



**IPC MISSION JOURNEY to CHIAPAS, MEXICO**

**May 27-June 3, 2023**

**APPLICATION**

**Deadline: JANUARY 31, 2023**

Name\_\_\_\_\_

Birthdate & Age\_\_\_\_\_

Gender\_\_\_\_\_

Email\_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Have you ever been on a previous IPC mission journey?

Yes ☐ No ☐

If yes, which ones? Please list:

Have you ever been on a mission journey with another church or organization?

Yes ☐ No ☐

If so, where and with whom did you travel? Please list:

Are you willing to participate in fundraising for yourself or on behalf of the group?

Yes ☐ No ☐

Are you willing to participate in any meetings with the mission team prior to the journey and following the journey, and complete any assignments related to these meetings?

Yes ☐ No ☐

Are you willing to share stories from this mission journey with other members of IPC when you return, whether in worship, articles in e-Update, *The Window*, or other means?

Yes ☐ No ☐

Questions for Reflection

Why do you want to participate in this mission journey?

Would you consider taking on a leadership role on this journey? If so, what leadership areas do you have to offer? Please check all that apply:

Will you blog and make your posts public for those at home to follow throughout the journey?

Yes ☐ No ☐

Will you be responsible for taking contextually appropriate photos to share on IPC's website?

Yes ☐ No ☐

Can you play any instruments?

Yes ☐ No ☐

Are you willing to lead or help prepare for worship during our journey, if applicable?

Yes ☐ No ☐

Will you coordinate devotionals?

Yes ☐ No ☐

Would you arrange or host a group gathering before or after the journey?

Yes ☐ No ☐

Will you collect and organize supplies prior to the journey, according to the needs of the journey?

Yes ☐ No ☐

Would you be willing to plan games or ice-breakers during free time on the journey?

Yes ☐ No ☐

Do you have specific skills or training related to medical/dental/pharmacy?

Yes ☐ No ☐

If so, please specify:

Would you be willing to share these skills during our mission journey?

Yes ☐ No ☐

Please list other ways you might take a leadership role on this journey:

Do you have any other particular skills and passions you'd like to use on this journey?

What impact do you think you can have on this journey?

**Selection Criteria:**

Applications will be accepted on a first come, first serve basis. If we have more applications than room available on the journey, selection criteria will include the following considerations:

- Are there limitations that keep someone from taking another such mission journey in the future? e.g. starting a new job, health concerns, graduating youth group, etc.?
- Previous participation in mission journeys?
- IPC membership or involvement?

***I have read and understand the information and expectations listed above:***

**Yes ☐ No ☐**

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**PRINT NAME**

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**SIGNATURE**

**DATE**

Completed applications may be submitted to:

Rev. Melissa Self Patrick  
(in the IPC church office, Community Ministries office),  
or by email: [mpatrick@ipc-usa.org](mailto:mpatrick@ipc-usa.org).

*For more information*, you may email or call Melissa (205)933-3709, or Sarah Scruggs, [sscruggs@ipc-usa.org](mailto:sscruggs@ipc-usa.org); 205-933-3725.

*You may also reach out to 2023 Chiapas Mission Team Co-Leaders:*

Sean Vanlandingham ([seanvanlandingham@gmail.com](mailto:seanvanlandingham@gmail.com)), or

Emily Vanlandingham ([mama2olivia@gmail.com](mailto:mama2olivia@gmail.com)).

## IPC Mission Journey Covenant

**Our Core Values:** The Global Missions Ministry of IPC seeks to:

- Develop and nurture ongoing partnerships with churches and ministries around the world
- Facilitate lasting transformation in the lives of journey participants through faith formation, cross-cultural experience, and meaningful work

Towards these ends, I understand that the following elements are crucial to the effectiveness, quality, and safety of our team together. As a member of the team, I agree to:

1. Live my life and conduct myself in a way that brings glory to God.
2. Prepare diligently and prayerfully for my responsibilities on the team. I will make it a priority to attend all preparation meetings and complete all assignments designed to prepare me for the journey.
3. Remember that I am a guest participating at the invitation of the hosting country and/or ministry.
4. Remember that I have come to learn, not teach. I may encounter procedures that I feel are inefficient or attitudes that I find closed minded. I'll resist the temptation to inform our hosts about "how we do things." Instead, I'll be open to learning other people's methods and ideas.
5. Respect the host's view of Christianity. I recognize that Christianity has many faces throughout the world, and the purpose of this journey is to witness and experience faith lived out in a new setting.
6. Develop and maintain a servant's attitude toward all nations and my teammates.
7. Respect my team leader(s) and his/her/their decisions.
8. Refrain from gossip. I may be surprised how each team member will blossom when freed from the concern that others may be passing judgment.
9. Refrain from complaining. I know that travel can present numerous unexpected and undesired circumstances, but the rewards of overcoming such circumstances are many. I'll try to be creative and supportive.
10. Respect the work that is going on in the church, agency, or person(s) that we are working with. I realize that our team is here for just a short while, but that the established ministry is there for the long term. I will respect their knowledge, insight and instructions.
11. Refrain from negative political comments or hostile discussions concerning our host country's politics or the politics in my country, including controversial news topics and subjects.
12. Remember not to be exclusive in my relationships. If my spouse or significant other is on the team, we will make every effort to interact with all members of the team, not just one another.
13. Refrain from any activity that could be construed as romantic interest toward a national or affiliated with Independent Presbyterian Church. I will not use this journey as an opportunity to seek out a romantic relationship. I realize certain activities that may seem innocent in my own culture may be inappropriate in others.
14. Respect and conform to the standards established for this journey regarding the consumption of alcohol. At the discretion of the journey leader, there may be certain circumstances in which it is appropriate to drink alcohol in moderation. Otherwise, I will refrain from consuming alcohol on the journey.

By signing below, I hereby understand that the team leader(s) and Independent Presbyterian Church reserve the right to take the necessary action if I do not comply with this team covenant agreement.

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Print Name

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Signature

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Date

*\*Note: This covenant is adapted, sometimes verbatim, from Heart's Cry Children's Ministry.*