

tearfund

USA

Tearfund USA Board of Directors Opportunity

2019



Introduction



Dear Prospective Board Members,

Tearfund USA is a Christ-centered international organization with a mission to respond to God's call to follow Jesus where the need is greatest. We do whatever it takes to end poverty and to strengthen communities. When disasters strike, we respond prayerfully, professionally and quickly. Through its close relationship with Tearfund internationally and its networks in over 50 countries, Tearfund USA seeks to help those in great need overseas, working through local churches, partners and individuals to discover the answers to poverty in their unique contexts and communities. We see again and again that

when a community lifts itself out of poverty, everything changes.

We follow Jesus to places where the circumstances of the people we serve are heart-wrenching and the conditions extremely difficult. To do this well, we rely on the professionalism of our people around the world and the easy-yoke of Jesus. An important part of this complex work (1 Corinthians 12:12) are Board members whose governance promotes an accountable, nurturing, resilient, values-led and Spirit-filled culture.

We have several vacancies for Board members in the next two years and we are praying for wise and strategic-minded people who share our values. We are looking for those with experience in areas such as church leadership, social action, environmental sustainability, international development, finance, marketing, fundraising, and social media. If you share our passion and have leadership experience in any walk of life which will help us grow our impact, please consider applying.

Tearfund USA is committed to developing a diverse Board with members who embrace the opportunity to serve in a multicultural environment. We seek people from a wide array of backgrounds and experience who commit to working together to make a positive and active contribution. We strongly encourage applications from minorities and women, and we welcome younger people as well as those with longer careers.

In a world where there is so much suffering, there is also so much opportunity to reflect God's love to shine in the darkness. Tearfund USA is gearing up to make a lasting impact. On the one hand we are a member of the Tearfund worldwide family, able to draw on its deep expertise and decades of experience. On the other we can bring fresh ideas and the dynamic energy of the US churches and Christian organizations. These are exciting times!

If you feel a calling to serve God on our Board, I very much hope you will express an interest in this opportunity. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Clive Mather'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath.

Clive Mather
Tearfund US Board Chair

Who we are

Tearfund USA is a Christian international relief and development agency working globally to end poverty and injustice, and to restore dignity and hope in some of the world's poorest communities. We operate in more than fifty countries around the world.

We deliver our strategy by:

- Empowering churches to embrace their calling to address poverty and injustice;
- Developing communities and building resilience, sustainably and holistically;
- Changing unjust policies and practices to deliver justice for poor communities;
- Enabling communities affected by disaster and conflict to recover quickly and be better equipped to face future hazards.

Tearfund USA people are passionate about living out God's kingdom values of love, hope and transformation. It's what inspires and drives everyone.

How we work

Poverty is complex - both in its causes and impact. However, with half a century of experience, Tearfund has developed expertise to tackle both the causes and impact of poverty that brings suffering to so many people. It has seen again and again that when a community lifts itself out of poverty, everything changes.

Tearfund seeks a world where every person's basic needs are met, where all human beings have a chance to flourish and where inequality in its current extremes is no longer accepted. Key to achieving this is joining up work in-country with global advocacy, influencing, and fundraising.

Tearfund's work reflects its reputation for both spiritual passion and professional excellence. It aims to help the people in the world who are in the greatest need, regardless of race, religion, gender, or nationality.

How is this done?

- Working, where possible, through the local church; empowering communities to lift themselves out of poverty.
- Responding to disasters and conflicts, always seeking to reach those in the greatest need.
- Seeking to influence the global church and governments to bring about fair and just policies and structures at a local, national and global level.

“Tearfund USA is committed to following Jesus where the need is greatest”



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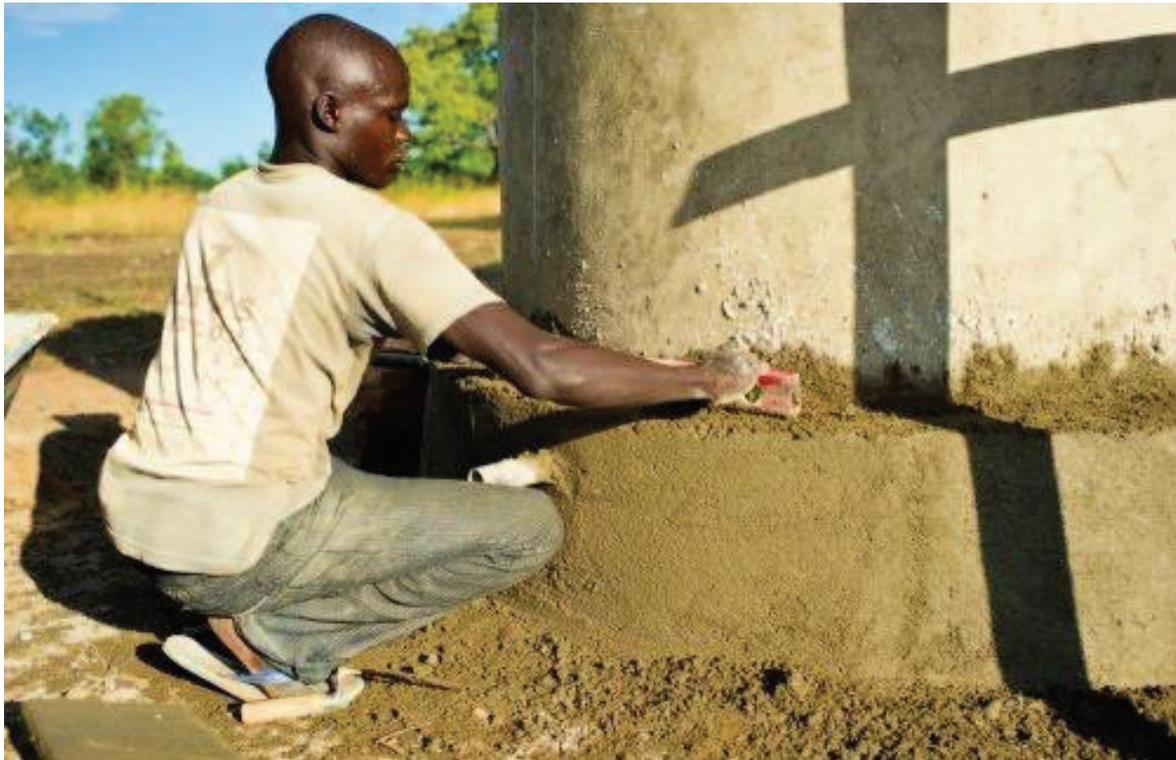
Tearfund USA operates through local churches wherever it can, training and equipping them to end poverty and rebuild their communities. This is because it believes that:

- Churches are the most powerful local and global network for God's love to reach people in poverty
- Churches care for the whole person, inside and out. This makes lasting, sustainable change for an individual and a community possible.

In the most vulnerable places we have experts ready to help people prepare for, withstand and recover from disasters.

Tearfund campaigns in the global North and across the world for just policies and structural change on issues such as economic and environmental sustainability, international aid, the role of faith in development, and gender-based violence. Tearfund seeks to mobilize churches and partners worldwide in understanding and addressing the challenges of humankind's cumulative impact on this beautiful world that God has entrusted to us – like hunger, job creation, waste management and energy conservation.

Tearfund is a signatory of the Red Cross Code of Conduct and is certified with the Core Humanitarian Standard.



Background

Tearfund USA was launched in May 2018 to design and to implement a US expression of Tearfund's global vision for change. Tearfund began in the UK in 1968 and now operates through partners and affiliates in over 50 of the poorest countries. It has developed distinctive programs in disaster relief, advocacy and development.

Building on this reputation and a network of more than 100,000 local churches worldwide, Tearfund USA aims to energize and mobilize US Christians to take action alongside people living in poverty.

Tearfund USA is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit and is mobilizing an effective staff team as it works to form a strong network of supporters and church partners. It is looking to scale up Tearfund's remarkable church and community transformation (CCT) programs which are a powerful example of the difference that the faith dimension brings to development. The local church around the world has enormous and often untapped potential to transform their local communities. Crucially the local church is part of God's plan to redeem the world. When there is both spiritual and material transformation, there can be life in all its fullness as Jesus promised.

Tearfund USA will also be speaking about poverty and broken relationships, seeking to inform and engage with Christian leaders on how to make a difference in a world where injustice, violence, and conflict are rampant. It is only with sustainable economic and environmental solutions that relief and development can take root, ensuring individuals, families and whole communities are transformed for the long term. Tearfund USA is committed to a world where everybody has enough to live on, where our use of the natural environment allows it to flourish, and where the world's wealth and resources are more fairly shared.

In its startup phase in the USA, Tearfund USA will focus will be on mobilizing an effective team, forming a strong network of supporters and partners, listening to and representing the diversity of the American church, and communicating the distinctive ways in which Tearfund works around the world.

In all things, Tearfund USA seeks to embody our guiding principle: "Following Jesus where the need is greatest." Its work reflects its reputation for both spiritual passion and professional excellence, aiming to help the people in the world who are in the greatest need, regardless of race, religion, gender or nationality.

Our Passions

We are inspired to love our neighbors by the life and teachings of our Lord. We are committed to whole-life transformation, which is the outcome of following the example of Jesus. We believe the local church is God's chosen means to transform the world. It is the primary catalyst for community transformation which lifts people out of poverty and enables them to flourish. We know that God is reconciling all things through Christ to Himself, restoring our broken relationships with God, with ourselves, with other people, and with creation itself.

Our Core Values (Micah 6:8)

- **We strive to be Christ-centered. Jesus is our anchor and our guide, our beginning and our end.**
- **We seek justice, not as an activity but as a way of life. Bold in faith, and united with those we serve, we work to align our lives with kingdom values and to hold our government leaders to account.**
- **We serve with humility. Jesus is the hero of our work, not us. We need to work with and to learn from others, especially those we serve.**
- **We demonstrate mercy. We ourselves have been shown compassion, so we care for those who suffer from poverty, injustice, broken relationships, and vulnerability, and we recognize the dignity of those we serve.**

The Role

Tearfund USA is now seeking to appoint wise and strategic-minded Christians as members of the Board.

There are several vacancies for Board members in the next two years and we are praying for people who share these values and bring diversity of background. They will bring expertise and experience in many walks of life and church tradition, all of which will help us grow our organization and impact. Our goal is to build a diverse board committed to working in a multicultural environment and we strongly encourage applications from minorities and women.

Applicants should share our passion to help communities to flourish around the world. The time commitment for this role is limited, comprising four Board meetings, preparation, teleconferences and occasional events. We also ask that Board members make an overseas trip to see our community transformation work first-hand every few years.

No compensation is offered for this position and all Board members are asked to cover their own expenses as far as possible.

Board members are appointed for an initial term of 3 years, subsequently renewable, and are required to confirm their agreement to the Tearfund Statement of Faith which can be found at www.TearfundUSA.org. They should be active members of a vibrant Christian church community and be ready to support Tearfund USA through regular prayer, engagement, and financial giving.



If you share our passions and would like to be considered for the Board, or if you are interested in learning more, please contact

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