Small-Church Missions Partnership & Sending Toolkit

A 12-month operating system for prayer, partnership, support, communication, and learning

Built for a committee of two to five people, not a large-church missions department.

What this toolkit is for
A small church does not need a larger church's program to participate faithfully in God's mission. It needs a clear way to listen, pray, partner, give, communicate, and learn without treating people, countries, or missionaries as projects.

Important boundaries: This is a ministry-planning resource, not legal, tax, immigration, medical, insurance, security, child-protection, crisis, travel, or financial advice. Follow your church's governing practices and the procedures of qualified partner organizations. Do not publish security-sensitive details, private stories, or images without clear permission.

Discern a partnership with humility

A prospective partner is not a product to compare. Your committee is deciding whether it can keep a relationship with integrity and whether the work aligns with the church's actual calling and capacity.

Focus	Practice
Mission alignment	Can the committee explain the work in plain language without making inflated claims?
Relationship and trust	What trusted connection, references, or accountability information can be verified through appropriate channels?
Communication expectations	What can be shared publicly, how often, and through whom? What must remain private or security-sensitive?
Capacity and sustainability	Can the church keep the proposed commitment through an ordinary difficult year?

Put it into practice
When a question cannot be answered, record it. Do not turn uncertainty into a polished story.

Applied template: a partner update that tells the truth

Use this as a structure, not as copy to paste without checking. Replace every bracket with verified, approved information. If you cannot answer a field, leave it out or list it as an internal question. Do not use an update to imply that a partner's work, a community's hardship, or a donor's gift can be reduced to a success story.

Part of the tool	Approved-language framework
One-sentence relationship context	"Our church has chosen to [pray for/support/learn alongside] [partner or work, if approved to name] through [approved relationship route]."
Approved update	"This month, the partner has invited us to pray for [general, approved focus]. We are sharing this because [why it is appropriate for the congregation to know]."
Concrete participation	"You can join us by [praying/using the attached guide/asking a question from the named contact]."
Human contact and boundary	"Questions can go to [name/contact]. We will not share private or security-sensitive details, but we will seek accurate information through the appropriate channel."

Use before publishing or meeting

Final check: Could the partner recognize this as truthful, dignified, and within the permission they gave?

Worksheet: Partnership discernment grid

This is a conversation tool, not a ranking scorecard. It helps a church notice what it knows, what it still needs to verify, and what capacity it can honestly offer.

Partner/work context and trusted relationship route

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_____
_____

Mission alignment and plain-language explanation

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_____
_____

Communication, permission, privacy, and security boundaries

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_____
_____

Sustainability, support, and committee capacity questions

_____
_____
_____

Open questions / who will confirm / decision date

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_____
_____