



Patterns and Principles for Missions

Matthew 28:18-20

Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

I. Purpose

A. Definition of Missions

West Cohasset Chapel (WCC) defines missions to be any evangelistic endeavor outside our local congregation to fulfill the Great Commission by proclaiming the gospel of Christ, making disciples, baptizing them and gathering these disciples into local congregations, while relating to the needs of the total person (spiritual, physical, emotional and social).

B. Purpose Statement

The goal of our missions effort is to see God win individuals to the Lord Jesus Christ, equip them in the faith and establish churches that have the same aim in every tribe, tongue, people and nation (Acts 14:21-23). The Missions Committee, guiding the congregation, will work to this end.

The Missions Patterns and Principles

1. Purpose—The purpose of the missions policy is to:
 - a. Provide guidelines to stay on course.
 - b. Maintain consistency as team membership changes.
 - c. Insure good stewardship in the allocation of missions funds.

2. Exceptions to patterns and principles—The approval of the Missions Committee and Elder Board is needed to approve exceptions.
3. Revisions—the Missions Patterns and Principles will be reviewed annually and revised as often as needed by the Missions Committee. Before implementation, the Elder Board must approve all revisions.

II. THE MISSIONS TEAM

A. Size and Selection

The Missions Committee will be selected from the West Cohasset Chapel membership role by the Elder Board and will consist of a minimum of 4 members, maximum of 12, with at least 2 held over from the previous year.

B. Term of Office

Ideally, members will serve for many years. Annually, the committee will review each member's desire to continue serving on the committee.

C. Chairperson

The chairperson will be elected by the committee at the first meeting following the Annual Business Meeting.

D. Expectations

Members are expected to:

1. Pray consistently for God to guide our efforts.
2. Grow in the knowledge of God. (Col. 1:10)
3. Attend a majority of the meetings.
4. Assist on projects as necessary.
5. Take an active role in the decision-making process.
6. Continue to learn about global gospel outreach and encourage the congregation in doing so.
7. Be a vibrant, visible presence for missions events.

E. Responsibilities

1. Pray—Encourage intercession from the congregation for global gospel outreach and for our missionaries.
2. Educate—Assist in providing resources for global missions and supported missionaries to our congregation. This will include information about the world and our missionaries.
 - a. Sponsor an annual missions emphasis event for the congregation
3. Mobilize—utilize the resources of WCC to further the gospel. This would include but is not limited to offering short-term and other global outreach opportunities.
4. Send—Support missionaries and nationals in prayer, financially and practically.
5. Pray—for all short term missionaries.
6. Care—Provide practical assistance to missionaries while they are on their field and home assignments.
7. Support—prepare a missions budget and oversee the allocation of the funds throughout the year.
8. Represent—Serve as a liaison between the church, our missionaries and/or missions organizations.
9. Evaluate—Review the missions program of the church and make changes as necessary. This includes evaluating the missions policy statement as well as the ongoing support for missionaries, organizations and projects.
10. Annually review all supported missionaries to determine if any changes occurred (Mission Agency, doctrine or focus) that would affect their agreement with this document.

III. STRATEGY

A. Goals

With an open Bible, in prayer and reliance on the Holy Spirit, the Missions Committee will seek to establish long and short-range goals for our various responsibilities.

B. Priorities

Recognizing that there will always be more needs than we can fill, the following is meant to assist us in our decision-making. We have a two-fold missions strategy: mobilization and global evangelization. Mobilization includes our efforts to help the congregation become more missions active. Global evangelization includes our efforts to help complete the Great Commission. While there is overlap between the two, we have different goals for each strategy.

1. Mobilization Priorities

- a. Education: inform the congregation of the importance and impact of missions to encourage their participation.
- b. Ministries supported by our church: Those individuals or organizations for which there is no money designated for in our annual budget.
- c. Ministries supported by individuals from our church and endorsed by us: Those individuals or organizations who are supported by people in our congregation which are outside our established budget. These must be in compliance with this document.

2. Global/Local Evangelization Priorities

- a. Missionary support: Priority will be given to members of WCC.
- b. Unreached people groups: Evangelism and church planting among unreached people groups.
- c. Strategic Partnerships: These ministries are more encompassing than merely giving funds. In these cases, our church commits to be an active partner in a particular ministry. This may involve sending short-term teams, hosting or attending conferences, sending our pastor or church member representative to a site on a yearly basis, etc.
- d. Strategic Ministry Support: This category includes those opportunities where we can make a difference for the kingdom of God, regardless of any relationship or benefit to our church. We assist because it is strategic. We might not have any involvement other than giving. We may never see the missionary or national we support. This support could be for people or projects.
- e. Balance: Acts 1:8. Our goal would be to focus equally in these four areas of ministry: Locally, Regionally, Nationally and Globally.

IV. SHORT-TERM MISSIONS

A. Definition

Any missions activity of one day to one year duration with the primary benefits going to those whom we are serving, not ourselves, and is in complete agreement with this document.

B. Purpose

Our primary purpose is to strengthen national believers, edify the local churches, and/or evangelize non-believers. Our secondary purpose is to educate and mobilize our congregation to be more missions active.

C. Short-Term Missions Approval Process

1. The short-term mission must be in a subordinate partnership with a national church, a long-term missionary or mission agency.
2. The organization must be in agreement with our Missions Purpose Statement
3. An adult applicant must be a member of WCC or if not a member, sign our articles of faith and complete a background check.
4. The applicant must fill out a request for funds which is available online at westcohassetchapel.com/short-term-missions-fund-request/
5. Recipients of short term funds will be encouraged to share with the congregation following their missions trip.
6. Attend information/training/ funding session available to those seeking support.

D.Priorities

1. The ministry is supported or endorsed by our church.
2. The ministry will help a person evaluate a long-term missions ministry.

E.Financial Support

If accepted, WCC will provide significant support for the applicant's trip equaling up to 30% of the total need and assist those who need help in networking to achieve their financial goal.

V. FINANCIAL POLICIES

A. Annual Budget

The Missions Committee will prepare an annual budget each year to be submitted to the Elder Board.

1. Totaling a minimum of 10% general fund income plus any funds designated to missions.
2. Budget will increase by \$2,500 per year during fiscal years 2013-15
 - a.Subsequent annual budgets should total a minimum as noted in A1 above.

B. Monetary Support

Support for a long term missionary will be determined based on their financial need. Payment frequency will be determined based on the needs of the missionary/organization.

1. One-time gifts and/or love offerings will be given as determined by the Missions Committee. Both short and long term missions must meet same criteria and comply with the contents of this document.
2. The Missions Committee will have the authority to give one time gifts without the approval of the Elder Board, giving consideration to available funds.

C. Ministry Changes

If there is a major change in either the ministry and/or location or if the missionary joins a different mission agency, the Missions Committee will re-evaluate its support commitment in a timely manner. WCC requests advance notice of any significant changes in ministry.

D. Support Termination

Termination of financial support for a missionary is the exception at WCC. For it to occur, both the Missions Committee and the Elder Board need to approve the decision. If we terminate support, we will strive to do it in such a way as to limit the negative effects on the missionary/organization.

E. Support Review

Based on available funds, at least every 2 years, the Missions Committee will review the support needs of currently supported missionaries and consider initiating support for additional missionaries.

F. Funding Priorities

The expenditure of funds will be consistent with the priorities mentioned in Section III B.

G. Budget Items

The missions budget not only will include missionary support but also other items needed to fulfill the goals of the missions policy (for example: missions emphasis events, funds for pastoral visits to mission fields, books, short-term projects, etc.).

H. Payments for Missionary Presenters

A missionary speaker will receive all travel expenses (food, lodging, transportation) plus a love offering, taken during the service or a one time gift from the Missions Committee as deemed appropriate.

VI. MISSIONARY SELECTION POLICIES

A. Qualifications for individual missionaries

1. All applicants must be in agreement with WCC's Articles of Faith.
2. They must be accepted for service with a mission agency approved by the missions committee. Tentmakers and nationals may be an exception in special situations.
 - a. Purpose and priority of the mission agency must be in accordance with purpose and priority of WCC's Missions Patterns and Principles as stated in I B and III B.
3. They must demonstrate the qualities found in 1 Timothy 3:1-10.
4. Their home church must be in agreement with their decision.

B. Qualifications for ministry organizations

1. Their mission statement shall be in agreement with WCC's Articles of Faith
 - a. Purpose and priority of the mission agency must be in accordance with purpose and priority of WCC's Missions Patterns and Principles as stated in I B and III B.

C. Application Procedures

Applicants must:

1. Complete a written application. Applicants will also be given a copy of our Missions Patterns and Principles at the time of application.
2. Meet with the full Missions Committee. If approved, the Missions Committee will then make a request for support to the Elder Board.

D. Responsibility of WCC to Its Missionaries

1. Remember the missionary in prayer.
2. Communicate with each missionary regularly.
3. Promote the work of each missionary within the church.

4. Encourage the missionary.
5. Work toward a partnership relationship with the missionary and/or ministry.

E. Responsibility of the Missionary to WCC

1. Communicate regularly with WCC.
 - i. Provide timely updates with prayer needs and praises.
2. Give the Missions Committee advance notice of any significant changes in ministry and/or location.
3. Provide the Missions Committee with written yearly goals and an appraisal of the last year's activities.
4. Send the Missions Committee updated support figures for each year.
5. Missionaries will be encouraged to present at WCC during their home assignment.

VII. MISSIONARY PRESENTATIONS

- A. Priority will be given to WCC supported missionaries.
- B. The missionary will fill out a presentation request online at westcohassetchapel.com/missionary-presentation-request or will be mailed a Presentation Request Form by the office
- C. The Church Ministry Coordinator will communicate with the missionary regarding date availability, order of service and other details.
- D. The missionary will be given the opportunity to present during Sunday Morning Bible Class as well as a 5-7 minute presentation during the worship service.
- E. A love offering will be taken during the worship service or a one-time gift will be given in accordance with the financial policies listed in Section V. WCC will also provide accommodations for lodging and food if needed, through congregation or other means.
- F. The Missions Committee will, when possible, provide a means for the congregation to meet the missionary and get to know them and their ministry on a personal level. (ie: open house at Missions Committee Member's home).

