

# Costa Rica

2023



## Grace Church Youth

*If God is for us, who can be against us?*



**July 2023**



# APPLICATION CHECK LIST

Neuanlage Grace Mennonite Church, Costa Rica 2023

1. \_\_\_\_\_ I have filled out the entire Application Form (green pages), including #8, on an Attached Sheet.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ I have enclosed the Initial Deposit Fee of \$200 in the form of a cheque. (\$50 for CR 2020)
3. \_\_\_\_\_ I have signed and enclosed the “Guidelines for Conduct”.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ I have signed and enclosed the “Policy for Missions Trip Termination”
5. \_\_\_\_\_ I have signed and enclosed the “Policy for Missions Trip Cancellation”
6. \_\_\_\_\_ I have signed and enclosed the “Criminal Record” verification.
7. \_\_\_\_\_ I have signed and enclosed the “Waiver of Liability”
8. \_\_\_\_\_ I have signed and enclosed the “Consent for Medical Treatment” form.
9. \_\_\_\_\_ I have had my parent, or legal guardian sign each of the necessary forms.
10. \_\_\_\_\_ I have attached a recent photo of myself.
11. \_\_\_\_\_ I have retained the “**Information Pack**” (yellow pages) for further reference, and have only enclosed the “**Application Form**” portion (green & pink).

# *Information Pack*

## *Short-Term Missions*

### *“Costa Rica 2023”*

#### **Who** will be directing the Trip?

Brent Klassen and a team of adult volunteers of Neuanlage Grace Mennonite Church will partner with “Youth with a Mission” (YWAM) in Heredia, Costa Rica to direct the trip.

#### **What** is Short -Term Missions, Costa Rica 2023?

For 2 weeks, participants will “invade” the country of Costa Rica. The “invasion” will include humanitarian and evangelistic work. Our plan is to get involved with the community ministry that YWAM has already established there.

YWAM Heredia ministry is based in relationships and focused on the community. The work that they/we will do supports ongoing ministries and long term ministry goals of YWAM in Heredia and Costa Rica. We will be working together with local churches and their pastors supporting them through 3 main aspects:

- Building/Construction (Homes of Hope)
- Evangelism through music, drama & testimony
- Children’s Ministry

#### **When** is Short -Term Missions, Costa Rica 2023 Happening?

This short-term missions trip will run for approximately 15 days from early July to mid July with specific dates to be determined by flight costs in the spring of 2023.

#### **Where** is Short -Term Missions, Costa Rica 2023 Going?

The team will be going to Heredia, Costa Rica by plane. Once in Heredia, the team will be directed by Youth With A Mission (YWAM). YWAM is a world-wide missions organization, with established works in all major countries. Participants will stay at a secure YWAM location. Housing, meals, transportation and direction will be provided by YWAM missionaries.

#### **How** will Short -Term Missions, Costa Rica 2023 Travel?

We will fly from Saskatoon to Costa Rica. From the airport, YWAM will transport us to their YWAM base with their vans. On the way home, we will be driven from the YWAM base to the airport where we will catch our flight back home. Flight details will be available in spring of 2023.

## **Cost?**

The final cost is not known at this point due to fluctuating costs of flights, building materials and USD exchange rates but here is what we know now:

First, each team member is asked to include a **\$200** deposit along with their application. Upon acceptance to our Short term Missions Team, this deposit will be non-refundable because we must make a per person deposit to YWAM. So, if you submit an Application and are accepted, you have a reserved spot. In the event that your Application is not accepted, your deposit will be returned. Otherwise, the deposit is absolutely non-refundable.

Second, there will be a **\$500** balance due April 30<sup>th</sup>. This fee helps cover transportation, food and housing at the YWAM base.

Third, we ask each team member to bring a minimum **\$150(US)** in personal spending money. Spending money is needed for food and refreshments during travel, entertainment, and for miscellaneous expenses. Depending on your spending habits, you may wish to bring more spending money. However, for individuals, it is recommended that you do not bring more than \$300 (US) for spending money; our primary experience will not be that of “tourists”! As well, for safety reasons, it would be unwise to bring a significant amount of cash.

Fourth, there will be **more personal costs** to you such as passports, vaccinations and various things to pack in your suitcase that you may not have at home. These things are hard to put a dollar amount on but they can add up.

Finally, there is in fact, a much higher cost involved in going (I have estimated that it could be in the ballpark of close to \$3000/person including “Homes of Hope” costs) however we as a team will work together to raise this money. We as a team expect to work together to help you with personal support letters and many group fundraisers to pay for the cost of the trip, and the projects that we do there.

Please do not let a lack of money discourage you from applying! First, believe that God is able to provide, if He wills you to go. Second, start saving money right now – don’t wait! Third, look for ways to earn money. Maybe a part time could raise the money you need by the end of April. Fourth, talk to your parents and grandparents – perhaps they can help.

Fifth, talk to your Pastor.

In the event that there are team members that are unable to help with group fundraisers we will discuss options for you to make this up.

Please make cheques payable to Neuanlage Grace Mennonite Church. Do not submit cash. \$200 is payable with your application due November 30<sup>th</sup> 2022. The remaining balance of your fee (\$500) will be due on April 30<sup>th</sup> 2023.

### **What are the requirements of Short -Term Missions, Costa Rica 2023?**

1. You must be in grade 9, 10, 11 or 12 and attend our youth group for the 2022-2023 school year. (or been previously accepted to the "CR 2020" Short Term Missions Trip to Costa Rica 2020 that was postponed.)
2. You must have parental approval to go on this trip including signed release forms, a passport that is valid until 2024 and up to date vaccinations.
3. You must be prepared to pay the \$200+\$500=**\$700** (plus additional fundraising) as well as demonstrate the ability to bring **\$150(US)** in spending money by June 1<sup>st</sup>, in order to go on the trip.
4. You must contribute to fundraising, both in the form of letters and attending fundraisers if at all possible. The \$700 you are expected to pay is only a small portion of what it costs each person to go. The fundraising covers the cost of travel and accommodation above your \$700 contribution as well as contributing to the costs of the projects that we will be working on (such as Homes of Hope). Your attendance and participation is both a great team building experience and is necessary to make the whole trip work financially. "CR 2020" members who no longer live in the area are encouraged to fundraise where they are now and are not required to travel to attend fundraisers.
5. You must be willing to attend and actively participate in all Costa Rica 2023 training sessions and team building events. (this may be virtual attendance for CR 2020 team members) The training sessions are vital to preparing the team for the trip.
6. You must also be willing to commit to attend Sunday School and morning services at your church weekly as well as over 50% of all youth events planned by NGMC Youth. CR 2020's must find a weekly Bible study or young adult group to attend in place of NGMC Youth.
7. Upon acceptance you will each be partnered with an accountability partner for the next 6 months and ask that you be willing to commit to be open with your accountability partner (we will help you find one) in respect to your daily devotions, prayer, scripture memory as well as your daily Christian walk. You will be expected to prepare Bible studies, Scripture memorization and other exercises as assigned. You will be expected to keep in contact with your accountability partner as to your progress. If there is ever any reason to miss an event (Youth or small group), you would be expected to tell your accountability partner WELL AHEAD of time and give the reason why you will be missing.

8. Violation of any of these standards could result in you being disqualified from this trip with no refunded money.

We are extremely excited that you are serious about coming on this trip and we are praying that this trip and these requirements will lead you to a life changing and growing experience. While we recognize that this is a major time commitment, we do believe that these things are important. Participants who are accepted for the missions trip but do not attend regularly, may be asked to withdraw from the trip.

*“The Application Committee reserves the right to review the Requirements on a case by case basis, as applied to an Applicant, based on extenuating circumstances.”*

### **Why should I Go?**

1. Why not? This may be an opportunity of a lifetime! Seize the moment and say ‘yes’ if God is calling you!
2. The world is more accessible than in generations past. We now live in the global village! Think about it: it only takes a day (approximately) to get to this country called Costa Rica.
3. A short-term mission takes you out of your comfort zone providing an opportunity for spiritual growth, personal development, and challenge. Get out of your “comfort zone”!
4. A short-term mission opens one’s eyes to injustices in our world. One simply becomes more compassionate as a result of going. You will see things tourists don’t usually see.
5. A short-term mission involves sacrifice. One gives of time, energy and money to help others. Is it too much for to ask for 2 weeks of your life?
6. Short-term missions help create career missionaries and pastors. One Missions group has estimated that 48% of all full-time missionaries were once on a short-term mission.
7. Jesus’ style of ministry involved going to those the majority of people ignored. A short-term mission can bring us to help the very people that the rest of the world walks by.
8. An experience like this will create life-long friends and stronger family bonds. You will never forget it. Come to Costa Rica and make some memories.
9. This experience will help you explore what God wants to do in and through your life.

### **Other Questions?**

If you have questions, please feel free to call Brent Klassen at (306) 281-3091 (cell) or (306) 225 – 5806 (church office).

### **How Will I Know if I am Accepted?**

By no later than December 23<sup>rd</sup>, 10:00 p.m., you will receive an answer from Brent, or a designated team Leader. At that time, you will be told the status of your Application. Again, please be aware that not all the Applications are accepted.

**APPLICATION FORM**  
**Neuanlage Grace Mennonite Church, Costa Rica 2023**

**1. Personal Information**

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Numbers: Home: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth (M/D/Y) \_\_\_\_\_ Present Age: \_\_\_\_\_

**2. Emergency Information**

Health Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Province: \_\_\_\_\_

Next of Kin to contact in case of emergency:

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

**Second contact in case of emergency (Other than next of kin):**

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

**3. Health**

Your Family Doctor: \_\_\_\_\_

Address & Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Please describe any physical or mental health concerns. (allergies, dietary, severe anxiety, limitations, diagnosis, etc.) Additionally, list any medications you are taking.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Have you, or are you being treated by a Psychiatrist, or Psychologist?  
If yes, please describe.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. **Requirements for new applicants** (CR 2020 skip to section 5)

1. Are you willing to attend and actively participate in all Costa Rica 2023 training sessions, team building events and fund-raisers?

YES NO

2. Are you willing to commit to attend Sunday School and morning services at your church weekly as well as at least 50% of all youth events planned by NGMC Youth?

YES NO

3. Are you willing to commit to being open with your accountability partner (we will help you find one) in respect to your daily devotions, scripture memory as well as your daily Christian walk?

YES NO

4. Are you prepared to pay \$700 plus additional fundraising as well as bring at least \$150 (US) in spending money, in order to go on the trip? If no, on an additional sheet please describe what extenuating financial circumstances you are experiencing, and what level of financial sponsorship you require.

YES NO

If you cannot meet a requirement please contact Brent Klassen (Youth Pastor)

5. **Requirements for CR 2020 applicants** (New applicants skip to next section)

1. Are you willing to attend and actively participate in all Costa Rica 2023 training sessions and team building events (this may be virtual attendance)?

YES NO

2. Are you willing to put significant effort towards Costa Rica 2023 fundraising? (Writing support letters, attending/hosting fundraiser events are encouraged)

YES NO

3. Are you willing to commit to attend Sunday School and morning services at your church weekly as well as at least 50% attendance of a weekly Bible study or young adult group?

YES NO

4. Are you willing to commit to being open with your accountability partner (we will help you find one) in respect to your daily devotions, scripture memory as well as your daily Christian walk?

YES NO



7. **Personal Photo** *(Please Attach So It Can Be Removed)*



8. **Attached Sheet**

On an attached sheet, describe the following:

1. Your spiritual life:
  - A) How you came to know the Lord
  - B) Your journey with Him since then.
2. What you would most look forward to during the trip.
3. What you would least look forward to during the trip.
4. Describe your personal goal for the trip.

**9. Signatures**

By signing this Application Form, I indicate my desire to participate in the Costa Rica 2023 experience. *I realize that I may not be accepted into the program.*

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Printed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date (M/D/Y): \_\_\_\_\_

By signing this form, I as parent, or guardian, support my child as he / she participates in the Costa Rica 2023 trip.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Printed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date (M/D/Y): \_\_\_\_\_

**By November 30<sup>th</sup>**, Return the Completed Application Form and attached sheets to:

Brent Klassen  
Youth Pastor

**Guidelines for Conduct**  
**Neuanlage Grace Mennonite Church, Costa Rica 2023**

In recognition of the special nature of a missions trip, the following Guidelines for Conduct are expected to be followed by all participants.

- A. You are expected and invited to live in a Christ-like manner. This involves a willingness to maintain a spirit of unity and harmony, to extend politeness and courtesy to those on the team and others we come in contact with.
- B. Be flexible. You will not always have things how you want it! Things will not always go as you expect!
- C. Be tolerant. You will need to extend understanding to different styles, personalities, and situations.
- D. Be patient. Our schedule will not always occur as you would like or as the group wants. Others may not work as fast as you think appropriate.
- E. Use of alcohol (including meal times) or illegal drugs is not permitted. Due to us traveling through the United States this includes **Marijuana, THC & CBD which are illegal on a Federal level**. Abstinence from alcohol and illegal drugs is affirmed as a healthy choice by counselors, psychologists, medical professionals, and the wide evangelical Christian community.
- F. Abstinence from smoking/vaping, is recommended by the Health Department of the Government of Canada, the Canadian Heart and Lung Association, and many other agencies and church based groups. To encourage a healthy environment for all participants of the Costa Rica Missions team, the use of these products is not permitted.
- G. Respect all persons. Verbal abuse, profane, lude, demeaning or racist language is not appropriate.
- H. Work hard. Planning, fundraising and carrying out work projects and evangelism are hard work. Everyone should do his or her share. Many hands make for less work. Plus, you are expected to remain on task.
- I. Appropriate dress is expected at all times. No wearing of low hanging tank tops, spaghetti straps, short cut-offs, "skimpy" swim suits, clothing that includes screen-printed/decaled items with tobacco, marijuana, alcohol, or secular music group advertising. No low-cut dresses and blouses, or tight fitting clothing.

J. During the trip dating, or pairing off is not encouraged. The central focus of the missions trip is serving others. At times, dating and pairing off can become self-centered. Strive to be in contact with many different individuals on the trip. Include others in a group of friends, rather than pairing off. If you are dating someone before your involvement with the Short-Term Missions Team and both of you intend to be on the trip, please avoid excessive public expressions of affection. You will be in another culture, and in a community that may have more restrictive guidelines relating to dating –avoid offending others by behaviors you simply view as innocent signs of affection.

K. While travelling, and during our stay in Costa Rica, you are asked to not go places alone. Travel in groups of 2 or more people. Additionally, your assigned Team Leader must know where your group is. This helps avoid unfortunate situations like individuals getting left at gas stations, assaults, simply getting lost, etc.

L. Follow the group routine. Each Individual is expected to follow the set program. There is no time, or energy for individualized programming. Such scheduled times as showering, chapels, meals, etc., are set. You are to be prepared to follow the schedule.

**Applicant:**

I have read the Guidelines for Conduct, and understand the guidelines, and promise to follow it to the best of my ability.

Applicants Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant's Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date (M/D/Y): \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/Guardian:**

I have read the Guidelines for Conduct, and understand the guidelines, and promise to follow it to the best of my ability.

Parent/Legal Guardian's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Legal Guardian's Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date (M/D/Y): \_\_\_\_\_

**Consent for Medical Treatment**

**Neuanlage Grace Mennonite Church, Costa Rica 2023**

I/We hereby agree to the performance of such treatment, anesthetics and operations as in the opinion of the attending physician is deemed as necessary on:

Applicant's Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: (M/D/Y): \_\_\_\_\_ Health Card Number \_\_\_\_\_

Date (M/D/Y): \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Parent/Legal Guardian's Signature if Applicant is under 18 years)

Applicant's Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Parent/Legal Guardian's Signature if Applicant is under 18 years)

Date (M/D/Y): \_\_\_\_\_

**Criminal Record**

**Neuanlage Grace Mennonite Church, Costa Rica 2023**

I, \_\_\_\_\_ do hereby certify that I DO NOT have a criminal record and understand that such record would be grounds for the application not to be accepted.

Applicants Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant's Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Parent/Legal Guardian (if under 18) \_\_\_\_\_

Dated this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_ in the province of \_\_\_\_\_

**WAIVER OF LIABILITY**

**Neuanlage Grace Mennonite Church, Costa Rica 2023**

In consideration of Neuanlage Grace Mennonite Church of Neuanlage, Saskatchewan, allowing the child named below to travel to Costa Rica and back on a mission trip during the month of July 2023, the undersigned parent(s) or legal guardian, on behalf of themselves and on behalf of the said child, hereby forever waive any and all claims, demands, causes of action of every kind whatsoever and, including, but without limitation of the foregoing, any and all liability for damages of every kind, nature or description, against the said Church, its staff, its church board, its supervisors and its volunteers, that might arise at any time during the said trip.

The undersigned parent or guardian understands that he/she is free to consult a lawyer before signing this document.

The undersigned parent or guardian hereby acknowledges that he/she has read the above paragraphs and understands them.

Applicants Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant's Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date (M/D/Y): \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Legal Guardian's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Legal Guardian's Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date (M/D/Y): \_\_\_\_\_

Witness to signature of Parent/Legal Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

Date (M/D/Y): \_\_\_\_\_

## Policy for Missions Trip Termination

### Neuanlage Grace Mennonite Church, Costa Rica 2023

#### **Before the trip:**

We reserve the right to terminate the trip for team members before leaving.

Terminating the trip before leaving would apply for individuals not meeting requirements, showing lack of maturity to participate, not following guidelines for conduct, etc.

Money paid/fundraised given to date will not be refunded.

#### **During the Trip:**

Terminating the trip after leaving would apply for individuals who demonstrate any form of persistent disruption, or inability to follow the Guidelines for Conduct, etc.

Although not limited to, the following interventions may be used to assist individuals to follow the Guidelines for Conduct:

1. Corrective counseling with the team member by the Pastor and member of the leadership team.
2. Direct and individualized supervision of the team member by one of the leadership team members, for a period of time, or the duration of the trip.
3. Exclusion from daily routine.
4. If appropriate and needed, restitution could be required.
5. Immediate contact with parents, or guardians by telephone.
6. Every reasonable intervention will be used before the trip is terminated for any participant. However, if the interventions are not successful, the participant could be sent home prematurely. The participant will be required to pay for additional transportation home. If the participant is under 18 years of age, parents, or guardians may be required to pay for additional costs such as a leader's transportation and accommodation costs while accompanying them home.

Applicants Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant's Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date (M/D/Y): \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Legal Guardian's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Legal Guardian's Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date (M/D/Y): \_\_\_\_\_

**Policy for Missions Trip Cancellation**

**Neuanlage Grace Mennonite Church, Cost Rica 2023**

The leadership of the team reserves the right to cancel the Missions Trip at any time. Although not limited to, the following factors may cause cancellation:

- (1) Inclement Weather
- (2) War or Rumours of War
- (3) Terrorist Attack, actual or threatened
- (4) Loss of Critical Staff
- (5) Loss of Affordable Transportation
- (6) Fundraising Failure
- (7) Safety of the Team Members in Jeopardy
- (8) International Border Closure

Every reasonable effort will be made to ensure the Missions Trip is not cancelled. If the Missions Trip is cancelled Participant Fees will not be refundable.

Applicant's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant's Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date (M / D / Y): \_\_\_\_\_

Parent / Legal Guardian's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent / Legal Guardian's Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date (M / D / Y): \_\_\_\_\_