



Phil Linton
Director

World Outreach Committee
Report to the 38th General Assembly



Betsy Rumer
Chair

Summary of Work, 2017-2018:

1. World Outreach's missionary candidate assessment and approval process was completely revised.
2. A thorough mid-term evaluation of Engage 2025 was completed, and Engage 2025 Team Leaders (and their families) were brought together and given new tools, resources, and training to carry out their task.
3. A manual for business as mission in WO was developed and approved.
4. Multi-year Ministry Plans were developed to deliver specific goods and services to our International Theological Education partners.

Recommendations to the 2018 General Assembly:

RECOMMENDATION 38-31:

1. That Operation Mobilization be approved as a Co-operative Mission Agency (details to follow).
2. That Timothy Two International be approved as an Approved Mission Agency (details to follow).
3. That Equip International be approved as an Approved Mission Agency (details to follow).

Work of the Committee in 2017-2018:

Perhaps the committee's most important task (and certainly its most enjoyable one) is communicating with our global workers. This still takes place through face-to-face meetings in Orlando with workers on home assignment, but more and more through video conference calls while they're still on the field. In many cases, the results of their labors are exciting and inspiring. Work among refugees continues to bear amazing fruit. We heard from one of our teams who had seen many Muslim women come to faith in Christ, but were stymied in their efforts to reach men. That changed when they hit on the idea of inviting the men to join their team in a local soccer league. Doors for witness opened, and now whole families are following Christ!

Another of our workers started church services in their location less than two years ago. Already the church has more than 50 very active members, and have begun to pay their pastor's salary. And still another of our workers (a Business-as-Mission practitioner) held a company training event on the governing ethos of the business. He had his employees (most of them non-Christians) break up into 8 different groups, study a key Bible story in the history of redemption, and then act the story out for the whole group. Now those stories have entered the lexicon of his business, and employees often refer to them when discussing business decisions.

Another level of communication with workers takes place during our annual evaluation process. The individual workers and their supervisors complete detailed reports on progress toward personal and ministry goals, and their own personal as well as their team's health. They note successes, failures, and challenges for the future. The reports are shared with EPC churches who are financial supporters of the worker. Last year WOC's Personnel Subcommittee devoted four full days last year to pray, review and discuss each worker's reports via video conference. Those discussions resulted in specific recommendations communicated to WO leaders, our co-op agency partners, and the individual workers themselves.

But the most intense and concentrated interaction happens when prospective applicants for missionary service come and live with Committee members in Orlando for 4 days. Eating meals with the candidates, observing them in multiple scenarios, and interviewing them numerous times, (along with seeing the results of bible knowledge and psychological assessments) give the Committee a much stronger foundation to make appointment decisions. Seven families and one single candidate were appointed by WOC last year.

This year the ITEN leadership team reaped the benefits of all their hard work in developing tools, clarifying objectives, and building their team. They have found a new gear as they focus on partnerships in: Albania, Ethiopia, India, Liberia, Myanmar, Pakistan, Siberia, Sierra Leone, Spain, the Caucasus, and (tentatively) Vietnam.

WOC called for and completed a major mid-course evaluation of Engage 2025, which resulted in a strategy clarification that Engage 2025 church-planting teams in the field should be composed of whoever can best accomplish the task, and that membership and leadership are not reserved for WO workers. WO also took steps to improve tools and resources for E25 Field Team Leaders to match the very heavy responsibilities they

carry. And WO for the first time brought all Engage 2025 Team Leaders (and their families) together for a one-week training “huddle”.

We are being drawn to prayer. The church in Malaysia (largely ethnic-Chinese and Indian) made its own call to prayer which was independent of, but strikingly similar to, our own call to prayer for spiritual breakthrough. Many of our co-op partners joined us in a gathering in Asia which adopted a call for prayer that for 10% of Muslims across the world would put their faith in Christ within the next 10 years. And a growing number of WO colleagues now pause at noon every Friday to pray for the needs of the Muslim World.

Recommendations to the 2018 General Assembly:

RECOMMENDATION 38-31:

After reviewing histories, statements of faith, mission statements and financial audits, the WOC recommends that Timothy Two International and Equip International be approved as Approved Mission Agencies. And after reviewing all of the above information, and receiving assurance that EPC World Outreach workers would have freedom to express convictions of reformed theology, the WOC recommends that Operation Mobilization be approved as a Co-operative Mission Agency.

Link to Supporting documents:

- Operation Mobilization
www.epc.org/files/ga2018document-worldoutreachominternational
- Timothy Two International
www.epc.org/files/ga2018document-worldoutreach-timothytwointernational
- Equip International
www.epc.org/files/ga2018document-worldoutreachequipinternational

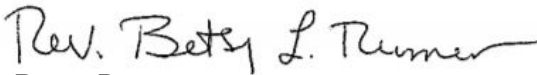
Committee Members:

TE Betsy Rumer (Chair), Presbytery of the Alleghenies
TE Phil Linton, WO Director, Presbytery of Florida and the Caribbean
TE Brad Buescher, Presbytery of the Great Plains
RE Phil Castor, Presbytery of the East
TE Kevin Cauley, Presbytery of the Mid-Atlantic
RE Phyllis Ellsworth, Presbytery of the Midwest
RE Al Johnson, Presbytery of the West
RE David Miller, Presbyter of the Rivers and Lakes
Sheryl Smith, Presbytery of the West
RE Pat Tucker, Presbytery of the Central South

Committee Meeting Dates:

October 18, 19; Orlando
January 10, 11; Orlando
April 11, 12; Orlando

Respectfully submitted,


Betsy Rumer
Chair


Phil Linton
WO Director

June 2018