

WORLD MISSION PARTNERSHIP MODEL COMPARISON

Comparing Best Practices of Church and Field Partnership Models

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Models

Church Partnership (CP) – Connecting developed churches or districts with mission fields, districts, or indigenous churches through a partnership agreement to engage meaningfully in mission resourcing. This model partners one developed church or district and its human and financial resources with a World Mission church, district, or field.

Field Partnership (FP) – Connecting groups of individuals with a World Mission field through individual interest and commitment of personal time, talent, and treasure. Draws partners from developed districts, bringing their personal resources and network of like-minded individuals. Sometimes pastors are partners who draw on the resources of their churches. Groups with a specific focus may be developed within a Field Partnership, i.e., literature, education, economic development, health care, etc.

Objectives

CP – Both major funding and direct ministry involvement. Both the partnering Church and the indigenous church benefit through a shared vision, common mission, and common goals. Technical assistance and sharing of personnel can facilitate growth and development of the indigenous church.

FP – Helps field leadership accomplish dreams and meet needs that would not otherwise be possible. Provides support, advocacy, encouragement, and an excellent opportunity for individuals to personalize mission involvement.

Formation

CP – Relating developed churches that express interests for kingdom building with needs on a mission field, and negotiating a multi-year partnership agreement. A partnership coordinator facilitates this process. Church leaders commit membership to the partnership.

FP – Relating individuals and pastors of churches with a specific field and needs of leadership, people, or ministries on that field. Often, the core group is made up of personal friends or associates of the field strategy coordinator (FSC). This process is lead by a field partnership coordinator (often the FSC) and a field partnership facilitator who promotes the partnership; each partner is involved by personal choice and interest.

Benefit to the Field

CP – Major funding, program and mission evaluation, prayer, promotion and resource development, consultancy and advocacy; technical assistance and empowerment of the indigenous church to increase its capacity and improve its effectiveness. May include direct, hands-on ministry as well as construction and ministry teams.

FP – Immediate intercessory prayer, funding for special needs and projects, recruitment of volunteers and teams, recruitment of additional partners and resources, encouragement and advocacy for field leadership.

Financial Potential

CP – Partnering churches are asked to commit at least \$20,000 per year, plus work teams, volunteers, exchange of personnel, technical assistance, etc. in addition to fulfilling their WEF goals and giving other mission specials.

FP – There is no limit to the resources that may be generated by the partnership. Some established partnerships are able to generate \$100,000 to \$300,000 per year in funding and resources. Partners can seek resources from their network of friends and associates, including non-Nazarene sources.

Benefits to Partners

CP – Personalizes missions for the partnering church and provides an opportunity for direct engagement and hands-on ministry that helps achieve the Great Commission. Can become effective in discipleship and spiritual formation; can help the church raise funds for payment of WEF; church membership can share in accomplishments.

FP – Personal involvement in ministry of the field; choice of how to be involved; opportunity to recruit others to share your interest; direct feedback on results and accomplishments of partnership; opportunity to visit field to see needs and results of investments; personal satisfaction from Great Commission involvement.

Process

CP – Activities and involvement of the partnering church are guided by a formal multi-year agreement and budget, negotiated in advance of the partnership, often including on-site visits by church leadership.

FP – The FSC travels to the sponsoring area and meets annually with the partners to share a report on accomplishments, cast a vision and articulate goals, and present ways in which the partnership can help the Field. Partners respond individually and voluntarily.

Demands on the Field

CP – Up-front investment of time and resources to engage in negotiations, host vision trips, meetings with the church and its leadership, exchange of personnel, and assigning a bilingual, culturally-sensitive field employee to be the point person for the partnership and its involvement in field ministry.

FP – Most activities take place in the sponsoring area, on dates set by the FSC, usually one weekend per year. There may be one or two vision trips per year to the field but these are more for vision casting, needs assessment, and prayer, rather than participating in field ministry, unless that is what the FSC has requested. The FSC communicates with partners through e-mail and a partnership Web site.