



## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)



### **Was this trip “officially” approved?**

This trip has been recommended for approval by the Missions Team on March 18, 2008, and officially sanctioned by the Administrative Council on March 25, 2008. We have permission to proceed with planning and fundraising for this trip.

### **Who is the “official” sponsor of this trip?**

CUMC will be the primary sponsor of this trip with other churches supporting the effort if members from other churches participate in this team.

### **What is the deadline for initial deposits?**

The initial deposit of \$200 must be paid no later than June 1, 2008. This is the last day to sign up. Signups will take place on a first come, first served basis. So the first 28 people who respond and turn in their \$200 deposit will have a spot reserved. The final team roster will be established at that point. We have to be strict about this due to the significant financial commitment of this trip.

### **Who provides the tools and materials for the work?**

According to the Executive Director of BMH, the camp has some tools and equipment available for our use. We are encouraged to bring personal tools as we see fit (tool belts, hammers, gloves, glasses, etc.). Anything we can bring to use and donate to the camp is greatly appreciated. Some of the tools at the camp are very old and need to be replaced soon. All larger tools for performing construction tasks are provided. The camp also handles all purchase and transportation of building materials. We are not responsible for any of that.

### **What arrangements have been made for food on Eleuthera?**

According to the Executive Director of BMH, they are coordinating all food for us while we are on the island. This is included in the fee paid to BMH. We are not responsible for procuring food while we are at Camp Symonette, but we may be asked to help prepare some of the food, particularly breakfast.

### **What arrangements have been made for transportation on Eleuthera?**

According to the Executive Director of BMH, they are coordinating all transportation for us while we are on the island. This is included in the fee paid to BMH.

### **What arrangements have been made for transportation in Nassau?**

We will need transportation from the airport to the church and back to the airport. There are many taxi companies that are willing to provide services, including special arrangements at any time of day. There's also the possibility of working with the local church to get transportation at no cost. According to the Executive Director of BMH, "I may be able to work something out with the Ebenezer Methodist Church and their van/bus. You should be okay especially with such a large group." We will arrange Nassau transportation once flights have been arranged.

**What arrangements have been made for lodging on the island?**

According to the Executive Director of BMH, they are providing all lodging for us while we are on the island. This is included in the fee paid to BMH.

**What classifies a person as an adult?**

An adult is anyone age 18 or over. BMH asks that there be at least a ratio of 4:1 youth to adults over age 21. With the makeup of the group being 16 youth, 1 adult age 18, and 5 adults over age 21, we more than satisfy this requirement. As with the CUMC Youth ASP program, college-age adults (18-21) will be paired with an adult over age 21 and work as a co-leader.

**Are adults required to be trained in Safe Sanctuaries?**

Yes. CUMC requires that all adults working with youth be trained in the Safe Sanctuaries program. This includes a questionnaire, training in sexual misconduct, and a background check.

**Where does liability fall if someone is hurt?**

Liability issues will be handled the same as they are for all of our VIM type missions. We will complete VIM paperwork related to injury and death situations. These are standard for all VIM projects regardless of the destination.

**Is there emergency medical care/ EMT/ first aid on the island?**

According to the Executive Director of BMH, there are limited resources on the island and it is great when groups bring a medically trained volunteer, but it is not necessary. There is a medical emergency flight service that can take emergency flights directly into Nassau or Ft. Lauderdale if necessary.

**What is the drug/alcohol situation on the island?**

According to the Executive Director of BMH, there have not been any issues with drugs or alcohol with any of the groups since he has been there (2 years). While access to these items is generally easier in The Bahamas, the local community does not have these issues and the groups are not exposed to them. However, there will still be very open discussion between youth and adults about these issues.

**Are we excluding some individuals who cannot go because of financial restrictions?**

Not intentionally. As with any mission opportunity or other activity within our program, there are personal commitment costs associated with participation. Some of our team members are planning to assist other team members with their obligation based on individual fundraising. No one should be excluded for financial reasons and we will handle financial hardships on an individual basis as we do for all other opportunities. We have requested money from the Missions Team in order to give some scholarships to offset the personal cost of the trip.

**Will some youth feel left out if they are unable go?**

There are definitely some youth who would like to go with the team this year but cannot attend due to restriction on the number of participants we can take (28) and other plans that may have already been made (family vacations, camps, etc.). There are some constraints on the number of people we can take based on transportation and logistics of taking a team overseas. Four full work crews would be 32 people, one greater than the 31 we took in 2003-2004. We are currently capping the team at 28 participants due to the logistics issues. If there is significant enough interest and transportation can be arranged, we can expand to as many as 32 participants. That would be the absolute maximum we would want to coordinate.

**Who is responsible for fundraisers?**

Adults, both going on the trip and other parents of youth volunteers, are responsible for coordinating arrangements with fundraising organizations as well as with the church office. Ideas for fundraising are solicited from both youth and adults, with both groups agreeing on a fundraising idea before pursuing it. Once initial arrangements have been made by the adults, each adult will gather a small group of youth to help with the details and final arrangements for the fundraisers. All team members are expected to participate in fundraisers.

**Will the church's capital/stewardship campaign or the approved ZIM trip have a negative impact on fundraising (and/or vice versa)?**

We have decided to identify as many external funding sources as possible to minimize the impact on all efforts. Most of the fundraising efforts should center on opportunities for the team to involve the community at large and not draw money away from the other efforts currently under way at the church. This includes advertising at schools and in neighborhoods for fundraisers at local restaurants, selling other items, and possibly looking for personal sponsors. In the end, neither effort should have an effect on the other as we have kept this goal specifically in mind.