

KINGDOM ADVANCERS

Missions Trip Covenant

Thank you for your interest to serve in missions! There are a few things we want you to know about our mission trips and serving in our local outreach. First, know that as a team member who serves in missions, you are in a position of having influence with your teammates and the people you will be serving. Your commitment to live a biblical lifestyle is important to God (Galatians 5:16-26). It's important to ensure that who you are as you serve with missions is in alignment with who you are the rest of the week.

If you find anything to be confusing or unclear about this covenant, we would love the opportunity to a conversation with you about your concerns.

REGARDING SEXUAL BEHAVIOR

I commit to dedicate myself to God by pursuing sexual integrity as an avenue of faithfulness to Jesus. God intends for sex to be enjoyed within the covenant of marriage, defined as the "one-flesh" union of one man and one woman in a lifelong covenant before God (Genesis 2:24). We believe any sexual activity outside of this covenant of marriage violates Jesus' call upon those of us who follow Him.

Team members who embrace a lifestyle that contradicts this teaching will find themselves having to pretend to be something they're not and pretend to believe something they don't. Therefore, we may ask that you not participate on this trip for the following reasons:

- If you are involved in a sexual relationship and are not married.
- If you are involved in a same sex relationship.
- If you are currently living with someone of the opposite sex and are not married.
- If you are married and are currently involved in a sexual relationship outside of your marriage.

REGARDING SOCIAL BEHAVIOR

It is very likely that the people you will be serving will visit your social media pages. It's likely you will be followed through different social media platforms by your own team as well. We think social media can be a great way to connect with others, however, they'll also be able to see everything you post publicly. Please leverage your social media in a positive way. Please refrain from judgmental and hateful comments. Here is a tip: *if you wouldn't want your pastor or ministry leader to see something you posted, it's probably inappropriate. If you know it does not honor God, please do not post. Galatians 5:16-26*

REGARDING SUBSTANCE BEHAVIOR

Volunteers are asked to use Biblical discretion in the area of alcohol and drug consumption. While the Bible does not command total abstinence, we hold firmly to the biblical stance of not drinking to the point of drunkenness. We believe that individuals should exercise their own level of conviction and spiritual maturity in their choice on whether or not to consume alcohol. Our community values as a church will ensure that we will never approve of alcohol or drugs being present at any Central gathering or event, to honor those who struggle with addiction, according to Romans 14.

If you have a history of alcohol and drug abuse, this might be something God uses in a positive way to impact others. We'd love to talk with you further about your story and how it can impact others who may share similar struggles. We have a few guidelines that will determine your team placement, and a few reasons we may ask you not to join us on the trip at this time:

- If you have been arrested or convicted of an alcohol or drug-related offense in the past 12 months.
- If you are currently in treatment for alcohol and drug abuse.
- If you have used any illegal substance in the past twelve months.
- If any new offense occurs while you are an active team member and connected to our missions team, we ask that you report the offense to a pastor or your team leader within 72 hours as required by PA law.

REGARDING BIBLICAL CONFLICT MANAGEMENT

I commit to seek and preserve unity in the body of Christ by handling conflict or differing opinions in an honorable way (Matt. 18:15-17; Eph. 4:1-3). I will receive feedback with openness, personal maturity and humility. When I become aware that I have offended someone, I will take responsibility and seek reconciliation (Prov. 15:31-33). I will be slow to take offense but if I am offended by someone; peer or leader, I will seek reconciliation by going directly to the person in a spirit of humility (Col. 3:13; Eph. 4:26). If someone comes to me with a grievance, I will not take sides. I will refuse to gossip and encourage the person to seek reconciliation by going directly to the person who has offended them (Rom. 16:17).

GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR MISSIONS TRIPS

1. The Short-Term Missions Trip Leader functions in delegated authority under the Central Assembly of God Elder Board, Lead Pastor, and Missions Pastor. This Leader is not only the team leader but also the spiritual authority for the team. I agree to support the Team Leader's leadership.
2. Short-term outreaches require teamwork and unity. As a team member, you will be expected to put aside your own individual needs and desires, in order to better serve the team concept and the ministry. I will serve where asked and choose to submit to the team and leadership.
3. Membership on a Short-Term Missions team places you under the authority of Central Assembly and your Team Leader. Therefore, always model cooperation, servanthood, flexibility, and grace. I will refrain from criticizing the Team Leader, ministry effectiveness, or the use of ministry funds. Dissension or a critical spirit will hinder the Lord's work and can be grounds for you to be sent home.
4. Team members will naturally bond and build relationships. These trips provide numerous opportunities for participants to be personally challenged. I will be intentional and willing to work with different partners in different situations. Please note that there will be absolutely no exclusive male/female relationships with fellow team members or nationals. A second warning is grounds for you to be sent home.
5. Be respectful of the customs and culture of the country or region. Use common sense and have a sensitive spirit when conversing with nationals. I will remember that I am a visitor to their country and, more importantly, I am representing Christ. I will keep all comments about food, customs, and other cultural issues to myself. I will also be diligent to ensure that I am modestly dressed at all times. If asked I will be willing to change an outfit that the team leader does not feel to be appropriate. If I am unwilling to do this I will be asked to stay at the hotel and not participate with the rest of the group.
6. I will refrain from bringing or purchasing knives, guns, fireworks, alcohol, illegal drugs, tobacco, inappropriate books or magazines, secular music, video gaming devices, or expensive jewelry on the trip.
7. All team members are expected to strictly adhere to the stated guidelines. Blatant offenders will be sent home. I understand that my parents or I will be responsible for all costs involved in sending me home if I choose to not follow the rules, including airfare, transportation, hotel, food, and any other costs incurred.

I understand and agree to the expectations listed above as long as I am serving on a Central team. I realize that the above rules of conduct are crucial for the effectiveness, quality, and safety of the team. As a member of this team, I agree to abide by these rules of conduct at all times before and during our trip. If I become unable to uphold this covenant, I promise to communicate with the Missions Pastor and Team Leader to let them know that I am struggling and to enlist their help, knowing they are here to support me.

I commit to helping others grow closer to God and recognize that the example I set is vital. I can't take them where I haven't been before, therefore, I commit to making my personal relationship with God a priority.

Volunteer PRINTED Signature / Date

Volunteer Signature / Date

Parent/Guardian Signature (if under 18 years of age) / Date

INTERNATIONAL TRIP COMMITMENT FORM

(for global trips only)

Please read and initial each of the statements below. Don't worry - we will be taking time in the team trainings to talk more about the policies on this form. In the meantime, if you have any questions about any of the statements below, or would like to talk more about them, please feel free to email the Missions Pastor or the Team Leader.

I understand that all payments are due by the scheduled and communicated deadlines.

I understand that all payments designated toward my trip are considered tax-deductible gifts to Central Assembly of God and therefore non-refundable, in accordance with tax law.

I understand that in the event I do not go on the trip, payments made by me or donated by anyone on my behalf will not be refunded.

I understand that in the event I raise money exceeding my trip cost, money cannot be refunded to me or to anyone who donated to my trip, nor can money be set aside for future trips I may take. I understand that excess money received toward my trip will be used at the discretion of Central Assembly and Central missions ministry costs. I understand that it cannot be applied to earlier payments.

I understand that while I am praying for God's provision and hoping for support from family and friends, I am ultimately the person responsible for my trip cost.

I understand that if I ask my friends, family, and church to support my trip, I must also be willing to.

I understand that Central Assembly does not permit any personal trip fundraising on church property. I understand that I am welcome to organize and participate in fundraising outside of Central, but it will not be promoted by Central.

I understand that meetings/trainings are mandatory for participation on this trip, and that in committing to the trip, I commit to attend the scheduled meetings/trainings. Any exceptions to this must be agreed to by the team leaders and the Missions Pastor.

I understand the importance of living above reproach as a representative of Christ.

I understand that Central has the right to disqualify me from the trip without refund for violating the terms of this commitment (including missing payment deadlines or excessive meetings/trainings).

International Trip Team: _____

Participant Printed Name: _____

Participant Signature/Date: _____