

Subject: Prioritization of Proposals in Response to the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)
Date: Wednesday, May 13, 2020 at 6:12:38 PM Pacific Daylight Time
From: Julia Karimu
To: Vy Nguyen
CC: Karen Georgia Thompson, LaMarco Cable, Angel Luis Rivera-Agosto, Peter Makari, Deenabandhu Manchala, Derek Duncan
Attachments: image001.jpg, priorities update.docx

Dear Vy,

As per your request, please find attached the criteria for the prioritization of proposals in response to the Novel Coronavirus(COVID-19 prepared by the area executives in consultation with the co-executives. How do you see the next steps in the process? Should the area executives submit proposals related to the Coronavirus to Week of Compassion based on this criteria?

Please let us know if you have questions for clarification.

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Global Ministries, *a common witness of the Division of Overseas Ministries, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and Wider Church Ministries, United Church of Christ*, is committed to a ministry of Critical Presence where we meet in a timely and appropriate manner God's people and creation at the point of deepest need: spiritually, physically, emotionally, and/or economically.

As it spreads around the world and impacts the health and the economy and well-being globally, COVID-19 represents a new challenge to the ministry and mission of Global Ministries, and of the area offices in particular. Partners around the world express to us constantly in terms of the impact of the pandemic on their presence and work in their communities. As we look into the values that define us, Global Ministries is committed to a ministry of Critical Presence "where we meet God's people and creation at the point of deepest need: spiritually, physically, emotionally, and/or economically." Critical presence applies to our accompaniment of church partners, such as visits by official delegations and area executives, the adoption of resolutions in response to particular issues, working on advocacy issues identified by the partners, and the sharing of financial resources [see Julia Brown Karimu, "Critical Presence" https://www.globalministries.org/college_of_mission_critical_presence]. It has to do with our ministry of accompanying (being there with and being visible for) our partners who are ministering to and with people who are in life-threatening situations. This may include, among others, to be there for pastoral ministries related to fear and hopelessness where people are desperate for meaning and in situations of danger or death related to social, economic, or political realities [Brown Karimu, *id.*].

Global Ministries, through its area offices, often receives partner proposals and appeals responding to natural and human disasters. The activities coordinated through partners and budgets varies from partner to partner and region to region. In the first four months of 2020, and on a continuing basis, area offices have received an unprecedented number of such partner proposals and appeals. A larger proportion of these requests have been in response to COVID-19. Partner appeals have been for provision of response to specific COVID-19 needs such as hygiene kits, hand sanitizer, food, building modification and grants for people who are now unemployed. Given this global pandemic, it is essential to establish a protocol for prioritizing partner requests.

The following are the agreed upon priorities as identified by the area executives:

1. Partners who are coordinating direct and immediate responses to COVID-19
2. Partners providing services to the most vulnerable and marginalized communities with limited to no international support
3. Institutional support for partners unable to meet financial obligations for programmatic and pastoral needs
4. Proposals that include intersectionality with the Global Ministries thematic emphases: human trafficking, migration/immigration, climate change, and interfaith relations and emerging issues as related to COVID-19

Global Ministries responses are expressions of the Disciples and UCC commitment to accompaniment of our partners in times of challenge and difficulty. The support of Week of Compassion and One Great Hour of Sharing is as crucial now as it has ever been.