

An Introduction and Invitation to MUSA

Mission to the U.S.A. * The Synod of the Covenant

Rev. Raafat Zaki, Synod Executive, writes these important introductory words in the Presbyterian Church (USA) *Mission Crossroads* magazine (summer 2018),

“We celebrate that over the centuries the gospel has spread from Palestine to the ends of the earth, arriving in North America through Africa, Asia, Europe and Latin American. Given the history of missionary efforts, many Presbyterians tend to underestimate the interdependent nature of mission and **our commitment to doing mission in mutuality and partnership.**”

Since 1984, our Synod has given congregations throughout the eleven presbyteries this opportunity for “mutuality and partnership.” How? We have brought **International Mission Partners (IMPs)** from around the globe to be hosted by individual or clusters of congregations.

Raafat calls this, “**reverse mission.**” Rather than gathering a group with all the planning and financial commitments necessary for a Mission Trip, we bring these IMPs each October to our Synod. It is a marvelous way of experiencing mission and the outreach of the Presbyterian Church first hand. And, we’ve take the financial burden off the table. Most of the cost is covered by our Synod. **Our objective is simple: fellowship, hospitality, awareness and mutual transformation.**

As your congregation welcomes a Christian leader into your midst with intentional “fellowship and hospitality” you cultivate discipleship in the diversity of a global church. As your IMP comes to preach, teach, share meals and ministries together, all of us learn of the breadth and depth of life in service to Jesus Christ.

So, participate in MUSA. Let our Synod, working with Mission Co-Workers and Regional Liaisons, find those from other nations who can enter your lives for three weeks. Their presence and sharing will transform you. And, they will return to their nations with a better appreciation for our mutual history and ministries.

MUSA affords this experience. **We hope you will want to participate!** If so, please read our “frequently asked questions about MUSA.” Better yet, with prayer and conversation in your church, complete an application. Know our Lord will bless this experience of partnership with Christians from around our world.

In His service, Steve

Rev. Dr. Steve Gorman, Director, MUSA
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Frequently Asked Questions About MUSA
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What, exactly, is MUSA?

MUSA stands for "Mission to the USA." It is a program of the Synod of the Covenant bringing International Mission Partners (IMPs) from overseas to congregations here.

When do our guests come to our congregation?

The International Mission Partner (IMP) is with the congregation for the last three weeks of October. In 2019 those dates are October 11 - November 1st.

Where do our guests stay for the three weeks?

The host congregation assigns one or more host families for the duration of the three weeks. The(se) families provide a bedroom, bathroom and breakfasts (and possibly other meals) depending on the IMP's schedule. Driving the IMP to the church or other events is coordinated by the IMP Hosting Group.

Who are the members of the Hosting Group?

This is a group of interested people which may include the pastor and/or members of the Mission/Outreach Committee, who are willing to organize the three week stay of the IMP.

Do the IMPs speak English?

Yes. Of course, they do have an accent the listeners will have to get used to. We also encourage our congregants to slow down their speaking and articulate more common words as the IMP becomes more used to our spoken American English.

What will the IMP do?

While a far more complete list of suggestions will be offered during the summer before the IMP arrives in October for the Hosting Committee to consider, within the congregation they might preach, teach classes, meet with different groups from the children and youth to men and women groups and enjoy informal meals among the members. They also participate in various ministries of a church such as dinners open to the community.

Outside the congregation, IMPs enjoy attending community ministerial groups, interfaith experiences, meeting others of the Presbytery, as well as visiting and participating in service programs.

People from the congregation may take them to restaurants, sporting events, concerts, civic groups, outdoor events and movies. Ask your IMP what they particularly want to do.

Who plans their travel and packing/program suggestions?

We make all their travel arrangements through the Synod. We further guide our IMPs about what they will need to bring. We also give them guidance about their ministries among us.

Are there ORIENTATION and EVALUATION meetings? Who should attend?

Yes. Often a pastor and a member of the Host Group join us the second Friday (Oct. 11) in October for introductions and an orientation. Lunch is served and travel mileage is reimbursable. This usually occurs at the Synod office in Maumee, Ohio.

Our last Friday, (November 1) there is a time of evaluation and sharing, a brief worship time, lunch and farewell, followed by a seminar in which all IMPs reflect more on their respective context of mission and related topics as a regular part of the Synod meeting held at a church in Maumee or Toledo. You are invited to stay if you like. Otherwise, following lunch, you can return to your community. Our IMPs remain with us in Maumee until they are taken to the airport in Detroit for their return flights home. Further details will be communicated with our host congregations a month prior to our first gathering.

When will we know if we are selected to be a hosting church?

Our goal is to make these choices by early May and immediately contact you.

Is there a cost involved?

All churches are asked to give their IMP \$150 per/wk spending money for clothes, medications, toiletries or simply to shop. This totals \$450.00. The application then suggests a donation to the Synod to help defray the large travel costs. This is based on the size and capacity of the congregation to make such a contribution. We do not want any church to be prevented from participating because of finances.

Next steps?

Please complete the application. Get it to the Synod by April 1st.

We will communicate with you on which churches will be hosts the following October, a brief biography of your IMP, specific dates ahead for information and our orientation and helpful hints in your important planning for the actual hosting of your IMP.

Who does our congregation communicate with?

For whatever reason, with whatever questions, first contact:

Rev. Dr. Steve Gorman, Director, MUSA
216-801-2036 MUSA@synodofthecovenant.org
or

Rev. Raafat Zaki, Synod Executive. Synod of the Covenant
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Read more on MUSA: <http://synodofthecovenant.org/synod-ministries/musa/>