

THE SUMMIT CHURCH

MID-TERM Sending Guide



May God be gracious to us and bless us
and make his face to shine upon us, Selah
that your way may be known on earth,
your saving power among all nations.

Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you!

Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,
for you judge the peoples with equity
and guide the nations upon earth. Selah

Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you!

The earth has yielded its increase;
God, our God, shall bless us.

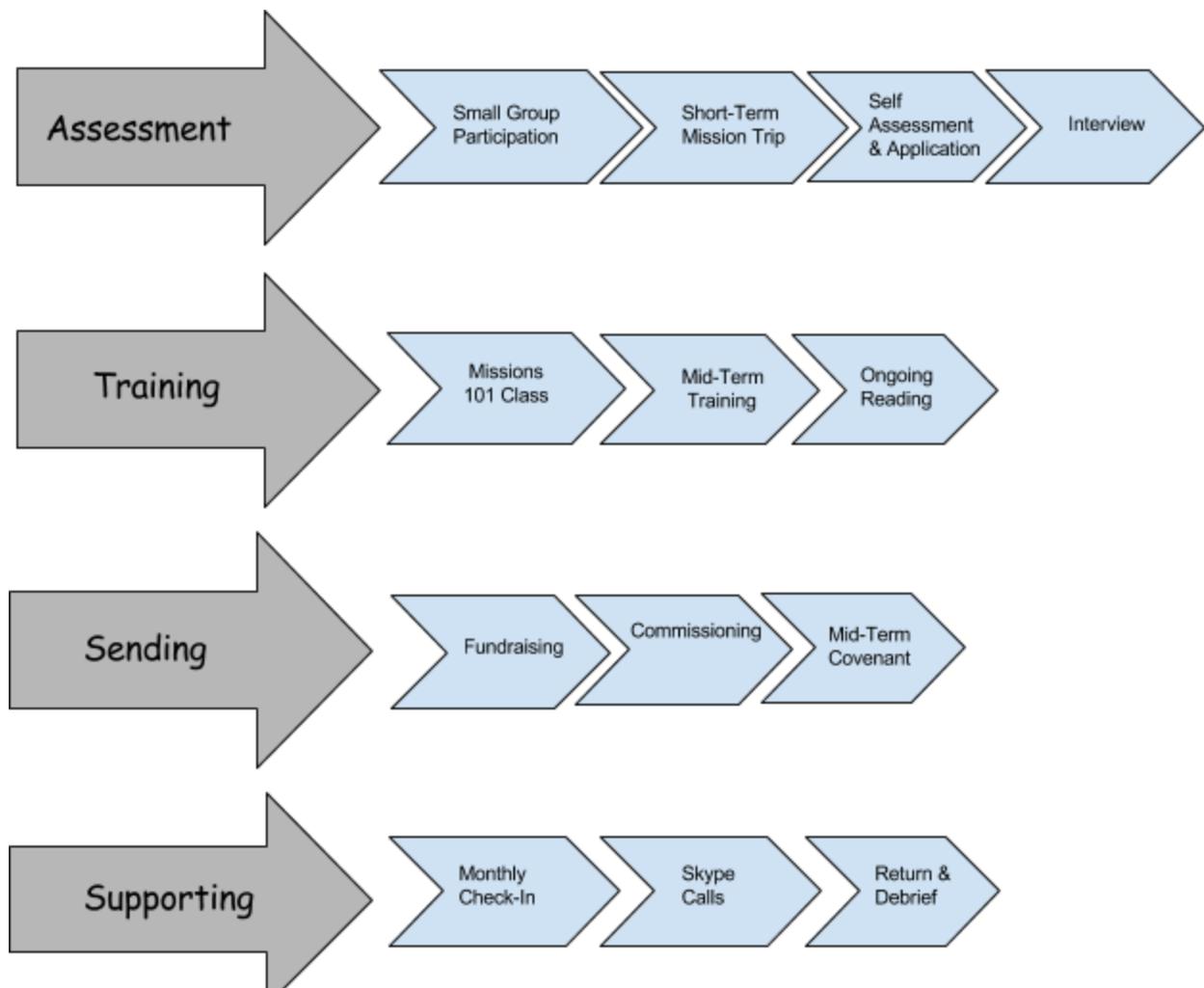
God shall bless us;
let all the ends of the earth fear him!

Psalm 67

Go Mid-Term

The Summit Church has a vision to plant 1000 churches by 2050. The way that we believe this vision will be carried out is by mobilizing The Summit Church to the nations to plant churches for the glory of God. Part of this strategy is sending mid-term workers to partner alongside long-term personnel for the advancement of the gospel. We believe that mid-term assignments provide volunteers opportunities to be exposed to the nations and equipped in making disciples cross-culturally. Mid-Term also provides an avenue by which one can discern whether or not God is calling them to plant their lives long-term cross-culturally. Mid-Term is a mission assignment between 2 months and 2 years. This includes serving cross-culturally for a summer, a semester, or up to two years.

Big Picture: Phases to go Mid-Term



Assessment

At the Summit, we want to send the right people to the right opportunities at the right time. The local church is God's "plan A" for reaching the nations; therefore, we believe that it is our responsibility to properly assess and equip our members to engage in international missions. Other sending organizations are partners in this effort, but the core of assessment and sending takes place at and through the local church.

Qualifications:

- Follower of Jesus
- Covenant Member of The Summit Church
- Member or Leader of a Summit Small Group
- Participation in at least one Short-Term Trip
- Completion of Mid-Term Process

Small Group Participation

Discipleship happens in relationships and the primary method of fostering these relationships is within small groups. It should be evident that the mid-term candidate is deeply invested in discipling others and allowing others to speak into his life.

Short Term Mission Trip

Everyone at the Summit should consider participating in a Short Term trip. If you are considering mid-term, you should sign up for a trip right away to get a better feel for what the daily life of a Summit missionary is like. Going on a Short Term mission trip is one of the best discipleship opportunities at Summit and is one of the best ways to be assessed for mid-term service. Signup for an upcoming trip today at www.summitrdu.com/shortterm.

Self Assessment and Application

In order to be considered for assessment in our mid-term pipeline, we ask that the candidate first fill out a mid-term self assessment (www.summitrdu.com/midtermselfassessment). This helps our missions staff to know the candidate's past experiences, current status, and vision of how God might use them overseas in the future. The missions staff will respond to this form by setting up a meeting to consult with the candidate about the best fit for him within the Summit Missions Training Pipeline.

Interview

When we meet with a prospective Mid-Termer we ask specific and direct questions, we lean on the recommendation of their small group leader, and we ask those who know them and have observed them for a period of time if there are any concerns or red flags regarding this individual potentially serving overseas in a Mid-Term capacity. We are committed to equipping

and walking alongside the individual whether or not they ever serve in a Mid-Term capacity overseas. This is an opportunity for pastoral care and shepherding that God has entrusted to us.

Upon completion of the assessment process, recommendations from small group leaders, and observations of others, we are in a much better position to carefully determine whether or not an individual is adequately ready for Mid-Term service.

Training

In order to equip every member to engage in the global mission of God, the missions team facilitates a Missions Training Pipeline. The required levels, including the suggested time frame to participate, are listed below.

101 – The Missions Course

Purpose: What is missions? Why missions? What does Scripture say about missions and “living sent” locally or internationally? Why should I care? This 3-week course will walk through God’s plan in Scripture for redeeming the world through Christ and what this means practically for our daily lives in Raleigh-Durham, around our country, and around the world. If you are interested in getting involved in outreach at the Summit, this is a great first step for you!

This is designed for: All members of The Summit Church.

Mid-Term Training

Mid-Term Training exists to provide intentional training and to set expectations for those who are ready to move overseas for one month or more. Missionary candidates receive quality content from current and former field workers, including the missions staff. Action steps will be given at the training for further practice and experience. This training takes place in the Spring and Fall of each semester over the course of two half days.

This is designed for: Workers in the Mid-Term Pipeline

Ongoing Reading

Our desire is that each mid-term worker would be a continual learner. Therefore, reading materials (articles, books, etc.) will be assigned throughout the term for each worker stimulating their spiritual growth.

Sending

When the mid-term candidate enters the Mid-Term program, they will be working towards nailing down their departure date and completing the elements of the sending phase. This phase includes:

- Fundraising
- Commissioning
- Mid-Term Covenant

Fundraising

For anyone raising support, the missions team will provide personal coaching and guidance through the process of raising the necessary support. Candidates may also apply for financial support from The Summit Church. Support raising training is provided if needed.

Commissioning

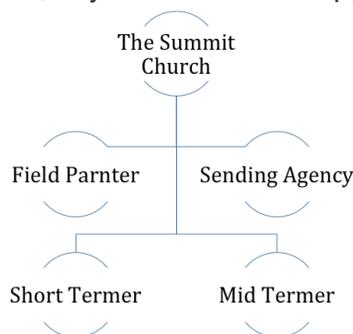
Mid-Termers need to be commissioned at their home campus, which is where they are best known. They should contact their campus pastor at least two months before departing to confirm a weekend that is available for them and that works with the campus schedule. Candidates should share with their campus pastor a summary of where they are going and what they will be doing so the campus teams know how best to introduce them. This will also help the campus teams to know what is appropriate to share with security in mind.

Mid-Term Covenant

We require everyone desiring to be sent out by the Summit to sign this covenant and to abide by it while on their field of service. It will be gone over and signed at the mid-term training.

Accountability

As a Mid-Term team member, sent out as an ambassador of Christ, you are expected to conduct yourself in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called (Ephesians 4:1). Agreeing to be sent out under the authority and leadership of The Summit Church, means that you are agreeing to adhere to the guidelines listed in the Mid-Term Covenant as well as continued accountability to the church, to your field leadership, and your supporters.



Mid-Term Guidelines

Summit Missions has designed certain standards and policies to accomplish the goals Mid-Term Missions. The standards are not necessarily policy for all environments, but are deemed necessary for this assignment.

- 1. WE ARE COMMITTED TO PROVIDING AN ENVIRONMENT OF SAFETY & PROTECTION.**
 - No foolish behavior that put your and/or others' safety at risk
 - For safety, participants should always seek the advice and counsel of the field partner before being out at night. Generally participants should never be out at night alone.
 - No going to clubs or bars unless instructed to do so by your field partners for strategic ministry.
 - Dress appropriately for the communities you are living & serving in (i.e. sunbathing, jogging, etc.)
 - No firearms of any kind including airsoft, paintball, BB guns, etc.

- 2. WE ARE COMMITTED TO MAINTAINING A HIGH STANDARD OF MORALS AS A CHRISTIAN TESTIMONY IN OUR ENVIRONMENTS.**
 - Honor the Lord with your appearance through cleanliness and modesty.
 - Always abide by all mandated dress codes specified by field partners.
 - No men in the women's bedrooms and vice versa. You may be in the community rooms together.
 - No tobacco, alcohol, or drug use is allowed. Infractions may result in dismissal the assignment.
 - No immoral activity.
 - Practice wisdom, prudence, and holiness with your entertainment choices (movies, internet, etc)

- 3. WE ARE COMMITTED TO MAINTAINING A HIGH LEVEL OF CREDIBILITY AND EXCELLENCE WITH FIELD PARTNERS, THEIR CITIES, AND THE SUMMIT CHURCH.**
 - Prioritize cleanliness in your living environments at all times. Complaints regarding the cleanliness of your space will be taken seriously, and your leaders reserve the right to perform periodic room inspections for cleanliness.
 - We expect you to be on time to all meetings & events each day.
 - Submit to the desires and instructions of the field partner even if they are contrary to what you would expect or think – you are there to serve, not be served.
 - Display an attitude of submission and respect towards all leaders and authorities.

- 4. WE ARE COMMITTED TO CREATING AN ENVIRONMENT TO BEST ACCOMPLISH THE GOALS OF MID-TERM ASSIGNMENTS.**
 - No unapproved trips or absences. Any travel outside of the your city must be approved by your team leader and the Mid-Term Director.
 - All project activities are required functions and should be attended on time. You need the approval of your team leader to miss a meeting or event.

- No leaving the project before it is officially over. The Mid-Term Director must approve exceptions.
- Be considerate of others at all times. Keep quiet hours in apartments; be respectful, etc.
- No dating during your assignment... If you already have a significant other, great! But, we require your interactions to be group minded and respectful of your assignment community.

Dismissal note: The Mid-Term Director reserves the right to dismiss a participant from the project if deemed necessary for the health of the participant and/or for the overall health of the project. If a participant is dismissed, he/she will be sent home and his/her own expense.

Mid-Term Covenant

(Please Read & Initial. In doing so, you agree to abide by the Mid-Term Guidelines & Covenant)

Devotion

- _____ I commit to make knowing and obeying Jesus everyday my highest priority (Mk. 3:14).
- _____ I will spend daily time with Jesus through the Bible and prayer in order to pursue my own spiritual growth and to pray for those I will serve (Matt. 4:4, 1 Tim. 2:1).
- _____ I commit to following Jesus through all difficulties this summer. I will endure knowing that he is working for my good in all things (Heb. 12:1-11).

Character

- _____ I will strive to bring Glory to the Lord Jesus Christ in all I do and will maintain the highest standards of Christian character. To be a faithful witness to Christ, I will keep my character above reproach (1 Cor. 10:31, Phil. 2:14-15).
- _____ I will maintain the highest level of purity and agree to abstain from all sexual sin including pornography (1 Cor. 6:12-20).
- _____ I will be flexible, teachable, and humble throughout the summer.
- _____ I agree to have a servant's attitude at all times. The needs and priorities of those I serve are more important than my own (Mk. 10:42-45).
- _____ I will steward my body well and make wise choices in my exercise, eating and sleeping habits (Matt. 25:14-30)

Community

- _____ I will display Christian love and respect to all people, even if they are different than me (Lk. 10:29-37).
- _____ I will put the preferences of my roommates before my own and will seek their wellbeing in our living environment. I will respect my roommates by keeping my living space and common rooms clean (Phil. 2:4).
- _____ I will strive to foster the unity and health of my team. I will be an encourager (Phil. 1:27).
- _____ I will not gossip or slander against others. If I have been wronged, I will seek reconciliation directly with those involved. I will get help from others until the conflict is not resolved (Matt. 18:15-17).

Authority

- _____ I will submit to and respect those who have been given authority over me at all times (Phil. 2:5-11).
- _____ I will strive to maintain the unity of the project by supporting my leaders and their decisions. I will address any issues I have with their leadership in a Christ-like manner (Heb. 13:17).
- _____ I understand that if I act in a way that is dishonoring to the name of Jesus and do not submit to the leadership my field partner and of The Summit Church at any time during my assignment, I could be dismissed from the program at my own expense.

Miscellaneous

- _____ I will be accountable to my supporters and Summit by sending a monthly newsletter and participating in monthly check-ins and regular Skype calls.
- _____ I understand that excessive use of the Internet, email, phone, text messaging, and social media may be discouraged and limited during my assignment. I agree to monitor myself, and resist activity that keeps my focus from my ministry.
- _____ I have honestly disclosed any spiritual, emotional, mental, or medical issues/history that could affect my participation in this program.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Mid-Term Field Partners and Partnerships

Mid-Term opportunities are located all over the world: South Asia, Southeast Asia, North Africa and the Middle East, East Asia, Southern Africa, South America, North America, and Central Asia.

Partnership is essential to Mission. God does not send people out as “lone rangers” but as a community. God sends the local church out to go plant churches or to strengthen the existing church. Therefore, we need kingdom minded partners with whom we can lock arms and co-labor with as we participate in fulfilling the Great Commission.

Historically, The Summit Church prioritizes partnerships with existing missionaries and church planters sent out from the Summit. These missionaries are located all over the world working in a variety of different contexts, cultures, and roles. We believe that Mid-Term leads to Long-Term in two ways: (1) we desire that Mid-Termers will encourage Field Partners in their work as well as partner with them to advance the gospel in their context and (2) we believe that God uses Mid-Term opportunities to confirm a long-term calling in people’s lives therefore we want to provide an experience where a Mid-Termer can visualize what their life would look like long-term in that location.

Other partnerships are established by looking for theological and missiological alignment. In order to be effective on the field, we want to join with field partners who share similar convictions and common goals. In terms of theological alignment, we look to partner with those who affirm the core essentials of the faith. In terms of missiological alignment, we look to partner with those whose missiology is driven by sound theology. We want to be cautious in partnering with those who are driven by pragmatism, numbers, and results. We desire to build partnership with those who allow their missiology and practice to be shaped by the Word and the gospel. In other words, we want to see the Word as primary in the life and ministry of those we join in partnership.

Therefore, our ultimate goal in establishing and building kingdom partnerships is the glory of God. It’s His mission and it’s for His glory. We desire to connect with like-minded brothers and sisters, churches, and organizations around the world to see the name of Christ exalted. We are members of a global body and desire to join arms with those scattered around the globe to see the kingdom advance and the glory of God spread to the ends of the earth.

Traditional Partners:

- [International Mission Board](#)
- [Cafe 1040](#)
- [Pioneers](#)

Supporting

Monthly Check In

To ensure the health of our mid-term workers, we require a monthly check in to be completed at summitrdu.com/midtermcheckin by the 1st of every month on the field. This is the regularly scheduled means by which the missions team is able to be updated on the worker and the work.

Skype Calls

In addition to the monthly check in, the mid-termers will work with the missions team to schedule two skype calls per semester on the field. This is a time for face to face interaction with the supporting church for further follow up and support.

Return & Debrief

When our personnel comes back to the United States for any reason—short term or permanently—we as your sending church want to care for your needs as comprehensively as possible. We know that these needs will be wide ranging, from logistics of travel to counseling and debriefing from your overseas experience. Even though this is an often neglected phase, we believe that this phase of sending is just as important, if not more, than the rest.

We can't overstate the importance of a thorough, timely debrief upon return from the field during a stateside assignment or indefinite return. Everyone needs a focused time to share their story, be listened to, and prayed over by individuals committed to helping them process the joys and hardships of cross-cultural ministry. The mid-termer should connect with the missions team prior to return to set up this debrief time.

Ministry Upon Return

If the next stage of a missionary's journey has them returning to Raleigh-Durham for a length of time, we encourage them to join a team reaching out to internationals here in the Triangle. The number of people moving to our community from all over the world (especially unreached areas) has grown rapidly in the last 15–20 years. The most recent census data available reveals that more than 1 in every 10 people living in Wake, Durham, and Orange counties were born somewhere other than the United States. Pastor J.D. recently wrote an article about the Great Commission opportunity this gives us – right here in our own backyard. If you would like to join a team that is reaching Persian peoples or South Asian peoples, go to summitrdu.com/serve365 and select "International Peoples Team," and someone will talk with you about what team might be best for you.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is Mid-Term Missions?

Mid-Term is a mission assignment between 2 months and 2 years. This includes serving cross-culturally for a summer, a semester, or up to two years.

Why Mid-Term?

The Summit Church has a vision to plant 1000 churches by 2050. The way that we believe this vision will be carried out is by mobilizing The Summit Church to the nations to plant churches for the glory of God. Part of this strategy is sending mid-term volunteers to work alongside long-term personnel for the advancement of the gospel. We believe that mid-term assignments provide volunteers opportunities to be exposed to the nations and equipped in making disciples cross-culturally. Mid-Term also provides an avenue by which one can discern whether or not God is calling them to plant their lives long-term cross-culturally.

Who Can Go Mid-Term?

Mid-Term is for anyone over the age of 18 who meet The Summit Church requirements.

What are the Mid-Term Requirements?

1. Follower of Christ
2. Covenant Member of The Summit Church
3. Member or Leader of a Summit Small Group
4. Participation in at least one Short-Term Trip
5. Completion of Mid-Term Process

What is involved in the Mid-Term Process?

1. Self-Assessment. Get started with going Mid-Term by completing a brief self-assessment to let us know how to best guide you. Take the self-assessment at www.summitrdu.com/midtermselfassessment.
2. Discuss. After receiving your self-assessment, someone from Summit's Church Planting Team will arrange a brief meeting with you to explore the best options for your experience and interests.
3. Apply. As directed by a member of the Church Planting Team, complete the Mid-Term Application with the agreed upon and selected organization or employer.
4. Raise Support. Depending on the opportunity that best fits your desires, calling, experience, and interests, you may be required to raise some level of financial support. We will provide training and direction for support raising as needed.
5. Attend Training. Depending on the opportunity you choose, you will be required to attend a various level of training either at Summit or another location.
6. Go. After seeking the will of God, applying, raising support if needed, and being trained, you will be ready to go!

How long is the Mid-Term Process?

It usually takes 3-6 months from completing the self-assessment to be equipped and sent out by The Summit Church.

What is the role of the local church in Mid-Term Sending?

We believe that the local church is God's plan A for reaching the nations and therefore is the primary entity responsible for confirming the call expressed by those with the desire to be sent. The leadership of the church, under the authority of Jesus Christ, is accountable for those they send out. Therefore, the church is heavily involved and invested in those they send out to represent Christ and the Church well.

Who provides leadership for Mid-Termers while they are on the field?

Every Mid-Term volunteer has three levels of accountability: the Local Church, the Field Partner, and the Sending Organization. Under the authority of Jesus Christ, you are primarily accountable to the elders of The Summit Church. However, you are also directly accountable to the field partner for life and ministry. The field partner is the local missionary who understands language, culture, and ministry in your particular cross-cultural setting. Lastly, if you are sent out via a partner sending organization, you are accountable to them for operations and logistical preparations.

Do Mid-Termers go as individuals or a team?

Both. However, we prefer to send Mid-Term teams made up of 2 or more people. There are many reasons for this, but primarily it is for extended accountability, encouragement, and team is the pattern set by Jesus in the New Testament.

How do you choose a Mid-Term Field Partner?

We give priority to Field Partners that are sent out from The Summit Church. In addition, we also look for partners that are theologically and missionally aligned. We want to be on the same page about core essentials in the faith as well as issues concerning contextualization, culture, and the church.

How are Mid-Termers Supported?

Mid-Termers mostly raise funds for their trip, but are also eligible to receive financial support from the church depending on the Mid-Term requirements. Financial support can be applied for upon acceptance to a Mid-Term assignment. Support Raising training is provided if needed.