

Presbytery of WNC Delegation to Malawi June 4- June 16, 2020 (Tentative Dates)

GOALS OF THE TRIP:

- Broaden our understanding of our brothers and sisters in another part of the world and bring us closer to each other;
- Learn their stories and share ours;
- Take Christ's love there and bring it back;
- Provide opportunity for the Malawians and for us to learn from the strengths of our faith in each culture, and to help us come more into balance, moving closer to the abundant life;
- Demonstrate the interconnectedness between local congregations, Presbytery, the 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.

The trip dates **MAY NEED TO BE ADJUSTED** by one or two days depending upon ticket availability. Teams are generally 6-12 people.

The cost will be \$3,000, excluding personal preparation expenses (passport, immunizations, medicines, etc.). Limited financial aid is available; however, there is an expectation and tradition of home congregations either financially supporting team members or facilitating fundraising for team members. A deposit of \$1,500 must be sent with the application and received no later than **December 31, 2019**. Make the check out to "PWNC." If we are not able to accept your application, the \$1,500 will be returned. Once plane reservations are made, deposits become non-refundable. The final payment of \$1,500 is due **March 16, 2020**.

This application, the \$1,500 deposit, and a letter of endorsement from your Pastor (or Clerk of Session, if there is no Pastor) must be in the Presbytery office at the address below by December 31, 2019.

Name: _____ Age: _____ Congregation: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Phone/Cell: _____ e-mail: _____

Name as it appears on your passport: _____

Passport number: _____ Birthdate: _____

Please answer the following questions briefly on a separate sheet of paper:

1. Describe your understanding of the purpose for mission teams.
2. Why do you think God is calling you to participate with this mission team?
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 of 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 or dietary restrictions? ____ 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 following meetings:

Orientation for First-time participants only:

*March 7 (Presbytery office in Morganton)
Saturday 10:00 am-12:00 noon*

Overnight retreat:

*April 17-18
Friday night 6:00 pm-Saturday noon*

Conference call:

Sunday May 16, 4:00 pm

Packing Day:

*June ? at Southminster PC (Gastonia)
Friday at 6:00 pm, spend night near airport*

Reunion/Debriefing:

*July 11
Sunday 4:00 pm*

_____ 4. **I will study the orientation booklet** in preparation for the trip. (This will be given to first time participants in February.)

_____ 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 record of my experience and prepare to share my experience** with others in my church and in other congregations or groups within the Presbytery.

I pledge myself to do the above.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Mail forms and deposit check to: *(Must be received by December 31, 2019)*

Malawi Mission Team
Presbytery of Western North Carolina
114 Silver Creek Rd.
Morganton, NC 28655