

Application for First UMC - Ann Arbor
Kenya Mission Work Trip

February 16 - 27, 2012

(Limited Space Available)

**Work Projects at the Bishop Imathiu High School
in Meru, Kenya**

Approximate cost per person \$3,000

But does not include passport, immunizations costs or optional safari extension.

This form must be completed and returned to a Trip Leader by **September 25, 2011** with an initial contribution of \$2,000 made out to FUMC (memo "Kenya Mission"). The \$2,000 is nonrefundable and will be treated as a contribution to the Kenya Mission Project once your application has been accepted.

An optional trip extension for a 3-night safari is available at additional cost (\$900) and returns home on March 1.

Name (as shown on passport) _____

Phone (Home) _____ (Work/Cell) _____

E-mail _____

Mailing Address _____

Airline Seating Preference _____ Delta Frequent Flyer Number _____

Optional Safari Extension: Yes / No (circle one) Single Room (additional cost): _____

Attach a photocopy of your passport.

Personal Covenant:

I will: (1) be flexible, (2) be open to different cultures and ways of doing things, (3) be committed to living in close community, (4) put aside personal needs, (5) be open to God's work and calling, (6) engage others under difficult circumstances with a loving heart, and (7) participate fully in all activities to the best of one's ability.

I agree to cooperate at all times with team leaders concerning our life together, including daily assignments, food, lodging, and transportation. I agree to stay with the team from beginning to end, to abstain from the use of alcohol and tobacco while on the mission, and to share my faith in an appropriate Christian manner.

Team Member expectations are listed on the next page.

Signature

Date

Return completed form, deposit and copy of passport to the Kenya Mission Team Leaders:
Drew Angotti (drew@fumc-a2.org, 662.4536), Kathy Macdonald (kmac@macdgroup.com, 834.2532),
Gary McClusky (mcclusky@umich.edu, 663.4482), or Jeff Punch (jpunch@umich.edu, 971.6433).

Apply early as the trip may be filled before September 25, 2011.

First United Methodist Church - Ann Arbor, Michigan
2012 Mission Project in Meru, Kenya
Thursday, February 16 - Monday, February 27, 2012

Background & Need:

Over the last 8 years, our ministry focus in Kenya has been on education in a rural poor area outside the city of Meru in eastern Kenya. Education is highly valued by the community there and is seen as a mechanism to address the social issues created by poverty. Education provides basic life skills and improves the quality of life independent of political and economic conditions. Under favorable circumstances, education can equip individuals to move forward to build a healthy and productive life.

Our initial work focused on a vocational school, the Kithoka Youth Polytechnic School, at a time when 70% of Kenyan youth did not go for further education beyond the eighth grade due to economic limitations. The Polytechnic provides vocational training for youth, who do not go on to high school, to enable them to be self-employed and self-sufficient. FUMC provided electricity for the school complex and built a three-room classroom building. Resources were provided for their auto mechanics and tailoring programs.

Subsequently, a new high school was started on land adjacent to the Polytechnic, to provide education to those families in the area who could not afford the predominant boarding school system in Kenya. The poor in the community are served through this day school, which is named the Bishop Lawi Imathiu Secondary School, or BLISS, for short. The high school began in 2004 by borrowing classroom space from a neighboring elementary school. Our initial efforts established a school library with now over 2,000 books and science equipment for teaching biology, chemistry and physics. FUMC has funded the construction of a High School building, providing 8 classroom, 2 resource rooms, school office and rest rooms, and a separate 3-room Science Laboratory building. BLISS has reached full enrollment of almost 400 students and has exceeded greatly its physical facilities. In 2011, FUMC started funding additional facilities as a 3-4 year project.

Mission Purpose:

The purpose of this mission work is to join God in service to the poor, and to transform lives through education.

2012 Mission Project Goals:

1. Provide educational scholarships for children and young adults in the Kithoka community (\$20,000).
2. Fund additional physical facilities at BLISS as part of 3-4 year construction project.
3. Provide educational enrichment at Bishop Imathiu Secondary School for current and recently graduated students.

2012 Mission Work Goals:

Focus of work activities during the mission trip will be in the classroom at BLISS. The major areas of focus in the classroom will be:

- A. Assisting students and teachers develop computer skills, explore educational resources on the Internet.
- B. Laying the foundation for curriculum development.
- C. Providing Health Education enrichment to the curriculum.
- D. Providing educational enrichment to recent BLISS graduates.
- E. Science lessons and demonstrations will also be provided to support the equipment onsite and examination needs of students.

There are three distinct roles that mission team members will serve:

1. As FUMC ambassadors to the school community, building relationships with our Kenyan brothers and sisters.
2. Being “eyes and ears” for this mission work, and to learn and understand the needs of the students, teachers and community. This role is intended for first time mission team members, who are willing to be flexible and open to how they help out.
3. Assisting teachers in and out of the classroom using specific knowledge and skills to help teachers prepare and teach, and when appropriate, to teach or tutor students directly.

Trip Leaders:

Drew Angotti (drew@fumc-a2.org, 662.4536), **Kathy Macdonald** (kmac@macdgroup.com, 834.2532),
Gary McClusky (mcclusky@umich.edu, 663.4482), and **Jeff Punch** (jpunch@umich.edu, 971.6433).

Trip Details:

Transportation:

We will fly out of Detroit Metro Airport to Nairobi, Kenya with a change of planes in Amsterdam. Each flight segment is about 8 hours of flying time. Nairobi is 8 hours ahead of Eastern Time (GMT +3). Ground transportation is provided by minibus vans driven by Kenyan drivers. It's a days' drive from Nairobi to Meru, so by the end of the second day of travel we arrive in Meru.

Lodging and Meals:

We will stay at the Thiiri Center in Kithoka on the edge of Meru near Kenya Methodist University, Mwanika Church and Bishop Imathiu Schools. Rooms have either two single beds or one full bed and their own bathroom. Meals will be provided at the Thiiri Center. The food is wonderful, healthy and filling. Fresh fruit and vegetables are abundant. Dietary staples are rice and corn meal. A typical meal is carrots, peas and shredded beef over rice. The Thiiri Center, founded by Bishop Lawi Imathiu and Rev. Marilyn Brenchley, is wonderfully maintained and landscaped with native plantings.

Costs & Payment Schedule:

A. The **Mission Trip** cost* is estimated at \$3,000 per person, based upon double room occupancy and includes \$500 contribution toward the Bishop Imathiu Schools Project. (Single room supplement is \$300.) **A deposit check of \$2,000 deposit must accompany the Mission Trip Application by September 25, 2011** to secure a space. The check will be returned if there is insufficient space.

Final Mission Trip payment of \$1,000 is due by October 30, 2011.

Checks should be made payable to **First United Methodist Church of Ann Arbor (memo: Kenya Mission)**. Do NOT write your name on the memo line. Checks are treated as contributions to the church and are therefore non-refundable.

B. An **Optional Trip Extension** for a 3-night safari is available for \$900 based upon double occupancy. (Single supplement for extension is \$390.) **Payment for the extension should be made by separate check (FUMC, memo: Kenya Personal Expenses) and is due on October 30, 2011.** The trip extension is not tax deductible. Extension participants will arrive home on Thursday, March 1, 2011.

*The cost includes airfare, visa fee, ground transportation, 3 meals per day, and lodging. Not included are passport fees, vaccinations, tips and personal expenses, such as laundry, soda, snacks, airport meals and souvenirs. Mission trip expenses (transportation, lodging, meals, visa fee, vaccination expenses) and mission work contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. Sightseeing and personal expenses are not tax deductible.

WHO CAN GO:

Adults and older youth members (accompanied by parent or designated guardian) of Ann Arbor FUMC are invited to apply. This can be a wonderful family opportunity with older youth. To qualify, youth must be active in FUMC Youth program, have demonstrated leadership, and have displayed maturity in behavior and judgment. This experience is an advanced opportunity for those with a demonstrated aptitude and passion for mission work.

Skills needed: ability to be flexible, open to different culture and ways of doing things, committed to living in close community, put aside personal needs, openness to God's work and calling, and capacity to engage others under difficult circumstances. Disclaimer: not for the weak of heart or spirit!

A personal interview with the team leaders to determine suitability of fit with the mission objectives and the mission community will be held prior to acceptance.

All team members are expected to carefully commit to the Team Covenant and live according to the tenets outlined in the Covenant while on this trip.

Trip Itinerary (tentative flights & times):

Thursday	February 16	Depart Detroit Metro (NW68) 5:30 PM	Overnight on plane
Friday	February 17	Arrive 7:30 AM in Amsterdam Depart 1020 AM (KL565) for Nairobi Arrive at 8:25 PM	Methodist Guest House - Nairobi
Saturday	February 18	Breakfast - Methodist Guest House (MGH) Drive to Meru in Minibus Vans Lunch at Trout Tree restaurant in Nanyuki (midway to Meru) Arrive in Meru late afternoon	Thiiri Center in Kithoka
Sunday	February 19	Breakfast at Thiiri Center Worship Services at Mwanika Church Lunch & Fellowship Dinner at Thiiri Center	Thiiri Center in Kithoka
Monday to Friday	February 20 to February 24	Breakfast Morning Devotions at School Mission work at Schools Lunch at Thiiri Mission work continues Afternoon Visits to area ministries Dinner	Thiiri Center in Kithoka
Saturday	February 25	Breakfast BLISS Celebration & Farewell Dinner	Thiiri Center in Kithoka
Sunday	February 26	Breakfast - Thiiri Center Depart Meru 8 AM Lunch & Dinner in Nairobi Afternoon activities in Nairobi Depart Nairobi at 10:50 PM (KL566)	
Monday	February 27	Arrive Amsterdam 5:30 AM Depart 8:30 AM (NW39) Arrive at Detroit Metro 11:30 AM	Arrive Home
		Trip Extension (optional)	
Sunday	February 26	Breakfast at Thiiri Depart Meru at 8 AM Worship/devotions en route Lunch & Dinner – Samburu Lodge Game drive late afternoon	Samburu Simba Lodge
Monday	February 27	Game drive 6:30 AM Breakfast at Lodge - 9 AM Lunch - Lodge Game drive in afternoon at 3 PM Dinner at Lodge 7:30 PM	Samburu Simba Lodge
Tuesday	February 28	Breakfast - Simba Lodge Drive to Sweetwaters Lunch & Dinner at Sweetwaters Lodge Game drive late afternoon	Sweetwaters Lodge
Wednesday	February 29	Breakfast at Lodge - 9 AM Depart for Nairobi after breakfast Lunch & Dinner - Nairobi Depart Nairobi at 10:50 PM (KL566)	Overnight on airplane
Thursday	March 1	Arrive Amsterdam 5:30 AM Depart 8:30 AM (NW39) Arrive at Detroit Metro 11:30 AM	Arrive Home

Ground Package Terms: cancellation fee is 25% of package cost if cancelled between 33 and 15 days of arrival date. Cancellation fee is 50% between 14 and 3 days of arrival. Cancellation fee is 100% between 2 days and no show. The travel agent in Nairobi based upon their business day must receive notice.

Airline Ticket Terms: Non-refundable on October 1. Change fee: \$250. Flights are tentative and subject to change.

Questions may be directed to Drew Angotti, Kathy Macdonald, Gary McClusky, or Jeff Punch.