



Freedom & Choice Tour

2024 User Manual



WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA DISTRICT

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Western Pennsylvania International Worker Tour

User's Manual

5/1/24

The WPA Freedom Tour & Choice Tour

- Annual Missions Fee of \$75 from all churches: This fee is to help with IW expenses for both those residing in the district and for those IWs who the district brings in from outside the district to tour in our churches. This helps with airfare, housing, meals, District Conference expenses for them to attend, assist with Missionary Wheels and other miscellaneous expenses incurred while touring within the district.
- Churches have choice of dates, international workers, type of emphasis.
 - ◇ Freedom Tour - The church contacts the International Worker directly to schedule ministry in your church. This worker does not reside in WPA and the church will be responsible for all speaker's expenses as they will be hosting them the entire time they are ministering at your church (airfare, lodging, meals).
 - ◇ Choice Tour - Using the district website, a church can book an International Worker on home assignment who is either residing in the district or brought in from neighboring districts.
- The District seeks international worker families each year to reside in the district as our Choice Tour international workers. Half-year Choice international workers will be initially available to district WPA Choice churches for 10-18 weekends, while full-year Choice international workers will be initially available to district WPA Choice churches for 28 weekends. The District will seek to provide an automobile, help to locate housing and provide assistance with miscellaneous needs.
- For those years when there are few or no WPA international workers residing in the district, the District will assist by bringing in other CMA workers from other districts when available.
- Churches may also utilize Alliance speakers as needed such as: international worker retirees, international worker candidates, or short-term Alliance mission trip participants from other Alliance churches.
- District responsibilities: recruit international workers to district; assist pastors and churches to be proactive in planning and implementing their annual (or more often) international ministries emphasis.
- The National Office has revised their tour system and now request all districts to use one of two models; Choice Tour or Freedom Tour.



QUICK START GUIDE: Three Steps for Churches

1. CHOOSE. Your church should make the following choices for the coming tour year by June.

- Freedom Tour or Choice Tour:
 - ◊ Freedom - Contact the Alliance International worker of your choice directly to schedule ministry in your church. This worker does not reside in WPA.
 - ◊ Choice - Will be given a scheduling window to book a WPA district worker that is on home assignment for the year residing in the district district or brought into the district for a limited time.
- International ministries emphasis you wish to employ [see sample options]
- Preferred dates to accomplish the chosen emphasis
- International worker you want to minister in your church on those dates
- Method of support for the Great Commission Fund [see sample options] and the International Worker

2. SCHEDULE. Schedule the Alliance International worker of choice to minister in your church.

- Freedom Tour churches may begin scheduling their International Worker beginning January 1 prior to the tour year.
- WPA Choice Tour churches will receive from the district an email with the scheduling link and the "live" date for online scheduling of active international workers.
- WPA Choice Tour churches will be given a scheduling window of opportunity before such opportunity is given to other districts or non-district churches beginning May 1.
- Scheduling retired international workers living in the district and participating in the WPA choice Tour should be made via email/phone.

3. PAY. The church is responsible to:

- Pay the Annual Missions Fee of \$75 to the WPA District (July 2024-June 2025). An invoice will be sent July 1 to every church for the tour year and may be paid by check or online on the Missions Mobilizers page. For further clarification for the use of these funds, see page 5.
- Freedom Tour Churches:
 - ◊ Pay for all expenses of the International Worker they are bringing in from outside WPA District for their conference. ie: travel, lodging, meals. Provide the international worker with an honorarium/love offering. This should be given directly to the IW.
- Choice Tour churches:
 - ◊ Pay for all expenses of the International Worker while they are being hosted at your church. ie: mileage reimbursement (currently \$0.67/mile), lodging, meals. Provide the IW an honorarium/love offering, minimum of which shall be no less than the Sunday AM pulpit supply for each speaking engagement. These should be given directly to the IW.



CHURCH RESPONSIBILITIES

- **Freedom Tour**

- ◇ The church is responsible for all travel expenses, lodging and meals for the IW enroute to and from your church and during their stay with you. This IW will be traveling from their field of ministry or from another district within the U.S.

- **Choice Tour**

- ◇ The church is responsible for travel expenses (gas, tolls, etc.) which the international worker incurs in serving your international emphasis. Reimbursement is \$0.67 per mile.
- ◇ For those workers residing in the District, You may choose to provide overnight accommodations for your IW (as needed) or to allow him/her to drive home following an evening service, depending on what is time or cost effective.
- ◇ For those workers who have been brought into the district for a limited time, you will need to provide lodging, meals and mileage reimbursement as well while they are being hosted at your church.

- The church shall provide the IW an honorarium or love offering, the minimum of which shall be no less than the Sunday AM pulpit supply for each service for which the IW is the speaker. Often a special offering is taken for the IW and this is announced in advance to the congregation so that they can prepare for such a love gift to bless the International Worker and their family.

MISSION EMPHASIS OPTIONS

1. Minimally: Each district church shall conduct annually at least two high-impact, congregational events with an Alliance international worker. The district office strongly encourages at least a weekend conference.
2. Week long or weekend international ministries emphasis may include additional services (congregational, women's, men's, youth, kids').
3. Weekend international ministries emphasis with events scheduled during weekdays before or after.
4. Weekly updates of IWs are encouraged and resources from the national office website are available with videos and updated articles.

OPTIONS FOR SUPPORTING THE GREAT COMMISSION FUND & AN INTERNATIONAL WORKER/FAMILY

1. Set a church goal for giving to the GCF utilizing the Faith Promise method or budging a percentage of income from the church.
2. Choose to provide all, or a portion of the funds necessary to keep a missionary family on the field.
3. Consider adopting as a church an International Worker Family sent from the district (call the office if interested).
4. See the New Funding for Missions explanation at cmalliance.org/about/great-commission-fund.

PLEASE promote and give opportunity for your congregation to contribute to special offerings for the GCF throughout the year.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. Why do we pay an annual missions fee of \$75 if the local church picks up all the expenses for its missions emphasis weekend?

This fee helps to cover district costs of the following:

- Assist providing funds to keep the Missionary Wheels fleet with reliable and newer vehicles.
- Helps send all our District IWs on home assignment to District Conference every year (hotel, meals, mileage).
- Helps with miscellaneous expenses that may arise for a worker, ie: counseling, high utility bills, etc.
- For those years when few WPA workers are available, the district covers the cost to bring in other CMA IWs from outside the district to tour in our churches (airfare, meals, lodging).
- Assist with housing, meals for visiting IWs during their down times in between conferences.

2. How and when do we know and contact our District IW?

The missions tour year should no longer be thought of as “fall tour” and “spring tour” of a given year. Instead we must think in terms of a tour year, generally, July 20XX - June 20XX. A letter will be sent out from the district informing the churches the IWs that are home for the given year. For those who are on the Freedom Tour, they can contact their workers directly and set up their schedules, informing the District office of their plans. For those on choice Tour, the beginning of May, each church can go to the District Website and schedule their church’s conference with the IW they desire to come and speak at their church.

3. Will we still receive the Missions Kit? If so, when?

The Missions Kit is mailed out by the National Office to each local church in the summer of each year. Each church receives theirs at approximately the same time regardless of the time or type of conference being planned.

4. What about receiving Faith Promise cards?

Faith Promise cards are also mailed to all churches in the early Fall. The number a church receives is based on the church’s response to the line, “literature/quantity requested” of the Annual Report form.

5. Our church does not use the Faith Promise cards. Why do we still receive them?

- It is easier (thus less expensive) to send literature to all the churches than it is to determine and to keep track of the churches which do not desire it.
- It is true that the Great Commission Fund budget is not determined by the Faith Promise responses. The value of the Faith Promise method is found in their use as a discipleship tool. Use of the card challenges the giver (1) to focus on God as one’s Provider, both of what one keeps and of what one gives, and (2) to learn to trust God for one’s enablement, not depending on one’s own ability.
- The Faith Promise method provides a unique opportunity for parents to model and to teach both their children and teenagers to be involved in giving to the Lord’s work and specifically to worldwide missions in a consistent and systematic manner.



- If in some churches not everyone makes use of the Faith Promise card, the cards should be made available to any who DO DESIRE to use them, even if users are in the minority.
6. If our District IW has a family, will the entire family be available for our missions emphasis?
- When there are pre-school or school-age children in the IW's home, the National Office does not require the wife to go on annual Tour. This enables the children to remain in a more consistent church and, perhaps, youth group environment.
 - While neither the district or the local church can require a mother or her school-age children to be involved in a church's missions emphasis, the church may invite their involvement. A church will be appreciative if the family responds positively to its invitation and will be gracious and understanding when the family is unable to do so.
 - It is appropriate to invite the IW wife and mother (who has children in the home) to attend and to speak in place of her husband on a weekend (if the church so desires) or on another occasion.
7. Why should we provide our IW with a love offering or honorarium when we pay all of his/her expenses and while he/she receives an allowance through the Great Commission Fund?
- IWs have great expenses in returning to the field. While their home church may assist them, assistance given may not be enough.
 - IW allowances are at the bare minimum. Additional funds are very helpful and much appreciated.
 - Biblical giving is not so others may be eased and you burdened, but as a matter of fairness, by your abundance another's need is supplied. It is not a matter of duty but of grace and generosity. It is an opportunity to demonstrate the reality of one's faith.
8. Where can we get our questions answered, or obtain help to plan or to implement our missions emphasis?

For resources go to the national website cmalliance.org and click on Missions Resources. They have many helpful resources to download and use for missions emphasis conference that pertain to the theme of the year. Any other questions, please contact the district office.

