



# First Presbyterian Church

*Where God's Love Makes all the Difference.*

## **MISSION in MISSION 2012**

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

#### **REGISTRATION**

##### **What is included in the fee?**

The registration fee of \$30 per person includes accommodations for the week, t-shirt, welcome dinner on Saturday, and Sunday morning continental breakfast.

##### **When is the money due?**

A non-refundable deposit of \$10 per person is due at time of registration. The final balance of \$20 per person is due 3 weeks before your group arrives.

##### **Is there a minimum/maximum group size?**

We can accommodate groups of 10 - 30 people.

##### **What if our numbers change?**

Mission in Mission and our partner ministries are your group's mission trip based on the information that you've shared with us about your team. If any information about your group size, number of guys/girls, etc. changes, please let FPCM know as soon as possible. The absolute latest that any changes to your group should make is 3 weeks before your trip.

##### **Do we need to be Presbyterian?**

Of course not!


##### **What additional expenses will our group need to plan for in our budget?**

In addition to your registration fee, your group will need to plan for the cost of travel to/from Mission, TX and transportation while you are here. You'll also need to include the cost of meals in your budget (both while you're traveling and Sunday lunch – Friday breakfast). Depending on your service project, there may be a cost for materials. You may have additional expenses related to what your group decides to do during free time.

#### **ACCOMMODATIONS**

##### **Where will we be staying?**

You'll be living at First Presbyterian Church of Mission (FPCM) in Mission, Texas. Our congregation looks forward to welcoming and hosting your mission team! There are separate sleeping areas for guys and girls, but plenty of space (both inside and outside) for your whole group to be together. Your "home away from home" includes Fellowship Hall, Sunday School classrooms, kitchen, shower trailer, a grassy area, courtyard, exercise room, and computer lab.



### **Is the church air-conditioned?**

Absolutely!

### **Are there showers?**

Yes, we have a shower trailer with 6 showers. There are 2 sections of the trailer with 3 showers each, so your team can use a section for girls, and one for guys or have designated times for girls then guys to use all 6.

### **What are the sleeping arrangements?**

We have separate sleeping areas for guys and girls. Depending on the size of your group, you may be sleeping in Sunday School classrooms or a section of the Fellowship Hall.

### **Can we do laundry?**

Yes, there is a Laundromat near the FPCM. If you plan to do laundry, remember to bring quarters, detergent and dryer sheets.

### **Are meals provided?**

There will be a Welcome Dinner for your group on Saturday night and a continental breakfast for you on Sunday morning. Your group will be responsible for all other meals during the week. There are several grocery stores and a Wal-Mart near the church and there will be time on Sunday afternoon for your team to go grocery shopping.

### **How should our group handle meal preparation?**

Some groups choose to bring along an adult or two who want to serve specifically as the “team chef” rather than on the worksites. Other groups plan a menu and then assign one group of team members to meal preparation and another to clean up, giving everyone a chance to take a turn during the week. It means getting up a little earlier to make breakfast or set out cereal, milk, etc. It also means being first in line to take a shower after returning from the worksite in order to start getting dinner ready. Other groups buy groceries for breakfast and lunch and choose to eat out at local restaurants for dinner. Each of the ways of handling meal preparation is successful, definitely building a sense of community, and are a whole lot of fun...choose whichever works best for your group.

### **Do we need to bring pots/pans?**

No, our kitchen has everything you’ll need! You’ll have a refrigerator/freezer, 2 stoves, 4 ovens, 2 microwaves, and dishwasher. The drawers and cabinets are full of pots, pans and cooking utensils.

### **What about lunches at our worksite?**

During breakfast, everyone will also pack their lunch. You’ll load up the lunch and drink coolers and take them with you to the worksite(s).

### **Do we need to bring coolers or 5 gallon drink containers?**

No, FPCM will provide these. You’ll stop to fill up with water and ice on your way to the worksite.

## SERVICE PROJECTS

### **Who can participate? Is there a minimum age?**

Anyone can participate. We've had families, youth groups, college teams, and seniors come and serve with Mission in Mission! Please keep in mind that our ministry partners have different age minimums, so the make up of your team will determine who you'll be partnered with and the kind of service projects you'll be helping with. We will work with you to design a plan for the week that best fits your group.

### **What is the adult-youth ratio?**

Varies. Plan on at least 1 male adult chaperon for every 5 male students and at least 1 female adult chaperon for every 5 female students. Depending on the ministry that your group is partnered with, you may be asked to bring more adult chaperons for students under the age of 16. We can give you specific answers as soon as we begin planning for your team.

### **What kind of projects can we help out with?**

Our partner ministries are involved with construction/repair, literacy, feeding, healthcare, and outreach projects throughout the Rio Grande Valley. You will help us pair your team with a ministry that best fits your group's interests, age, skills, etc.

### **When will we find out what kind of work we will be doing?**

Filling out the Team Registration Form 1 will give us a general idea of the kind of projects your team is most interested in. Once you're registered, FPCM will send you a confirmation and another packet. Team Registration Form 2 asks for more information about the ages, skills, etc of the members of your team. We will use that info to make a great match between your team and partner ministry. At that point, we'll be able to talk more about the details of your service project.

### **Do we need to bring supplies/tools?**

Teams working on community projects will need to bring whatever supplies necessary to run the program you are planning. If you are working on a construction project, you are welcome to bring your own tools, but you'll also have access to a tool trailer at FPCM.

### **How much will the project material cost?**

The cost of materials depends on the partner ministry and the specific project that they have identified for your team. A general range would be between \$1,000 and \$1,500.

### **Do we need to have an adult on our team that knows construction?**

No, we have a Job Site Supervisor for the work to be done.

### **Will all team members work together on one site or at various locations?**

It will depend on the partner ministry your team paired with, the size of your group, as well as the needs and types of the project. Once we begin planning the details of your team's mission trip, we will be better able to answer this question.

### **What kind of clothes should we wear to the worksite?**

Modesty is key at all times on and off the worksite (ex: no spaghetti straps, low cut shirts, short shorts, etc). Questions about what's "appropriate,"...just ask. Although the weather in the Rio Grande Valley is often hot, closed-toe shoes and pants must be worn at all construction-type worksites.

## PROGRAMMING

### **Will there be an evening program?**

We will work with you to build an evening program that fits with the goal/theme of your trip. This could include visits to the border wall, Rio Grande River, or Border Patrol office. It might mean a cultural experience at the outdoor market. Let's discuss options!

### **Are we responsible for our own devotional times?**

Yes, there will be time for your team to have your own devotional time together each day. If you would like to help plan, we can offer a variety of suggestions that are particularly fitting for cultural mission experiences.

### **Will our group have any free time?**

Yes, your group will have a "night off" on Wednesday evening to relax, explore, and play. If you'd like, we'll gladly offer some local suggestions to help you plan something your group will enjoy. While you're in the Rio Grande Valley, we hope your group will also take time to explore the community before "checking in" on Saturday and after packing up on Friday.

## TRANSPORTATION

### **If we fly, what airport should we fly into?**

The nearest airports are McAllen-Miller International Airport (MFE) in McAllen (10 minutes) and Valley International Airport (HRL) in Harlingen (45 minutes). Depending on where you're coming from, you might get a better rate flying into San Antonio.

### **Do we need to rent a vehicle?**

You will need to provide your own transportation while serving with Mission in Mission. Please make sure that the number of seat/seat belts in your vehicle matches or exceeds the number of people in your group. You will also need room for coolers and worksite materials.

### **How far away are the worksites from the church?**

Most of the areas where our partner ministries serve are within a 30 minute drive.

## LIFE ON THE BORDER

### **What's the weather like?**

Our "winters" are very mild and many teams find this to be a great reason to escape their chilly communities and serve the Rio Grande Valley. The summers are hot and also a busy time for mission groups. In the summer, we plan with the weather – scheduling any outside projects to start early and end early, for example.

### **Do we have to speak Spanish?**

No, however it's possible that the people you'll be working with speak only Spanish or limited English. If you have taken any Spanish at all it will be a great chance to practice.

### **Will we be safe?**

You've probably heard reports of violence in Mexico over the news. FPCM first became a host church for mission teams that had originally planned to serve in Mexico, and not wanting to cancel their trips, were looking for opportunities to serve on this side of the border. Our proximity to the U.S.-Mexico border allows us to offer, in a unique way, a safe alternative that gives your team the opportunity to experience the "feel" of an international trip including the culture, language, and foods of Mexico...from right here in the U.S.