

# Mission & Service Opportunities

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## UCC Resources:

### UCC Mission Trip Opportunities

The United Church of Christ national setting recommends sites within the United States that host mission opportunities for groups. These host sites are rooted in local communities and utilize volunteer groups in their on-going service within those places. Volunteers experience God's presence among new people and in new places through these experiences. UCC Mission Trip Opportunities are short-term, lasting up to a week. Learn More: [http://www.ucc.org/volunteer\\_mission-trip-opportunities](http://www.ucc.org/volunteer_mission-trip-opportunities).



### Global Ministries

Global Ministries is a common witness of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the United Church of Christ, with a mission to receive and share the Good News of Jesus Christ by joining with global and local to work for justice, reconciliation and peace.

Learn more about their resources for Mission Study at:

[http://globalministries.org/mission\\_study](http://globalministries.org/mission_study)

Learn more about how to get involved in mission opportunities at:

[http://www.globalministries.org/mission\\_opportunities](http://www.globalministries.org/mission_opportunities)

If your church is preparing for a mission trip, Global Ministries provides a list of resources to help your congregation prepare and get the most out of their experience. Access that book list at:

<http://www.globalministries.org/resources/mission-trip-resource-listing.html>



### Back Bay Mission

Mission trips to Back Bay Mission are great opportunities for learning, service, and fellowship. These week long immersive mission experiences teach participants about poverty on the Mississippi Gulf Coast and prepare groups to serve in their own communities.

Learn more about mission trips at Back Bay Mission, including how to register at:

<https://thebackbaymission.org/volunteer/>

## **Other Resources\*:**

### **Discovering Opportunities for Outreach and Reflection (DOOR)**

Age Level: Any student 13 years or older

Denominational Affiliation: 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization

Learn More: <http://www.doornetwork.org>

**Mission:** Discovering Opportunities for Outreach and Reflection (DOOR) is a faith based network of urban service-learning programs that expose, educate, challenge, and motivate participants to respond to the issues and concerns facing an increasingly urban world. Program offerings range from a weekend to a year and include opportunities for individuals and groups. DOOR city locations include Atlanta, Chicago, Denver, Los Angeles/Hollywood, and Miami.

DOOR invites our Discover, Discern and Dwell participants to See the face of God in the city.

By experiencing God's love and shalom in ever-expanding new ways we can share and demonstrate God's alternatives to the evils of racism, poverty and violence that tear down our communities and lives.

### **Common Faith Perspective**

Our Faith Perspective: Recognizing the various faith traditions from which we come, this network commits to the following faith statement:

We consider Jesus Christ our model of living for God and the answer to human need, hostility, and violence; God commands us: to respect life, love all people (even our enemies), reconcile broken relationships, and pursue justice. Our bond with other followers of Jesus transcends all racial, social, economic and national barriers. We view the Bible as our guide for faith and life.



### **Doing Good Together**

Doing Good Together™ (DGT) is a Minneapolis-based national nonprofit that works to make volunteering and service, along with daily kindness, easy for every family.

Learn more about their Big-Hearted Families program at:

<http://www.doinggoodtogether.org/bigheartedfamilies/>

\*Resources listed in this section have been successfully utilized and recommended by local church(es) in the New Hampshire Conference United Church of Christ.



**Heifer International** offers a powerful global education experience at its **Learning Center at Overlook Farm**, located in Rutland, MA (62 miles West of Boston). Each program introduces participants to the idea that one person can make a difference in ending hunger and poverty.

Overlook Farm programs range from tours to multi-night programs that provide participants a first-hand look at the challenges surrounding hunger and poverty. Overlook Farm programs are ideal for schools, congregations, youth organizations, families and individuals that want to learn more about the issues surrounding hunger and poverty, Heifer's sustainable solutions and what they can do to help.

Experiential, hands-on, interactive and fun, Overlook Farm is also a demonstration farm complete with gardens, animals including water buffalo, yaks and traditional farm animals such as pigs and goats..

For more information about **Global Gateways** and other group programs, visit:

<http://www.heifer.org/visit/overlook/programs>

Heifer also offers a number of educational resources for faith communities to: Explore the Possibilities. Create a Spark. Inspire Change. Transform Lives. More more information visit:

<http://www.heifer.org/what-you-can-do/faith-communities/index.html>

### **Youth Service Opportunities Project (YSOP)**

Denominational Affiliation: 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization, founded by Quakers in 1983

Learn More: <http://www.ysop.org>

YSOP is committed to helping young people become part of the solution to societal problems by showing them how even their smallest actions can make a difference in the lives of others. While YSOP was created for young people, we welcome people of all ages to YSOP.

YSOP's intense immersion program of Workcamps helps student volunteers to understand service and homelessness. During Workcamps, students, in small service teams, volunteer at different sites around the city. YSOP has two locations: New York City and Washington, DC. YSOP offers three types of Workcamp: overnight, service day, and weeklong.

YSOP volunteers prepare and serve meals at soup kitchens; they provide recreational activities and companionship to young, formerly homeless children; they distribute food and supplies at food pantries; they socialize and bring snacks to people in drop-in centers. Occasionally they join in special projects we have been asked to staff, such as painting a new shelter with residents or distributing clothing at a clothing bank.

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## Group Mission Trips

Learn More: <http://www.groupmissiontrips.com>

**Mission:** We help youth leaders by creating mission trip experiences where kids encounter Jesus.

Group Mission Trips (formerly Group Workcamps Foundation) offers four unique Christian mission trip experiences for youth and adults.

**Workcamps:** A 6-day, high-energy mission trip of up to 400 participants. Join other youth groups to repair sagging porches, rebuild unsafe steps and wheelchair ramps, and paint homes. No special skills needed...just a willing heart

**Community Service/Week of Hope:** A 5-day trip of up to 100 participants. Campers are challenged to live as Jesus did while serving the needs of people through local ministries and non-profit organizations. You'll serve meals to the homeless, work with disabled children, share stories with an elderly person, and more.

**Big Day of Serving:** A one-day youth event close to home. Students discover their actions make a difference in the lives of others as they serve with hundreds of other Christian young people in or near your hometown. Service ranges from cleaning city blocks, alleyways and parks to helping with landscaping & planting community gardens, to removing graffiti, painting or tackling minor home repairs.

**International Mission Trips/Lifetree Adventures:** Family-friendly trips, so older kids can serve along with adults of any age. No specialized medical or construction experience is necessary, so almost anybody from your church can flourish on a Lifetree Adventure trip. Whether you're traveling to earthquake-stricken **Haiti** or the rainforests of **Peru**, we'll be with you every step of the way to provide *meaningful service in the name of Christ.*

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