

Presbytery of WNC Delegations to Malawi

May 8-19 and (possibly) May 22-June 2

(exact dates to be confirmed when plane reservations are made)

GOALS OF TRIP:

- Extend our understanding of our brothers and sisters in another part of the world; bring us closer to each other.
- Learn their stories and tell ours;
- Take Christ's love there and bring it back;
- Provide opportunity for the Malawians and us to learn from the strengths of our faith in each culture to help us come more into balance, move closer to the abundant life;
- Demonstrate the interconnectedness between local congregations, Presbytery, denomination and our international church partners;
- Create awareness of larger issues in the world;
- Raise support for the ministries related to our denomination in Malawi.

There **MAY** be two trips this year, depending on how many people sign up. The May 8-19 trip is set. The May 22-June 2 trip will be scheduled if more than 10 people sign up. **SO IT IS IMPORTANT THAT YOU CHECK WHICH DATES WILL WORK FOR YOU BELOW!**

The cost will be approximately \$3,000, excluding personal preparation expenses (passport, visa, immunizations etc.). A deposit of \$2000 must be sent with application & received no later than **March 1**. Make check out to "PWNC." If you are not accepted, the \$2000 will be returned. Once plane reservations are made, deposits become non-refundable. The final deposit is due April 15.

This application and the "Recommendation, Commitment, & Endorsement" form from the church must be in Presbytery office at the address below by March 1.

Name: _____ Age: _____ Congregation: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Phone/Fax: _____ e-mail: _____

The dates I could go trip are _____ May 8-19 _____ May 22 – June 2

Of these two dates, I would prefer the following: _____ May 8-19 _____ May 22 – June 2

Please answer the following questions on the back.

1. Describe your understanding of the purposes for mission teams.
2. Why do you think you have been called by God to participate with this delegation?
3. In what ways do you think you might be able to strengthen your congregation because of your participation on this team?
4. What gifts or personality, skills, and experience will you bring to the team? (The team will need a broad variety to become a unit, so include anything you think might help ... first aid training, good humor, music, photography, good organizer etc.)
5. Do you have any health problems? _____ What are they? (over)

All participants must make certain commitments before, during and after their mission experience. **Please consider and initial these below and sign your pledge to pursue them.** If accepted, you will receive an orientation handbook and other materials for reflection and study.

- _____ 1. **I commit myself to working with my pastor and the session in order to develop a plan to help my congregation grow in faith and vitality** as a result of their involvement in this mission trip.
- _____ 2. **I will pray** regularly for mission team participants and their churches (including myself and my own), and those with whom we will be interacting in Malawi, that we will all be sensitive to God's leading.
- _____ 3. **I will attend** the orientation and debriefing meetings: The possible dates are as follows:
First Gathering: March 8, 9 or 16 (Palm Sunday), Mar 30
Overnight: April 11-12 or April 18-19
Packing Day: Sunday, May 4 (for early May trip)
Sunday, May 18 (for late May)
* Debriefing (date & time tba)
- _____ 4. **I will study the orientation booklet** in preparation for the trip.
- _____ 5. **I will abide by the guidelines for the team.** I understand these exist for the well-being of the group and our relationship with Malawians.
- _____ 6. **I will keep a journal of my experience and prepare to share it** with others in my church and in other congregations or groups within the Presbytery.

I pledge myself to do the above.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Mail by February 25 to:
Malawi Mission Team
Presbytery of Western North Carolina
114 Silver Creek Rd.
Morganton, NC 28655