

INTERNATIONAL LAUNCH GUIDE

Everything you need to be sent by the Summit
for two years or more

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Psalm 67

May God be gracious to us and bless us
and make his face to shine upon us, Selah
that your way may be known on earth,
your saving power among all nations.
Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you!
Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,
for you judge the peoples with equity
and guide the nations upon earth. Selah
Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you!
The earth has yielded its increase;
God, our God, shall bless us.
God shall bless us;
let all the ends of the earth fear him! (ESV)

Why Do We Send?

God is on a mission to make himself known so that he may be worshiped by all nations. From the very first pages of Scripture to the very last, and throughout human history, God accomplishes his mission by sending people who *do* know him to people who *don't* know him. The reality is, right now, there are 3.43 billion people around the world who have no access to the gospel of Jesus Christ.

This is why The Summit Church exists. Following the Holy Spirit, we exist to create a movement of disciple-making disciples in RDU and around the world. We are a people who know God and who are sent by him to make him known amongst the nations. And we go, not because God needs us to, but because he delights in inviting us into his mission to reach the uttermost parts of the earth with the message of the gospel. Let the nations be glad and sing for joy!



How Do We Send?

We want to see churches planted around the world for the glory of God because we believe that the local church is God's "Plan A" for spreading the gospel. Specifically, we are praying that God will use The Summit Church to plant one thousand churches by 2050! We also have a goal of sending one hundred new missionaries by 2027. We praise God for the 600 churches that have already been planted and the 268 men, women, and kids we currently have serving around the world!

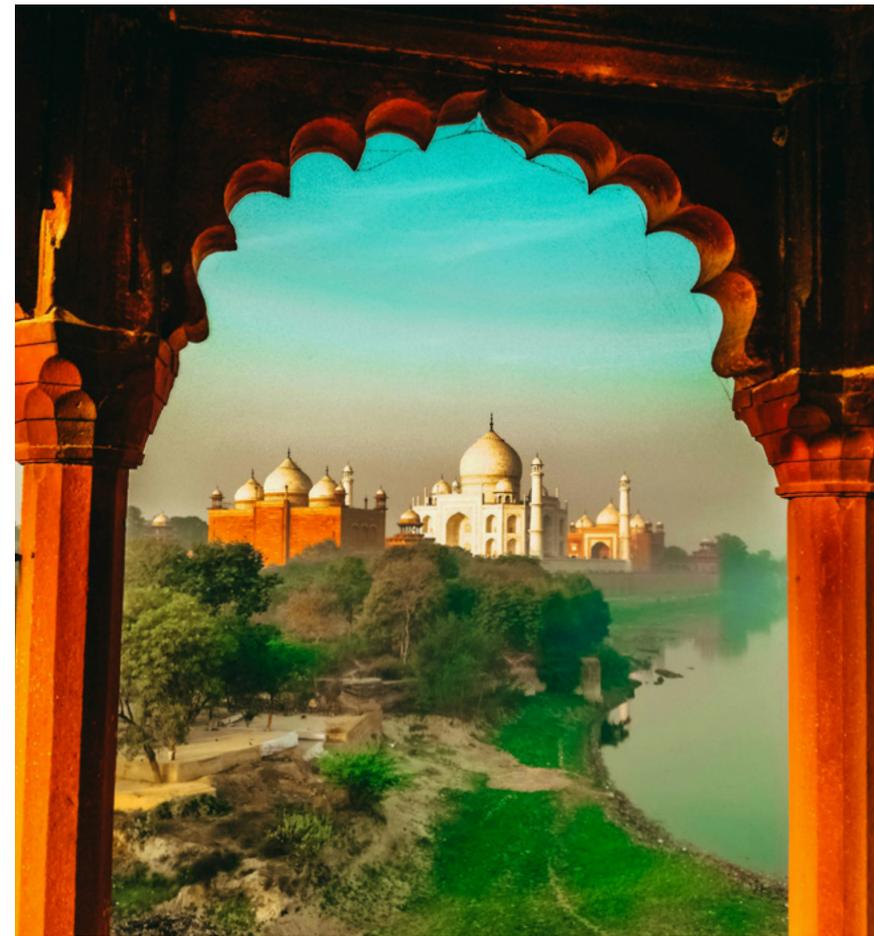


Who Do We Send?

As we say here at the Summit, we believe that everyone is called to go—it's only a matter of where and how. There are no benchwarmers on God's team. All who are called to God are also called to go and make him known. In other words, sending is the fruit of salvation!

While everyone at Summit is called to “make disciples of all nations” here in RDU, we believe that God is setting apart people from within our church to take the gospel where it is least felt and known among the nations. This means that there are two groups of people in our church: “goers” and “senders.” There are the people who the Spirit has set apart to go as long-term missionaries, and then there are those who stay and “hold the rope” for them.

Which role is God leading you to play? Is God leading you to go and take the gospel where it is least felt and known among the nations? **As we partner with you to determine *if* God is leading you overseas and, if so, *when* and *where*, this is your one-stop shop for what you can expect before you go!**



Missions Convictions



Missions Convictions

1

God Sends; We Join

Therefore, our going is in response to his sending. God sent Jesus to us and now, through faith in him, he invites us to partner with him in his mission by sending us to make disciples of all nations. In addition to being sent, another primary way that we join God in his mission is in prayer.

2

The Local Church Is God's "Plan A"

Therefore, all of our initiatives are sent from the local church to plant the local church where it doesn't exist, and to strengthen the local church where it does exist.

3

The Gospel Is at the Center of Everything

Therefore, we send people in response to what God has done in Christ, to be part of long-term work that is specifically, intentionally, and strategically focused and centered on seeing the gospel of Jesus Christ proclaimed and demonstrated in places where it is not known.

4

People Are the Mission

Therefore, we focus our time and resources more on people than on projects. Strategic projects often serve as a valuable component to seeing the gospel in action; however, projects are not the point in and of themselves.

Missions Convictions

5

We Send Our Best

Therefore, we take assessment and training very seriously for the sake of God's name and fame among the nations. We want to send the right people to the right places at the right time, and we place a high value on quality, multilayered training for those we send.

6

Healthy Teams Are Essential to Long-term Success

Therefore, at every possible point, we send our members in teams or to join existing teams, and we prioritize locations in part based on healthy leadership, to ensure the longevity of our missionary's life and labor on the field.

7

Unreached People and Places Deserve Our Highest Priority

Therefore, our greatest pursuit in any context in which we work is proclaiming the gospel where it has never been proclaimed before.

8

All Levels of Society Need the Gospel

Therefore, we look for creative ways to build teams and do ministry in a way that reaches up to the highest levels of class and wealth, and down to the lowest level of class and poverty.

Missions Convictions

9

Local Leaders Are the Best Strategists

Therefore, we insist that any work in which we are involved be directed by those who have a high level of language and understanding of culture. In essence, “you are not your strategy” for reaching a city or a people.





Sending Process

Mobilization Pathway



Sending Process

Mobilization Pathway

4

Disciple-making Groups

In this 10-week group, you will live on mission in RDU, learning how to share the gospel and make disciples in cross-cultural contexts alongside others.

5

Int'l Job Expo

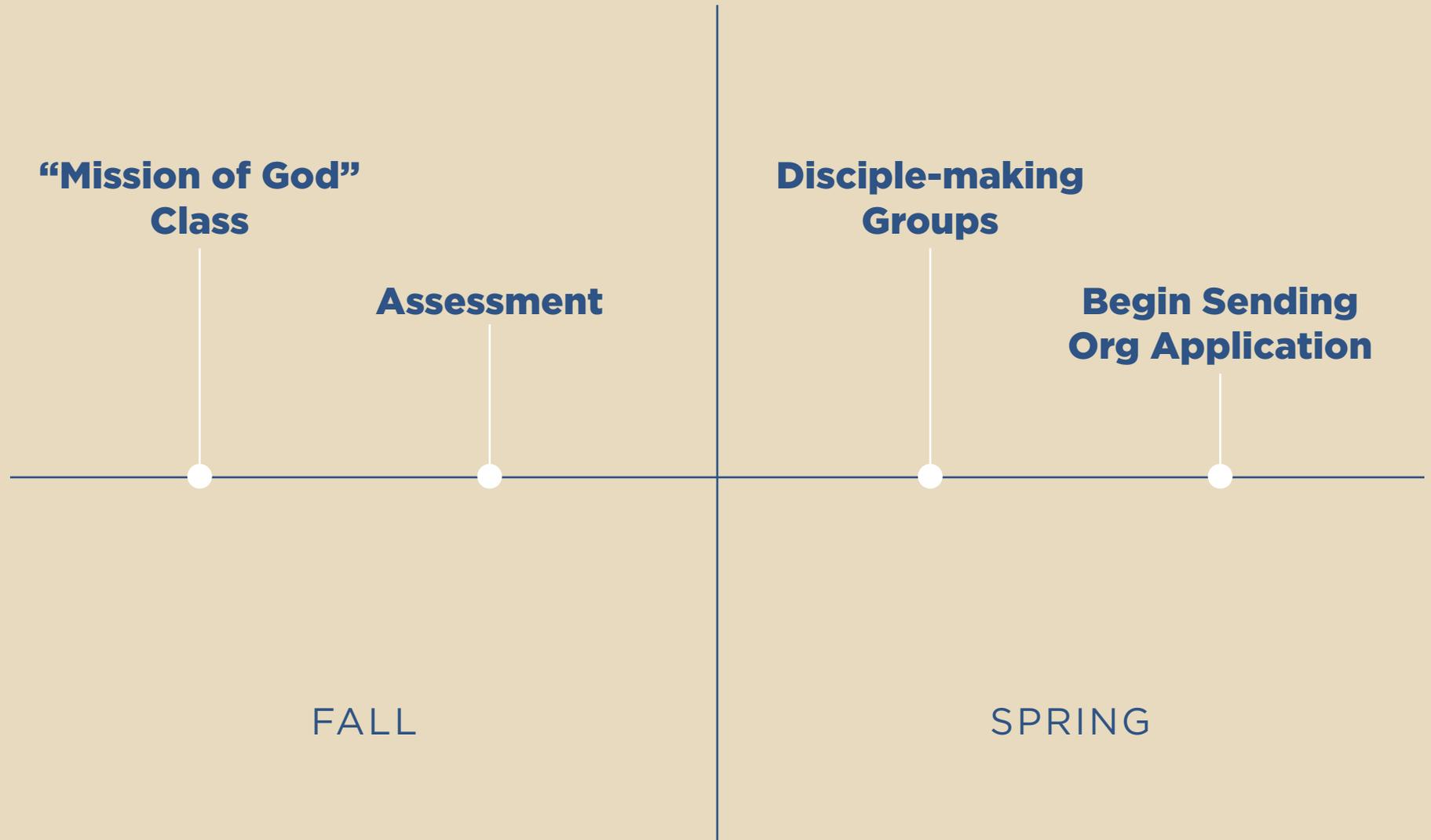
This event helps you decide which sending organization and team to join as you consider available jobs in locations where we have Summit missionaries serving.

6

SENT

As you prepare to get on the plane, we want to make sure that our church is prepared to “hold the rope” for you by connecting you to our missionary care structures.

Mobilization Timeline



1. International Church Planting Catalyst

Goal: *Grow in awareness of how God is at work in the world*

ICP Catalyst (previously known as ICP Cohort) is a monthly gathering to inspire awareness of God's mission by providing opportunities to hear from our missionaries and pray for the nations.

Whether you are curious to learn more about how God is at work in the world, interested in hearing from our stateside and returning missionaries, or considering serving overseas long-term, we would love for you to join us! ICP Catalyst is a place for anyone and everyone to grow in excitement for God's growing global church, to "hold the rope" for our missionaries, and to ask the Lord of the harvest to send more laborers into the harvest field (Matthew 9:37-38).

ICP Catalyst meets on the third Tuesday of each month (except June, July, and December) from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Brier Creek campus in Students B. Sign up [here](#) to receive email communication about ICP Catalyst.

2. “Mission of God” Class

Goal: *Gain a biblical vision of God’s mission and develop biblical convictions for the role we play in his mission*

The 10-week “Mission of God” class explores God’s mission in the Scriptures, in history, and in the world today with a focus on how he accomplishes that mission through his people. Throughout the course, you’ll hear from speakers from our church and across the country to learn more about why missions exists, what missions looks like, and how you can grow in living missionally here in RDU.

We offer this class from September to November every year, and we ask everyone who is looking to be sent out by Summit as a missionary to complete this class as a part of our assessment and training process.

3. Assessment

Goal: *Discern if God is leading you overseas and if right now is the right time to pursue international missions*

In Acts 13, we see the Holy Spirit setting apart Paul and Barnabas as missionaries by instructing the church at Antioch to send them out. Based on this biblical precedent, we believe that it is the local church's responsibility and privilege to properly assess and train our members to be sent out as missionaries. Sending organizations help facilitate this effort, but the core of sending takes place at and through the local church.

Assessment meetings help us to fulfill this role by providing us a snapshot of your health and holiness as a disciple-making disciple, so that we can assess whether international missions is the best next step for you and whether you are ready to take that step. We assess missionary candidates in the areas of character, convictions, calling, chemistry, and competency (see Appendix A, "Missionary Profile").

In the weeks leading up to the assessment meeting, we ask everyone to complete the following:

- International Missions Application
- References
- Theology and Ministry Philosophy Questionnaire
- Marriage or Singleness Questionnaire

These items can be found on our [Assessment Portal](#).

After the assessment meeting, we will follow up with you to share our recommendation. There are four categories of recommendation:

- 1. Recommended for International Missions:** These are candidates that we believe have the character, convictions, calling, chemistry, and competencies necessary for long-term missions. Some developmental steps may be suggested, but these candidates are now ready to be Summit missionaries.
We recommend these candidates continue immediately with our sending process.
- 2. Recommended for International Missions with Conditions:** These are candidates that we believe have the character, convictions, calling, chemistry, and competencies necessary for long-term missions, provided they satisfy several developmental steps. Working through these developmental steps will help these candidates move toward greater health and holiness as they prepare for life and ministry overseas. The candidate's growth will be assessed as they continue in our sending process.
We recommend these candidates continue immediately with our sending process as they work through the developmental next steps.
- 3. Recommended for Longer-term Development:** These candidates generally have the character, convictions, calling, chemistry, and competencies necessary for long-term missions, but our team has identified several developmental areas that should specifically be addressed before these candidates move forward with being sent out as missionaries. Our team believes that if these conditions are not met before they go overseas, it would be detrimental to the health of their team, ministry, and possibly the candidates themselves.
We recommend these candidates not pursue international missions for at least the next year.
- 4. Not Recommended:** These are candidates that we believe are not best suited for serving as missionaries at this time.
We recommend these candidates not pursue international missions for at least the next two years.

Assessment meetings last 75 to 90 minutes and are with members of the international missions team and your campus sending coordinator. These meetings take place at the Brier Creek campus. We have two periods in the year where we offer assessment meetings for Summit members: one in December following the “Mission of God” class, and one in April following Disciple-making Groups.

4. Disciple-making Groups

Goal: *Grow as a healthy and holy disciple-making disciple who multiplies the gospel, disciples, and churches in cross-cultural contexts*

Disciple-making groups are communities that live on mission together in RDU for 10 weeks, learning how to share the gospel and make disciples in cross-cultural contexts. These groups are made up of six to 10 people whose primary focus is abiding in Jesus and growing in intentional disciple-making practices. Participants will become more equipped to be disciple-making disciples who take the gospel where it is most needed locally and among the unreached.

These groups will simulate what it will be like to do ministry alongside a team, develop relationships with non-believers, learn gospel-sharing tools, address issues of contextualization, and pray for the lost here in RDU as you prepare to do these things in an overseas context. These groups, along with some training modules, are the main ways we train the missionaries we are sending out.

Each group commits to these weekly rhythms for 10 weeks:

- Three hours: Personal abiding (30 min/day)
- Two hours: Group fellowship
- Two hours: Cross-cultural ministry
- One hour: Group prayer for the nations

We offer these groups in the spring every year, and we ask everyone who is looking to be sent out by Summit as a missionary to participate in these groups as a part of our assessment and training process.

5. International Job Expo

Goal: *Commit to a location, pathway, and ministry with a healthy timeline for going*

Once we have affirmed together that you are being led by God overseas, the next questions are *where* and *how*. It can be both exciting and overwhelming to consider all the possibilities for what life and ministry could look like on the field. Maybe you came into this process with a clear idea of a certain location, pathway, or ministry you're wanting to pursue. Or maybe you don't know where to even begin. Either way, we are here to help you commit to a specific long-term missions opportunity in a place that is a good fit for you and a strategic location for the gospel.

There are two ways we accomplish this. First, we have you complete a questionnaire that is designed to identify which locations, pathways, and ministries might be a good fit for you based on your giftings, education and skills, passions, and your preferences. (Yes, they're allowed!)

A second way we help identify missions opportunities for you is through our International Job Expo. Twice a year, we invite those in the sending process to come and learn about available jobs on teams around the world where we have Summit missionaries serving. You can also explore available job opportunities at any time on our Assessment Portal.

Sending Organizations

Once you are affirmed by our church and have an idea of which sending organization you would like to go through, you may begin an application through the organization's website. Each organization varies in the amount of time it takes to complete their application and onboarding process, but it typically

takes between six months to one year. Depending on the organization you go through, you may need to raise financial support, which can also affect your timeline for going to the field.

For more information about the main organizations that we partner with, see Appendix B, “Sending Organizations.” If there is another organization that you are interested in serving with, please let us know. We are very open to exploring what partnership with them could look like.

Strategic Locations

As we send Summit members to know God and participate with him in multiplying the gospel, disciples, and churches amongst the nations, we want to create deep, lasting gospel impact in strategic contexts. To do this, we have identified seven strategic locations to invest in:

- Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- Amsterdam, Netherlands
- Japan
- Indonesia
- South Africa
- Dubai, UAE
- India

It is not a requirement to serve in one of these locations; however, we would ask that you prayerfully consider these locations first! Especially if you don’t know where to begin in thinking about where to serve, praying through these locations can be a helpful first step.

6. SENT

Goal: *Get on the plane and get connected to our missionary care structures!*

It's happening! This moment you've been looking forward to for months, or even years, is finally here. "You are sent!" now has a new dimension to it. As you prepare to get on the plane, we want to make sure that our church is prepared to "hold the rope" for you. Below, you'll find an overview of the missionary care structures we have in place for supporting you as you go.

Campus Commissioning

In Acts 13, we see the church at Antioch lay hands on Paul and Barnabas and send them off after the Holy Spirit told them to set these men apart "for the work to which I have called them" (Acts 13:2). Your campus commissioning symbolizes that you have been set apart by the Spirit and sent by our church to partner with God in the work he's doing amongst the nations. These commissionings typically happen in the final weeks before you head to your organization's training or to the field.

International Missions Team

Each member of the international missions team commits to maintaining regular contact with missionaries in order to provide support and accountability. The international missions team participates in quarterly conference calls with missionaries and holds advocates accountable by reviewing monthly reports. They also assist in coordinating support for missionaries on stateside visits, particularly through maintaining missionary housing and vehicles.

Campus

Each missionary's campus is tasked with providing encouragement and support via their campus staff. They coordinate commissioning services and receive and respond to missionary updates. They plan "welcome back" stage times and assist in supporting missionaries on stateside visits. They also aid in recruiting for short-term trips to visit their missionaries.

Small Groups

Each Summit small group is challenged to commit to supporting one missionary. They accomplish this by reading regular updates from their missionary, praying for requests missionaries share, and responding to updates with encouragement. Small groups also participate in short-term trips to visit their missionary.

Additional Support

Summit Encourager Network Team (SENT) - Comprised of lay members at the Summit, SENT complements existing Summit staff efforts in missionary care and increases the amount and type of intentional care that is given to field workers. SENT members serve as coaches and mentors as missionaries prepare for overseas work. They dedicate regular times for intercessory prayer for those on the field. They often serve as "first responders" to visit and bring encouragement and care to missionaries in crisis. Finally, they seek to help missionaries at the end of their mission work adjust to life back in the States.

Quarterly Calls - Four times a year, the international missions team gathers all Summit missionaries to join for a Zoom call. The goal of these calls is to hear updates from the field, encourage our missionaries, and spend time in prayer together. Campus sending coordinators and other Summit leaders are invited to join as well. It's always a special time!

Short-term Trips - We commit to sending a short-term trip once a year to any Summit missionaries who desire to receive a team. The goal of these trips is to serve the missionary, so everything about the trip—from the dates to the day-to-day activities—is oriented toward this goal. Sending coordinators work with the missionary's advocate to recruit people to join the short-term trip, many of whom attend the campus that the missionary was sent out from!

Counseling - We highly value the role that professional counseling can play in promoting our missionaries' health and longevity on the field. When missionaries are preparing to go, when they're on the field, and when they return, the international missions team can provide some financial support for them to participate in counseling.



Appendix A: Missionary Profile

The following is a basic description of the characteristics we are looking for in missionary candidates. Of course, we are not looking for perfect people; however, we are looking for these qualities to be exhibited in those we send overseas.

1. Character

A missionary candidate should “walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which they have been called” (Ephesians 4:1). This involves imitating Christ and exhibiting the fruit of the Spirit in every area of life. Godly character pursues holiness, practices humility, and perseveres through hardship.

Key Verses: Ephesians 4:1-3; Romans 12:1-2; Galatians 5:16-24; Titus 2:7-8

- a. Demonstrates a pattern of bearing the fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control
- b. Pursues holiness in every area of life, including sexual holiness
- c. Has an awareness of the idols that they are most prone to worshiping and serving
- d. Exhibits both a posture and practice of humility toward God, themselves, and others
- e. Has a history of perseverance through seasons of suffering
- f. For singles: Exhibits healthy, gospel-centered singleness and leverages singleness for gospel opportunities
- g. For married couples: Exhibits a healthy, gospel-centered marriage and leverages marriage for gospel opportunities

2. Convictions

A missionary candidate should be convinced of essential doctrines and should believe that the gospel is true and, therefore, must be shared. This involves the ability to identify why you believe what you believe and demonstrating with your life that you practice what you believe.

Key Verses: John 15:1-5; Romans 1:16; Acts 20:24; Hebrews 5:11-6:3; 2 Timothy 1:13-14

- a. Has a good understanding of the gospel and knows how to apply it to every area of life
- b. Affirms and upholds our church's belief statements
- c. Is a member of The Summit Church
- d. Demonstrates consistent practice of spiritual disciplines over time
- e. Regularly confesses sin and shows humility and repentance in response to being made aware of sin
- f. Has a gospel-centered theology of suffering and has maintained both an abiding trust in God and an ability to ask hard questions about God in seasons of suffering

3. Calling

Every believer is called to make disciples of all nations. The question is no longer if we are called; the question is only where and how. A missionary candidate should be able to demonstrate a clear calling for crossing geographic boundaries in order to make disciples. This calling should be informed by Scripture, confirmed by experience, and affirmed by the church.

Key Verses: Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 1:8; Romans 10:13-15; Ephesians 4:11-16

- a. Demonstrates a clear progression toward cross-cultural service over time from the Spirit
- b. Can articulate from Scripture the "why" behind their desire to serve overseas

- c. Has cross-cultural experiences that confirm an affinity and ability to engage in life and ministry in an international context
- d. Has clear affirmation from Summit (including, but not limited to, campus staff, small group leaders, and peers) that this is the right direction at the right time
- e. Is passionate about proclaiming and demonstrating the gospel where it is least known and felt

4. Chemistry

Conflict with team members is the number one reason people come home early from the field. A missionary candidate should be able to interact and work with others effectively and in unity.

Relational chemistry looks like an eagerness to know and love others, engaging in healthy conflict, and exercising biblical commands.

Key Verses: Ephesians 4:1-6; 1 Thessalonians 2:8; Philippians 2:1-4; James 5:16; Acts 2:42-44

- a. Committed to biblical community and actively upholds the “one another” commands of Scripture
- b. Has a history of investment in a Summit small group and in other serving areas
- c. Demonstrates relational intentionality and seeks to build relationships with others
- d. Has a healthy and mature self-awareness of their strengths, weaknesses, personality, and tendencies
- e. Engages in healthy conflict, practicing forgiving others and asking for forgiveness
- f. Able to both receive constructive feedback and give appropriate feedback to others in loving ways
- g. Willing to submit to authority and be held accountable by one’s leaders

5. Competencies

Missionaries are disciple-making disciples. Therefore, a missionary candidate should be competent in both their personal discipleship with Christ and in making disciples. This involves practicing regular spiritual disciplines and maintaining rhythms of evangelism and discipleship, as well as other ministerial skills.

Key Verses: James 2:18–20; 2 Corinthians 3:6; 2 Corinthians 9:8; Titus 2:11–14; 2 Timothy 4:2; Ephesians 6:10–18; 2 Corinthians 5:11

- a. Exhibits regular rhythms of sharing the gospel and engaging in discipleship relationships
- b. Seeks out cross-cultural gospel opportunities
- c. Knows how to contextualize the gospel and is familiar with multiple gospel-sharing tools
- d. Regularly prays for the people with whom they are sharing the gospel and discipling
- e. Demonstrates the ability to “teach others to obey all that Christ has commanded” (Matthew 28:20)
- f. Has experience in facilitating Bible study discussions and in teaching others how to read the Bible

These characteristics capture what we hope would be true for any member of The Summit Church, not just for our missionaries! You can use this profile to evaluate and identify areas of growth for yourself, and we will help you to do this during the assessment meeting.

Appendix B: Sending Organizations

While it is the local church's privilege and responsibility to send missionaries, sending organizations come alongside local churches to facilitate that sending. They do this by providing logistical support, specialized training, missionary care, and other resources. Below, you'll find an overview of our main partners, as well as the links to their websites for you to take a closer look.

The International Mission Board (IMB)

The IMB is the sending organization of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC). Roughly 60 percent of our long-term missionaries are currently serving with the IMB. The IMB has many pathways for going:

- **Journeyman:** A fully funded two-year term for men and women under the age of 30 who want to commit two years to international missions, or for those who are exploring the possibility of lifelong service. As IMB employees, they receive full benefits and services.
- **Career:** A fully funded pathway for those wanting to serve 3+ years overseas. Career missionaries devote themselves to church planting strategies as members of an IMB team in a particular location. As IMB employees, they receive full benefits and services.
- **Field Support:** A fully funded pathway for those wishing to support IMB missionaries through providing medical care, visa/housing/transportation support, risk analysis, counseling, or digital media services for 3+ years. As IMB employees, they receive full benefits and services.
- **Team Associate:** A pathway for those who receive funding from non-IMB sources, but partner with IMB teams in a part-time capacity. This could look like working a marketplace job, attending graduate school, or living out retirement while contributing to the team's church planting strategies. Because they are not IMB employees, these associates do not receive salary and benefits from the IMB, but they may receive some services.

Distinctives of the IMB include:

- A priority of unreached peoples
- A focus on church planting
- Salary, benefits, and services
- Southern Baptist

Pioneers

Pioneers is an interdenominational sending organization focused on creating church planting movements amongst unreached people groups in over one hundred countries. Pioneers missionaries work on teams and use a variety of platforms to implement their strategy. With this, they are very open to leveraging marketplace skills and businesses to create ministry opportunities. This could look like using agricultural practices, tourism industries, trade work, digital media services, or local businesses to advance church planting efforts.

Distinctives of Pioneers include:

- A priority of unreached peoples
- A focus on church planting
- A value for marketplace pathways
- Support-raised
- Interdenominational

Wycliffe

Wycliffe is an interdenominational sending organization focused on Bible translation. Wycliffe missionaries work on teams around the world engaged in some part of the process of translating Scripture

into local languages. This could look like serving as a linguist and working alongside native speakers to translate Scripture, using software and web development to make Bible translations available digitally, or empowering local believers to use their cultural art forms to develop Scripture-based content.

Distinctives of Wycliffe include:

- A focus on Bible translation
- An integration of various gifts, skills, and education
- Support-raised
- Interdenominational

The IMB Application Process

The International Mission Board is the sending organization of the Southern Baptist Convention and is our main sending partner. If you are considering serving with the IMB, below is an overview of what to expect from their application process.

Phase One: Initial Assessment

1. [Start IMB application on website](#)
2. Complete self-assessment
→ Initial interest call
3. Complete lifestyle/crisis assessment
→ Lifestyle interview
4. Begin church assessment process

Phase Two: Main Application

1. Complete IMB application
 - a. Autobiography
 - b. Baptist Faith and Message
 - c. Statement of Beliefs
 - d. Evangelism log
 - e. Deepen discipleship

2. Pass clearances

- a. Medical
- b. Background check
- c. Financial
- d. Child safety
- e. Theological

3. Gain access to IMB job descriptions

4. Participate in church's post-assessment

5. Attend interview conference in Richmond, Virginia

Phase Three: Hiring

1. Apply for available job positions
2. Interview with team leaders
3. IMB initiates a job offer
4. Accept IMB position



International
Launch Guide