

Deployment to Gdansk, Poland (updated April 9, 2022)

Summary

Ohio and Louisiana have partnered together to cover Western Europe for disasters. With the growing crisis around Ukraine, a partnership has been formed to help Polish Baptist Union churches to help them meet the needs of refugees. Our focus city is Gdansk, Poland. To meet those needs a broader partnership has been formed with Ohio, Louisiana, Kentucky and Mississippi. Each state Disaster Relief state will send a max team of 6 to 1st Baptist Church in Gdansk to do whatever they need done.

Some of the work will include cleaning, cooking, playing with children, talking with refugees and praying with them, driving people to the train station, sorting donations at the warehouse, painting/remodel of newly acquired apartments, etc. Two people will be needed daily to work with kids.

It appears there will be opportunity to plug some folks into the childcare. The church is evaluating the sustainability of the childcare program and how they will proceed in the future. If they decide to continue, they have asked for 2-3 team members to teach simple English lessons 2 times a week, teach some simple Bible stories with pictures, and do some crafts and/or sports activities.

Obviously you must have an active US passport. It must be good for several months after you are expected to travel in case you get delayed. You should make a copy of your passport and leave a copy at home and put a copy in your carryon luggage. If your passport gets stolen a copy will make it easier to get a replacement at an embassy in another country.

SAMPLE flight schedule

Humanitarian fare with American Airlines and Lufthansa.

1 checked bag, refundable less \$100

May 1 Columbus (CMH) - Dallas (DFW) 11:15am 1:05pm American 1279

...2 hour 55 minute connection...

May 1 Dallas (DFW) - Frankfurt (FRA) 4:00pm 8:45am May 2 American 70

...3 hour 25 minute connection...

May 2 Frankfurt (FRA) - Gdańsk (GDN) 12:10pm 1:40pm Lufthansa 1376

...Operated by Lufthansa Cityline GmbH...

May 9 Gdańsk (GDN) - Frankfurt (FRA) 6:45am 8:30am Lufthansa 1379

...Operated by Lufthansa Cityline GmbH...

...2 hour 25 minute connection...

May 9 Frankfurt (FRA) - Charlotte (CLT) 10:55am 2:25pm American 705

...4 hour 5 minute connection...

May 9 Charlotte (CLT) - Columbus (CMH) 6:30pm 7:53pm American 819

Volunteer Requirements

The first group to recruit volunteers will be from Ohio Disaster Relief volunteers.

The next group to recruit volunteers will be from Ohio SBC churches.

The next group will be from other state disaster relief volunteers

Volunteers must be a member or regular attender in good standing at an SBC church

Volunteers must be strong believers and have a desire to serve.

Volunteers must be flexible. You will most likely do things you did not plan to do, so just because you plan for one thing doesn't mean you will do that all the time, or at all. The team cannot have any predetermined agendas regarding work tasks, functions, etc.

Given this ministry is working through Send Relief and the International Mission Board, which are Cooperative Program funded organizations, we are asking each team members churches to be participating in Cooperative Program giving. If this is not the case, please contact Dr. John Heading, Ohio DR Director, and we will talk it through. We don't want to keep anyone from serving, however this is an example of what cooperative efforts can accomplish as we all partner together.

Names to Know

1. John Heading is the DR Dir for OH jheading@scbo.org 614-309-9751
2. Stan Tatham is the DR Dir for LA
3. Ron Crow is the DR Dir for KY
4. Hubert Yates is the DR Dir for MS
5. Ken Brownd is the IMB person in Gdansk.
6. Artur Grybek is elder at 1st Bap. In Gdansk who is leading this project
7. Coy Webb is the Send Relief leader for international ministry.
8. Tom and Vicki Kilpatrick from MS will be site coordinators in Gdansk.

Mission Process

1. Individuals will volunteer to serve on a team.
2. OH dates are: April 3-11 (Filled) ; May 1-9; May 29-June 6; June 26-July 4; July 24-Aug 1; August 21-29. (We may supplement other weeks as needed or they help us)
3. Once a team is set a team leader will be chosen. The team leader will be responsible for leading their team. This includes making sure paperwork is done on time, serve as point person for the team as they get ready to go and in the field, and answering questions from their team. The TL will also carry the money needed to cover in country expenses

that was collected by all team members before they left. John Heading from SCBO will collect all moneys and disperse as needed.

4. The team leader (TL) will contact Emily Quinn (equinn@sendrelief.org) with Send Relief and identify themselves as the TL. The TL will begin the online application process for IMB. These must be done through this process. Your state background check and process will not be accepted for this.

This includes:

- online application (have 3 references for them to email)
 - background check by IMB (you will pay the \$25 fee. Good for 1 year.)
 - Child Protection Training online.
5. Once the team leader has completed their process, they will add their team members and the team members will go through the process.
 6. Once a team is set they prepare to leave.

Costs

1. \$25 fee for SendRelief background check. You pay this directly to SR.
2. Airfare: tickets will be purchased by SCBO for teams. These costs vary based on time of year and gas prices. For the April trip around \$1000-\$1100.
3. Team will stay in a local hotel, La Petite Apartments. SCBO to book.
4. The team will also have a translator. This is a total of \$220 per week.
5. We will cover transportation for the week. \$300 total for the week. This number is an estimate, but we will have more exact numbers as the weeks move forward.
6. Travel Meals – each team member is responsible for their own travel meals. Travel through airports, etc. Once you reach Poland, meals are covered.
7. In Country, the team will pay the site coordinators \$6.50 each day for lunches at the church. These meals are very filling and cooked from scratch.
For breakfast – it's recommended

**Exact numbers provided below.

Estimated Total:

These costs you pay on your own:

Send Relief background check	\$ 25 to Send Relief with online link
COVID test before you leave	\$ Work this out with your provider
COVID test	\$ 40 telehealth in Poland

Bring a covid test with you. Buy it at the store over the counter

The COVID test in Poland is a cost you will pay yourself. The exact amount will be known before you go. It'll range from \$20-\$40 each.

Travel meals	\$ costs vary (mostly coffee for me)
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These amounts are sent to SCBO Disaster Relief as an online payment.

DO NOT designate to Poland or refugee work. Only Ohio Disaster Relief.

We will use this money to pay for things in advance and to send money with the team leader for these in-country expenses.

Airfare	\$ 1035 to SCBO
Food / Lodging	\$ 175 to SCBO
Translator	\$ 40 to SCBO
Transportation	\$ 50 to SCBO
Travel Insurance	\$ 40 to SCBO
Total	\$ 1340.00

Money given that covers in-country costs will be given to the team leader in cash to pay those expenses. Money can be exchanged once you arrive in Poland. Do NOT exchange money in the airport.

COVID Issues

Poland does NOT have any COVID rules at this time. (Poland)

Masks are required on all airlines for the entire flight. (Airline rules)

Please bring a few masks anyway. (Just in case)

Any country we transit through will require us to meet their COVID rules. Example, we fly through Germany so we will have to have a negative COVID test before you leave and must be fully vaccinated (both shots and 1 booster.) The booster shot must be completed at least 14 days before you leave. Proof of negative test and vaccinations is required.

1. You will be required to have a negative COVID test before you leave the US. If it is a PCR test, it can be done 72 hours before your flight leave. If it is an antigen test, it has to be done within 24 hours of leaving the US.
2. The COVID test process to return from Poland will be done through Telehealth or possibly at the airport. The decision will be made before you leave. Take a COVID test with you to Poland. We will tell you which brand test to buy. You will take a COVID test with you on the trip.

If needed, here is the address of the church in Gdansk.

First Baptist Church, Gdansk Poland, ul. Dabrowskiego 11, 80-298 Gdansk

phone: (+48 58) 306 44 53

MISC Items

1. The water in Poland is safe to drink out of the tap.
2. Cell phone use. Most cell phone companies have a plan to add international calling and text. Verizon charges \$10 per day. However, most people use the Whatsapp, app. You can make wifi calls for free. It's up to you.
3. You will need an adaptor for your electrical devices. ie to charge your cell phone. You can purchase on anywhere. It's a 2 prong, round plug rather than flat, adaptor.
4. We wore our Disaster Relief gold shirts every day. This is not a requirement, but an option if you would like. Many suggest wearing the gold shirts at he church but not while traveling or around town. I wore mine the whole time I was there and I didn't have any issues. Use your best judgement.
5. Starting May 1, anyone who deploys to Poland with Ohio Dr will have to go through the online DR credentialing process. It takes about 4 hours and costs \$40. This will put you as an active member of Ohio DR. If you are already SBDR certified in another state, you will NOT be required to certify in Ohio.
6. The church has asked for a couple people on the team to get an international drivers license. They are easy to get at AAA.
7. The teams in country have found the Google Translate app to be very useful in communicating with the folks here in the church. It is a free app they can download. Within the app they can download Polish, Russian, and Ukrainian so that they can use it even if/when they have no data.

This was last updated on April 9, 2022. There will be more updates but these are the most recent details.