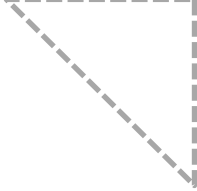


The 18.26 Network



FAQs for Missions Agencies and Reformed Churches

Is the 18.26 Network part of Mission to the World and the Presbyterian Church in America?

The 18.26 Network was started as a division of Mission to the World (MTW) as a separate registered 501(c)3 with its own board of directors. The 18.26 Network can send and support vocational missionaries who are not employees of MTW but rather work for other employers or are self-employed. Our leadership is comprised of MTW missionaries and PCA elders. Our goal is to mobilize members of the Church who view themselves as part of the Reformed tradition of the Church.

Why would you deploy members of other denominations for your ministry or deploy members of your denomination to assist other ministries?

MTW has a long history of working with other agencies to fulfill the Great Commission. We are not “soft” on our own Reformed and Covenantal standards – they are dear to us and reflect deep theological convictions that we seek to winsomely reflect.

However, we believe that the fields are ripe with harvest and that we cannot fulfill the Lord’s command to “pray that the Lord of the Harvest will send laborers into the harvest” without praying for, and working with, others who agree on the basic tenants of the Christian faith. We must work together for our common cause.

The Presbyterian Church in America is but one expression of our Reformed and Covenantal heritage. We are happy to send members from other churches who align with our faith statement and to help them engage with MTW work or the work of other agencies who accept our members for who they are.

What is the greatest hindrance to creating a good partnership?

The greatest hindrance to creating good partnership is unspoken expectations. We encourage our members to use a process similar to that used by the Apostle Paul when he mediated between the conflicting interests of Philemon and Onesimus. Some see that in retrospect as “principled negotiation.” The second greatest hindrance is that partnerships are formed at a distant, organization level rather than at a local, organic level.

What guidelines are helpful when you work cooperatively across agency and denominational boundaries?

There’s an old New England adage, “Good fences make good neighbors!” We might better for ministry purposes turn that saying on its head – “Good neighbors make good fences.”

Because every neighbor is different, because every neighborhood is different and because every fence is different there is no one-size-fits-all solution for designing good partnerships. It takes practice, it takes patience and it takes reliance on the Holy Spirit to lead and direct poor sinners such as we are.

If you are interested in how we can work together, we are happy to share examples of good partnership documents that we have used with other agencies as well as with MTW teams.