

Training Module for *We Believe: Mission Stories 2009*

Supplies Needed

Index cards, pens, small basket, copies of sample sessions from *Mission Stories 2009 for Children* and *Mission Stories 2009 for Youth & Adults*, copies of *Mission Stories 2009* Feature Sheet

Opening

Write the names of each of the mission sites featured in *Mission Stories 2009* found on the Feature Sheet on an index card and place the cards in a small basket. Invite a participant to select one of the cards from the basket and read it out loud to the group. After each card is read, explore the following questions together:

- What information do you know about this city or country?
- How are mission personnel of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) active in ministry in this city or country?
- How little or much do you know about this location and the Presbyterian mission that happens there?
- Why is it important that we, as members of a connectional denomination, understand as much as possible about our mission presence around the country and the world?

Exploring

Share the information in the Overview section of the Feature Sheet with the participants. Then give each person a sample session from *Mission Stories 2009 for Children* and *Mission Stories 2009 for Youth & Adults*. Write the following questions on a sheet of newsprint and invite participants to work alone or in pairs to respond to each question.

- How is this session organized?
- What kind of background information is available in the session to help prepare the leader for the session?
- What advice or instructions would you give to a leader who had thirty minutes to prepare for this session?
- How could this curriculum connect your children, youth, and adults with our mission personnel?
- How are the two sample sessions similar? How are they different?

Connecting

Discuss the following questions and give each person an opportunity to share how he or she might use this curriculum in his or her congregation's educational ministries.

- What excites you about this new curriculum? What features do you like or not like?
- How could you connect this curriculum to worship, fellowship, mission, or stewardship?
- In addition to weekly Sunday school, in what contexts could you use this curriculum?

Partnering

In creating this new curriculum, Congregational Ministries Publishing listened to feedback from educators, pastors, teachers, and leaders from around the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), and we continue to need your feedback. Please send the comments and questions raised during your time together to curriculum@pcusa.org.