

Best Practices

UMVIM, CTC considers the following six items Best Practices for UMVIM teams:

1. *Have a trained team leader through our CTC UMVIM program.* Check the Conference Website at <http://www.ctcumc.org/teamleadertraining> for upcoming training events and to register to attend a training class.
2. *Comply with the MinistrySafe policy of our annual conference.* This is designed to make church programming safe and welcoming for children/youth and vulnerable adults. It is your responsibility as the team leader to ensure that our annual conference's policy is observed during all parts of your mission experience by all members of your team.
3. *Serve with an UMVIM project.* Though some mission teams that register and get insurance through CTC do serve with projects not directly related to UMVIM, serving with an UMVIM project (that is, a project listed on our website or Global Ministries website) gives a layer of resources and accountability often not possible otherwise. UMVIM projects have all been approved by area Bishops, heads of church, or church officials; should the need arise, we are able to step in and address certain situations. These projects have also gone through an extensive application process.
4. *Register your team.* Registering with CTC allows us to assist your team in placement, maintain mission relationships with our projects, give assistance of health or other issues emerge and intervene in the unlikely event of a dispute between your team and the project.

If you are traveling internationally, it is important to register each team member with the US State Department's Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP) as well. This is a free service that you can complete online at <https://step.state.gov>. It is highly encouraged for international travel should an emergency occur and the US State Department orders evacuations of American citizens. If you do not register before you go and this problem occurs the embassy will likely not help you.

5. *Take insurance through CTC.* We believe it is vital that all mission teams take out insurance before traveling both domestically and internationally. Traveling for mission purposes can carry some inherent risk, and it is very important to plan for contingencies. We pray that your mission experience is free of any need for insurance, but sometimes it can mean the difference between a negligible medical bill and an overwhelmingly large one. For more information or to register for insurance go to our website at <http://www.ctcumc.org/missiontripinsurance>.
6. *Spiritual Formation.* The mission opportunity does not simply begin and end with your travel dates. Embarking on a mission should encompass a spiritual journey for you and your team that requires prayer and devotion before, during, and after you travel. Attending local worship services where you are serving is both crucial to understanding the culture, and respectful to those you are visiting. Remember this is God's mission, and you have each agreed to be part of it.