

MISSIONS POLICY



**Go ye, therefore, and teach all nations,
baptizing them in the name of the Father,
and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit,
teaching them to observe all things
whatsoever I have commanded you;
and, lo, I am with you always,
even unto the end of the age. Amen.
Matthew 28:19, 20**

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MISSIONARY POLICY AND PROCEDURE

PERTH BIBLE CHURCH

AMSTERDAM, NEW YORK

I. AUTHORITY OF MISSION POLICIES

The following statement of missionary policy for Perth Bible Church, Amsterdam, New York, has been formulated with the purpose of directing its missionary interests along those lines which will best promote the worldwide proclamation of the precious Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. The Lord's commissioning orders to the Church (Mark 16:15, Matthew 28:19, 20) make it imperative that vigorous, balanced, worldwide program of missionary endeavor be supported. Therefore, it is our duty and privilege as a church to prayerfully consider "front-line" and support-role mission endeavors for our prayer and financial support.

It is not the intention of the Missions Team to make a permanent and unchangeable law regarding the church's missions program; and the Missions Team fully recognizes that each decision will have to be reached individually. However, it is believed that having biblical guidelines and goals in the form of policy will be helpful to our committee, church, and missionary family. This policy is a means by which the membership, missionary family, and friends may be informed and therefore, better able to cooperate in all mission matters.

II. MISSION OBJECTIVE

We want to make the greatest use of the Lord's resources being sensitive to the direction of God regarding individual missionaries and opportunities. Therefore, we believe the focus of our missions program should reflect to the glory of God the biblical priorities of evangelizing, baptizing, and discipling with the purpose of establishing or integrating into a local body of believers (Matthew

28:19, 20; Mark 16:15; Acts 1:8; Acts 16:5). Further, it is our purpose to encourage the people of Perth Bible Church to give due consideration to missionary service in the will of God.

III. THE MISSIONS TEAM

The work of the Missions Team shall be coordinated with the total church mission program, church mission statement, and with other teams within the church. This will enhance productivity, provide guidance as needed, and establish good communication to the Senior Pastor, Board of Deacon/Trustees, and the church as a whole. The Missions Team shall stand in an advisory capacity to the Board of Deacons and may not, in and of itself, commit the church to any program, policy, or obligation apart from the approval of the Pastors.

The Missions Team shall be composed of at least one pastor or administrative staff and one deacon and three (3) members. Initial appointment will be made by the pastoral staff. Members are reevaluated annually by the pastoral staff and missions chairman. Currently, supported missionaries shall not be eligible to serve on the Missions Committee.

A chairman shall be appointed by the pastoral staff and a vice chairman shall be selected by the team. The elected church mission's secretary shall serve as the team secretary.

The chairman's responsibilities include:

1. Plan an agenda for each meeting
2. Schedule and conduct each meeting, providing agendas and necessary resources
3. Assign responsibility to committee members
4. Oversee the work of the team secretary
5. Report team actions or recommendations
6. Assure cooperation between other teams

The vice-chairman fills the role of the chairman in his absence.

The secretary's responsibilities are:

1. Record team activity and meetings
2. File team records in the church office
3. Communicate with missionaries on a quarterly basis
4. Communicate with mission boards/ organizations for an annual evaluation of each supported missionary
5. Communicate to the congregation reports from supported missionaries and organizations

The team shall hold regular meetings with the time and place of the meeting to be determined by the committee.

The purpose of the Missions Team shall be to recommend and maintain mission policy, monitor activities of present missionaries, recommend for approval future missionaries and projects, develop and promote means for involvement in missions, recommend a budget to the Finance Team, and supervise and support the activities of the mission's secretary. This shall be done through prayer, counsel, guidance, and encouragement.

The Missions Team shall seek to establish a harmonious relationship between the church, the candidate for missionary service, and the missionary on the field.

IV. THE MISSIONARY CANDIDATE

Candidates for the missionary family of Perth Bible Church shall be persons purposing to go into missionary service or veteran missionaries needing additional support.

The missionary family of Perth Bible Church is considered within the framework of this directive to include all missionaries who receive regular support from the church.

Only Candidates who meet the criteria hereby set forth as follows shall receive consideration by the missions team or the Board of Deacons to receive regular support:

1. Candidates must be approved by a mission board whose doctrinal position is consistent with the doctrines set forth in the constitution of Perth Bible Church, or sent specifically by Perth Bible Church.
2. Candidates must, by conviction, support and personally adhere to the doctrines set forth in the constitution of Perth Bible Church.
3. The team and/or board of deacons shall, by personal interview or other acceptable means be satisfied:
 - a. That the candidate is a born again believer, as demonstrated by their personal testimony and is an active church member;
 - b. That the missionary has received a missionary call (how does the candidate know he/she was called of the Lord into missionary service?);
 - c. With the adequacy of preparation, scholastic background, personal work, etc. In addition to other considerations of adequacy, the candidate must be thoroughly grounded in the Word of God;
 - d. With the candidate's personality traits (includes evaluation of ability to get along with others);
 - e. With satisfactory recommendations of pastoral and peer references; and
 - f. That the candidate's (and family) health is adequate for their field of service.

The support of any candidate is subject to the availability of funds.

The missionary application shall be used as a basis for evaluation. The Missions Team and the Pastors and Deacons will prayerfully consider the candidate.

V. MISSIONARY ORGANIZATIONS

It is recognized that mission boards, associated support agencies, and other missionary organizations are important for a balanced missions program.

Organizations and/or mission boards must have a doctrinal statement consistent with that set forth in the constitution of Perth Bible Church.

It shall be the policy of the church to reevaluate any organization when there is a change in purpose or practice.

Support of any organization is subject to availability of funds.

VI. EVALUATION OF SUPPORT AND EFFECTIVENESS

As the Lord leads it shall be the purpose of Perth Bible Church to:

1. Provide support in amounts designated in the annual budget. Generally, all support shall be paid quarterly;
2. Begin support as the Missions Team deems, subject to approval of the Board of Deacons. It shall be proper to begin support prior to the missionary leaving for the field in order to help with the costs incurred from deputation travel expense and “outgoing expense” to arrive on the field;
3. Continue with the support of the missionary during the regular furlough period, subject to the needs of the missionary. In the event that a furlough is extended beyond the regular furlough period, the Missions Team shall review the circumstances and shall, subject to the approval of the Board of Deacons, determine whether support shall continue, and if so, how long.

It shall be the policy of the church to carry a balanced missionary program, thus payments of regular support may be terminated when a missionary:

1. Changes location of service;
2. Transfers to another mission board;
3. Changes the nature of missionary endeavor to educational, medical, administrative, clerical, or deputation work, unless continued support is approved by the Missions Team and the Board of Deacons & Pastors;
4. Leaves the field permanently; or
5. Retires. In the case of retirement assets have not been established for a missionary, support may continue for life.

All of the above are subject to re-evaluation by the Missions Team and Board of Deacons & Pastors.

Immediate termination of support shall occur when a missionary:

1. Does not follow the policies deemed by Perth Bible Church’s missionary policy and procedures;
2. Lives a life-style not in harmony with God’s Word; or
3. Is no longer in agreement with the statement of faith of Perth Bible Church. In the event support is provided to national workers or missionaries without a board, sending support directly to missionaries should be avoided, if possible.

Evaluation of each missionary shall be done annually by contracting individual mission boards. The evaluation shall include current support level needs, annual report, and progress of the missionary effort. To assist in this evaluation, quarterly correspondence is required from each missionary concerning the

progress of the ministry and welfare of the family. Personal visits and field updates are required within a reasonable length of time.

Based on this review, the Missions Team shall submit the evaluation of needs and effectiveness together with other recommendations to the Board of Deacons for consideration in connection with the budget for the following year.

VII. SHORT TERM MISSIONS

Short term mission projects shall be encouraged by the Missions Team throughout the year for adults, as well as teens of at least 15 years of age who have completed their sophomore year of high school at the time of the mission project. Any particular special project shall be promoted at the mission's conference when feasible. Individual requests must be submitted to the Missions Team no later than January 15. Late requests are not guaranteed equal consideration.

Funds for short term missions shall come from a designated amount raised through faith promises at the missions conference.

Upon an applicant's initial contact with the Missions Team for support, an application, along with a letter of explanation of responsibilities to the church shall be sent to the applicant. The letter from the team shall include:

1. An explanation that the application is to be completed and filed with the Missions Team by February 1;
2. Reporting responsibilities to the church:
 - a. Testimony of plans prior to leaving for the field
 - b. Letter from the field to the church
 - c. Presentation of ministry upon return;
3. That the applicant must be actively involved in a church ministry;

4. That a minimum of three references is required, not to include family members; as well as a pastoral recommendation;
5. That a copy of the sponsoring organization's doctrinal statement shall be required and must be consistent with Perth Bible Church's doctrinal statement;
6. That the applicant must sign a copy of the church's doctrinal statement indicating his/her agreement with the statement; and
7. A notation that individual letters should not be sent to the congregation requesting additional funds, if approved for funds through the church due to the congregation's previous support of short term missions a fact sheet shall be available to the congregation indicating short term projects and needs to afford the Spirit's leading in the matter of prayer and further assistance.

Once the applicant's application, references, and the sponsoring organization's doctrinal statement is received, the Missions Committee shall consider and determine whether or not to approve support. The committee shall then notify the applicant of the decision and the monies, if approved, will be sent to the sponsoring organization.

Funds for short term missions will be primarily dispersed to active, Perth Bible Church members. The church will match funds not to exceed \$1250; and in the case of several requests which will exceed the amount designated for short term missions, the funds shall be dispersed evenly on a percentage of the total number of applicants.

VIII. FINANCES

Those who support the ministry of Perth Bible Church are encouraged to faithfully give to the regular church offerings. A substantial portion of these offerings are used for a planned, balanced, missionary program submitted annually by the Board of

Deacons with recommendations for approval by the membership of Perth Bible Church at the annual congregational meeting.

The members and friends of Perth Bible Church will be encouraged to give additional offerings as the Lord enables in the faith promise offering initiated during the annual missions conference.

Gifts received that are designated for missionary purposes shall normally be placed in the general missionary budget. Faith promise offerings and large mission gifts shall be allocated at the discretion of the Missions Committee, subject to the approval of the Pastor and or Deacons.

Missionary guests participating in a church service shall normally receive a special offering taken at the service.

Exceptions may occur and where circumstances warrant, an honorarium may be given in accordance with the current church honorarium schedule.

The Missions Team shall take under advisement any financial emergency occasioned by a missionary's illness, accident, or death. The financial need shall be taken from the Special Project account.

In the interest of providing proper balance of expenditures, the following general percentages shall be a guideline, as long as the missions budget remains stable:

1. Approximately 75% of the total missions budget will be used for support purposes. These funds shall be allocated approximately 55% to foreign missionaries, while the remaining 45% shall be used for home missionaries and organizations.
2. Approximately 15% of the total missions budget shall be used for short term mission endeavors.

3. Approximately 5% shall be set apart for special projects.
4. The remaining 5% shall be allocated by the team to include funds for the missions conference, missionary guests, and mission correspondence.

In the event that there are insufficient funds to meet the regular quarterly allocations to missionaries, these payments shall be made on a pro rata basis.

To provide general guidelines in order that bookkeeping may be alleviated of unnecessary laborious computations all support that is adopted shall be adopted on an even per month amount.

In keeping with the total financial program of the church, regular budget surpluses shall not be carried into the next fiscal year. Any special offering monies acquired during the fiscal year that are not used may be carried over into the next fiscal year.

IX. MISSIONARY PROGRAM PLANNING

A comprehensive, consistent, year round program of missionary emphasis shall be promoted by the Missions Team with the following objectives:

1. To encourage believers to thoughtfully and prayerfully consider the part they should have in the missionary effort;
2. To present the challenge of the Great Commission, "make disciples of all nations";
3. To keep believers advised of the work, problems, and needs on the mission field; and
4. To support the missionary effort of Perth Bible Church with special gifts beyond regular giving.

The Missions Team shall plan a missions conference once each year. The purpose of the conference shall be to reemphasize and focus on the above objectives.

Organization of the conference shall be:

- The leadership for the conference shall be the responsibility of the Missions Team Chairman under the guidance of the pastoral staff.
- The details of the conference shall be the responsibility of the Missions Team.
- It shall be the policy to provide in the church budget, as well as nightly offerings during the conference, to cover expenses for the conference.
- Faith Promise giving shall be encouraged the last evening of the conference to meet special projects as outlined by the Missions Team.

X. MODIFICATION OR CHANGE

This statement of policy shall be subject to modification or changes as experience may determine. Such changes shall be formulated by the Missions Team, subject to the approval of the Board of Deacons and the approval of the congregation at a regular or special congregational meeting.

Suggestions for modification of these procedures shall be submitted in writing to the Pastors or Board of Deacons.