the expense getting you in-country. Preparation expenses include stateside items needed to prepare you for your journey (passport, shots, visas, etc). As a team member you are asked to cover these costs through personal means or support letters. You are required to raise enough to cover your preparation costs and at least half of the airfare and in-country costs combined. **If circumstances prevent you from raising the required funds please contact your team leader or Missions Director to arrange other options.** If you are able to surpass your obligation, funds will be applied to other members.

Support letters should include the following:

**A.** The team is being sent from Fairhope United Methodist Church (FAIRHOPE UMC). You may include the coordinating ministry or agency such as SIFAT (Servants in Faith and Technology) and UMVIM (United Methodist Volunteers in Mission) etc., but the local church is the sending body in accordance with Acts 13:1-3.

**B.** The Letter should indicate that the participant is raising support for the **mission team** that they are a part of.

**C.** Letters should be reviewed and approved by the Team Leader before being sent.

**D.** Letters should not be sent to members of Fairhope UMC unless the recipient requests a letter from the participant or the recipient is a member of the participant's family. Our reason for this is two-fold:

1. To prevent overwhelming the congregation with requests for financial support from our teams.
2. To use the support raising process as an outreach to family and friends.

**E.** Parents must be involved in sending out support letters of their children.

**F.** The recipients of support letters should be from that group of people that would logically receive a Christmas card or a wedding invitation for the children in the family. An appropriate number of letters should be sent out depending on the cost of the journey.

**G.** Contribution Guidelines included in each letter:

1. Checks should be made out to Fairhope United Methodist Church Missions or Fairhope UMC Missions.
2. A note should be attached to the check saying who the gift is designated for. Your name should not be put on the check itself. A form should be supplied to the donor for this purpose. (Note: If an individual's name is on the check itself, the IRS will not allow it to be used as a tax deduction.)
3. All checks should be sent directly to Fairhope United Methodist Church. An addressed envelope should be sent out with each letter using this address:

**Fairhope United Methodist Church c/o Mission Ministry  
155 South Section Street  
Fairhope, AL 36532**

4. Fairhope UMC will provide participants with the total amount of support an individual has raised and a list of donors who contributed to their support. Participants will not be provided with the amounts of the individual donations in accordance with Matthew 6:1-4.

**H.** Thank you letters, if sent, should be sent to all who received a request letter, thanking them for their prayers regardless of confirmation of their gift.

### **III. Guidelines for Use of Money Received Designated for Mission Journeys:**

**A.** Each team is responsible to raise the support needed to cover the cost of the journey.

**B.** Each participant is responsible to raise her/his support to cover the cost of his/her participation on the trip. Parents are responsible to see that their children fulfill this commitment according to these guidelines.

**C.** In the event that an individual raises more than his/her share of the team expenses:

1. The funds go to cover the shortfall if there are team members who make a sincere effort to raise their support but are unable to do so.
2. Most teams generate additional unexpected expenses on the field. Excess money will be used to cover these expenses.
3. Unless arrangements are made in advance, excess funds raised by an individual are not "kept in account" or carried over for use by the individual from one journey to another.

**D.** In the event that an individual's account falls short, they will be responsible for reimbursing Fairhope UMC the difference within a month following the return of the team.

**E.** In the event that a team has a surplus, the excess funds shall roll over to the Adult Missions Fund to assist future teams.

### **VI. Issues of Personal Choice**

We understand that smoking and drinking are not specifically prohibited by Scripture and that the debate will continue on whether or not Christians ought to smoke/drink. Our position on the use of tobacco and alcohol during projects is not based on a biblical mandate; rather it is born out of our experience in cross-cultural ministry. The use or purchase of alcohol is prohibited. Participants who use or purchase alcohol will be sent home at their own expense. No smoking will be allowed on either youth or adult projects.

**PERSONAL COVENANT**  
**Short-Term Mission Trip**  
**(Read and keep for future reference)**

The guidelines listed below are recommended for those participating in this journey. You go not as a tourist, but as a guest of the church in another country. The countries we work in are considered LDC – Less Developed Countries – and do not have the same conveniences you are used to at home. **It is very important to be flexible and willing to adjust** to the expectations of your host.

I recognize and accept the following conditions which will further the usefulness and safety of our short-term mission. If accepted as a member of this Fairhope UMC team, I agree to:

1. Share the Love of Jesus Christ in ways that make a Christian difference
2. Lift up Jesus Christ with my thoughts, words and actions
3. Develop and maintain a servant attitude toward the people we serve as well as toward each team member
4. Pray for and support my team leader and his decisions
5. Accept and submit to the leadership role and authority of the team leader and Fairhope UMC staff and promise to abide by his or her decisions as they concern this mission trip.
6. **Abstain from the purchase and/or use of ALL alcohol, tobacco, illegal drugs, offensive clothing, and profanity from the time of my departure with the team until I return home (including any “fun” days)**
7. **Give gifts ONLY AS A TEAM and not hand out any items no matter how insignificant the item may be to you, to any individual or individuals not a member of the team**
8. **NOT provide any medical treatment, medicines, or other medicinal treatments (whether holistic, herbal or otherwise) to a team member without the prior consent of the team leader and the team nurse, and if to a non-team member NOT without the prior consent of the team leader, the team nurse and the local hosts, and will not even discuss such matters except to recommend to someone that they see the team nurse for treatment unless such persons are related**
9. Adopt an attitude that I am on this team to try to understand the host culture, not to convince them of my own viewpoint or style. I go knowing that there are many different ways to accomplish the same objective and know that my way is not necessarily the best.
10. Abstain from making derogatory comments or arguments regarding people, politics, sports, religion, race, or traditions.
11. Acknowledge that by engaging in this journey, I am subjecting myself to certain risks voluntarily, in addition to those risks that I normally face in my personal and business life, including, but not limited to, such things as health hazards due to poor food and water, diseases, pests, and poor sanitation; potential danger from lack of control over local population; potential injury while working; and inadequate medical facilities.
12. Understand that our team’s work is but a tiny speck on the bigger picture that our mission partners are trying to accomplish. I promise not to be overly demanding, to do my best not to offend or cause embarrassment for the local mission host and to help them attain their long-term goals.
13. **Attend all team meetings, both prior to departure, during the mission trip and upon return.**
14. Expediently follow up on all requirements for passports, visas, financial obligations, vaccinations, travel insurance, etc.

15. Refrain from meddling, complaining, and obscene or insensitive humor. I realize that others on my team during the journey and while onsite will look at me for an example of how a Christian acts, and I will not treat that responsibility lightly. I understand that I must travel with the rest of the team, unless other prior arrangements are made.
16. Regard the differing style of worshiping with respect and I promise that where I see the need, I will witness my faith, but without a superior attitude.
17. If a loved one or dear friend is traveling with me, we agree to interact with all members of the team, not just one another. I promise not to seek or engage in new romantic relationships with team members during the trip.
18. Avoid any actions that might be perceived as amorous attentions toward any people I meet while on the mission trip.
19. Remember we are the unknown Christians from another part of the world and will be watched very closely. I will not take the important responsibility of setting an example lightly.
20. Act as a servant-disciple of the local pastor or mission organization. I will respect the advice I am given concerning attire, eating and drinking, and other such traditions that will help me to assimilate into the local community.
21. Understand that every member of this group is expected to share freely from their particular blessings and talents, whether that is a skill such as music, art, carpentry, or basic hard work. I agree to participate in these ways as fully possible.
22. I agree that in the event my conduct is considered so unsatisfactory that it jeopardizes the success of the trip, and that mediation during the trip has failed to correct my behavior, that my services in connection with this mission shall end and I shall return home immediately at my own expense.
23. Remember the 3 Cs: No complaining. No criticizing. No comparing.
24. Refrain from gossip. If it is not true, good and positive, do not say it
25. Respect the hosts' view of Christianity. I understand that Christianity has various expressions throughout the world
26. Remember the missionary is to learn and serve, not to teach and boss. I'll resist the temptation to inform our hosts about how I normally do things
27. Remember that I am a servant of Jesus Christ called to be in ministry with the host Church
28. Serve the best I can so that both the purpose and the task of the mission will be accomplished
- 29. Understand that this trip can and will be very stressful at times and that in this environment NO schedule can be absolutely maintained. I will do my absolute best to remain flexible without complaining at all times.**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, if chosen for the Short-Term Missions team to \_\_\_\_\_, agree to abide by the expectations listed in the “**Participants Guidelines**” and will uphold the “**Personal Covenant**”.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**I understand that by signing this document I am submitting to a code of conduct that befits a Christian representing Christ and FAIRHOPE UMC. I will agree to respond to all communications from the team leader and FAIRHOPE UMC staff in a timely manner. I also understand that behavior that is not respectful to the Team Leader and to authority or to team members will result in termination of your participation of this and future mission journeys. The Alabama-West Florida Conference and therefore FAIRHOPE UMC are committed to providing and maintaining the church as a “Safe Sanctuary”.**

**FAIRHOPE UMC Missions is required to perform a background check on all volunteers. As a missionary you are an extension of FAIRHOPE UMC into the world. This policy is for the protection of our team members as well as those we serve. You must complete and return the included consent form to be considered for any mission trip. The results will only be viewed by a member of clergy and will be kept in the strictest confidence. You will be notified in writing if any of the results jeopardize your participation.**

*Return this page Background Report Consent and the application portion to the mission or church **office along with a \$250 deposit**. Keep the “Participant Guidelines” and “Personal Covenant” sections for your reference.*