

Mission Committee Mission and Values September 2022

Mission Committee (what we do): In answering Christ's call, the mission committee engages the congregation in addressing the needs of vulnerable children and families, including those who have endured poverty, racism, and generations of neglect from our larger community, or who have been affected or displaced by violence and conflict.

Values (the principles that inform our work, our decision-making process):

- 1. Congregation participation and engagement:** We believe that congregation participation and engagement in the work of GPC's Mission is critical. It is by engaging, learning from, befriending, and supporting our neighbors in need, and by taking part in community conversations, that we can be most effective in our mission work. We seek to walk alongside vulnerable children and families in creative and meaningful ways.
- 2. Respectful partnership:** We practice respectful partnerships when seeking to address the needs of vulnerable children and families, believing that in them we see the image of God. "Respectful partnership" means listening and learning from our partners, without making our participation a burden on them. We believe that no partner dominates the other, and that we can achieve the greatest impact by building upon the work of people in affected communities who know best what needs to be done and how best to do it.
- 3. Partnering and investing for the long term:** We believe that investing in partnerships for the long term is most transformative for the GPC congregation and our partners. It provides an opportunity to grow in faith together as we serve our neighbors. It also affords us the time to deepen our relationship with our partners, better understand the need, and achieve more lasting change in the lives of vulnerable children and families.
- 4. Flexibility, responsiveness:** Even though we recognize that investing for the long term is most transformative for all involved, we are also aware that urgent requests for assistance do arise occasionally. The GPC congregation and our partners value our flexibility and willingness to consider and address urgent requests from our community.
- 5. Investing in mission projects grounded in evidence:** As stewards of the GPC congregation's money designated for mission, we review proposals and make funding decisions on the basis of the best available evidence. To that end, we believe in investing time to review the literature and consult practitioners and expert opinions, so that we support projects that are most likely to have a meaningful impact on the lives of vulnerable children and families.
- 6. Reflection and spiritual growth:** We believe meaningful mission work invites us to reflect, learn, and grow as we encounter pain and injustice in our community, city, and world. Engaging with our neighbors should change us and shape us to be Christ-like in our interactions.