“It is the mission of the Commission on the Global Church Ministries to empower the New York Conference United Church of Christ (its local churches, its Associations and the Conference itself) to grow in ministry and mission to the world and to fulfill its commitment as a Global Mission Conference.”

The Commission helps promote to churches mission opportunities and ways to maintain global relationship through global partnership, missionary visits, covenantal relationship, interaction with global partners and exchanges of delegation including projected mission work trip. Being a Global Mission Conference, the Commission invites and educates churches to become a Global Mission Church through resources from the UCC Global Ministries.

Missionary Reports:
The new phrase use for a missionary is Mission co-worker. The mission co-workers connected with our Conference are Phyllis Byrd in Kenya, Tom and Monica Liddle in East Timor. We continue to coordinate with the UCC/DOC Common Global Ministries to itinerate mission co-workers with us. Kay Woike coordinates their visits with the churches. The Liddles are scheduled to visit the churches and the UCC NY Women in May 2020. The Commission continues to send Christmas gift cards to our mission co-workers to acknowledge their ministries.

Partnerships:
The Commission’s partnership with Iglesia Misión Cristiana in Nicaragua continued to flourish with several trips from the New York Conference to Iglesia Primera (First Church) in Managua. The most recent one was January 2018 with twelve people participating in an after school programs including a sewing project.

Plans for the 2019 trip were to reinforce the programs that has been successfully started with the addition of the Lending Book Library and the Sewing Projects. The 2019 trip was temporarily put on hold due to the unrest in Nicaragua. Over all the 2018 group shared that the trip and working with our partner church was the most rewarding experiences of their life.

Iglesia Misión Cristiana was affected not only by the unrest in the country but by tropical storms destroying the walls and roofs of the church. People in the country are buying only necessities. Some residents are leaving the country of these folks are at our borders now. Programs that were affected were:

- After School Programs: Schools in Nicaragua end around noon, which left children from 5 years old to 17 out on their own while most parents are working. To help the children have after school activities and meals, several churches, including Iglesia Primera organized After School Programs. Some members of the 2018 mission trips teamed with the teachers and working with the students. The focus of this was to help teachers understand the issues of
mental health, drug abuse, and how bullying affect the student’s learning and self-esteem. With the help of a translator, they led programs in an in-service literacy, mental health, drug abuse, and bullying issues. The rest of the group spent the mornings preparing the craft activities and lessons for the day. They worked with a different age group of students each day meeting with 400 children during the week. They shared the teaching responsibilities with the after school teachers. Before the closing activities, a hot meal was served.

- **Lending Library – New Program** In 2019 our hope was to start a new lending library program for children at the Iglesia Primera. This program will encourage the children to read more and be responsible for caring for the books that they will borrow. The plans was to get a librarian who would set up a small library at the church and give workshops to the teachers.

- **Sewing Project:** In August of 2017, Misión Cristiana sent a detailed sewing project proposal to the Commission and the 2018 delegation made the projects take off with great success. Four women from the group took on the role of leading, teaching and showing the Nicaraguan women how to use the sewing machines, and to make projects such as tote bags, sundresses and skirts that they can use and sell at a craft sale. After the sale, they were planning to train more people to make bigger workforce. One item the women wanted to make was a graduation stole. Several churches from New York donated fabrics and sewing supplies that were packed in suitcases carried by the group.

**The David Southard Sr. Global Mission Award:** UCC Congregational Church of Arcade was the recipient of the 2019 David G. Southard, Sr. Global Mission Award. The award was presented last May 18 during the NY Conference 2019 Annual Meeting held in Poughkeepsie, NY.

This is in recognition of the many meaningful missions Arcade had done in the past and continues to do for our Global ministries. There is no monetary award given with this recognition, but a framed certificate was awarded to UCC Congregational Church of Arcade.

For several years, the Commission has been annually acknowledging churches for their commitment to global ministries with the David G. Southard, Sr. Award for Excellence in Global Mission Work. This award is given to a church which has provided exceptional service to global ministry. David G. Southard, Sr. had been a loyal and well-respected member of the Commission for many years to the time of his passing. He was deeply committed to the support of the world-wide church and to the many and varied cultures within. This award was named in David’s honor to acknowledge and inspire churches within the New York Conference in the general arena of global ministry.

**NY/Help Honduras:** NY/Help Honduras is an independent organization that is affiliated with the Global Commission and the NY Conference. *(Please see a separate report).*

It is with sadness that we bid farewell to one of our dedicated members, Dr. Gordon F. Comstock who passed away on October 25, 2019. Gordon had been a faithful member of our committee and heart and soul of our New York /Honduras mission since its inception almost 30 years ago.
2017, Gordon had made 29 trips to La Laguna, Honduras. He practiced family medicine in Arcade, serving the area’s youngest to oldest residents with patience and respect. Always an Eagle Scout, he believed in leaving his campsite - and the world – better than he found it. He is greatly missed.

Global Web Site: Lawrence Gilley, who has served for many years as a missionary in South Africa continues to be a significant member of the Commission. He maintains our web site and created our Global Yahoo Group. He welcomes inspiring stories from congregations for publication in our web site. Congregations may submit any account or photographs at lcgilley@tds.net. Individuals can join the conversation about mission. Share information. Participate in the global church Yahoo discussion group at http://groups.yahoo.com/group/uccnyglocal/join.

Lawrence created a new group site address link for all to sign up for: uccny.global.io

The Commission is more than just mission. It is composed of people who care for each other, for justice witness and peace, for human rights, for bold Christian leadership and most of all, these are people who are ready to respond to the call of Jesus Christ to serve all – as a Commission, we stand together as one!

On behalf of the members of the Commission from the three Regions of the NY Conference: Robert Welcher, Kay Woike, Lawrence Gilley, Ginger Comstock, Judy Toner, Christine Hopkins, Sueli Gaewsky, and Susan Frost (Wider Church Ministry Coordinator), I thank the NY Conference for the opportunity for us to serve.

We thank Rev. David Gaewski for his support, leadership and spiritual guidance.
We give God all the glory.

Faithfully,

Melva Victorino

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