

Pastors to Projects

MDS encourages pastors and their spouses to make time for serving as part of the MDS short-term work crews. In an effort to encourage the participation of church leadership at MDS response locations, full financial support for travel expenses to and from MDS project sites is available for pastors and their spouses through a special grant. If a church budget cannot support their pastor's travel costs to/from an MDS service work week, we would encourage pastors to apply for this grant. *(See reimbursement request form at http://mds.mennonite.net/get_involved/shot_term_volunteers/ or call the binational office for a copy to be faxed or mailed to you.)*

Pastors or pastor couples are encouraged to sign up during our season of greatest need for volunteers - April to December – although you are welcome throughout the year. Feel free to sign up your carpenter friends to help out the same week as well (at their own cost).

MDS believes that when the leadership of our Anabaptist/Mennonite constituency churches can take the opportunity to serve (work on a project site) for a week or more, the person volunteering, we at MDS, and the persons they are assisting at the project site will all be blessed. Pastors and/or pastor couples will also interact with the community in which the MDS project site is located – this includes the local culture, the families we assist, and the variety of volunteers you will work along side during the week(s). In these relationships Christ's love is expressed and hope is renewed. MDS service gives pastors a place to do hands-on ministry and return to their congregations with faith-in-action stories to share, and excitement that will surely inspire others to go and serve as well.

How to sign up:

1. Call 1-800-241-8111 to schedule a time and place to serve. Please identify yourself as a pastor and which church you work with. Also please have a few dates in mind if at possible since the week you request may already be full for short term volunteers.
2. Fill out the travel reimbursement form and send to:

Menonite Disaster Service
1018 Main St. Akron PA 17501

Fax: 1-717-859-4910

E-mail: [lnickel\(at\)mds.mennonite.net](mailto:lnickel(at)mds.mennonite.net)

The MDS Region Director and Unit Chairperson for your geographical location will also be informed that you will be serving. Your costs will be paid for by each Region's Capacity Building grant which was received in 2006 from a donor wishing to contribute to building MDS awareness across USA and Canada. This travel reimbursement grant is

secure through December 2010. Continuance of the grant beyond 2010 is based on available funds.