

CORNERSTONE EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH

MISSION AND OUTREACH MINISTRY POLICY 2015

I. PURPOSE

A. Philosophy of Missions

Missions can take on multiple forms, but it should be mainly defined as taking the gospel of Jesus into the world. Acts 1:8 is the mandate for doing missions in a local context to the ends of the earth empowered by the Holy Spirit. Missions should be carried out with a strategy in mind for appropriately crossing existing boundaries (i.e. racial, cultural, ethnic, language, economic, religious). CEFC affirms that missions should exist where the regular worship of Jesus is not present, and is carried out by proclaiming the gospel and making disciples empowered by the Holy Spirit as commanded by Jesus to His disciples in the great commission.

B. Purpose Statement

Missions should exist to see the ultimate end of all things, which is ceaseless worship of Jesus Christ by all tribes tongues and nations (Revelation 7:9-10). The mission committee at CEFC will be the primary ministry guiding and equipping the church in missional outreach strategy as well as identifying and sending missionaries, both long and short term, to other cities, states, and countries in obedience to the great commission(Matthew 28:18-19, Mark 16:15) to the ultimate end of the glory of God.

C. Missions Policy

1. Purpose

The purpose of the missions policy is to provide guidance in the following areas:

- a. Ensure unity and continuity among the mission committee members;
- b. Making thoughtful, informed decisions that enhance our ability to achieve established goals-; and
- c. Ensure proper stewardship of allocated funds in the annual mission budget.

2. Exceptions

On the occasion of an exception being presented, approval of the exception will require 2/3 of the mission committee to be in favor the exception. The proposition should be presented to the deacons where it concerns a budget item, and to the elders in all other cases.

3. Revisions

The Missions Policy shall be reviewed every odd numbered year. All revisions must be presented to the congregation for approval.

II. THE MISSIONS COMMITTEE

A. Size and Selection

The Missions Committee shall consist of at least five members including the chairman. Each committee member will be elected through the nominating process as outlined in the by-laws of CEFC. The deacon overseeing the mission budget will sit on the committee, as well as a liaison to the elder board.

B. Chairperson

The chairperson should be the pastor over missions. When there is no pastor over missions, the missions committee will select a chairperson each year from within the committee. This chairperson is responsible for the proper functioning of the committee as well as serving as liaison to the elders and/or senior pastor. A description of duties provides more detail for this position.

C. Expectations

Members are expected to:

1. Attend weekly worship service at CEFC;
2. Attend quarterly mission ministry meetings;
3. Contribute to discussions at meetings, via email, and informally;
4. Continue learning about missions and strategies for missional outreach;
5. Actively participate in local missions opportunities (i.e. rescue mission service, evangelism initiatives); and
6. Term limits will be subject to the nominating process.

D. Responsibilities

1. **Communicate-** Be in monthly communication with assigned missionaries to encourage them and inform the church of prayer requests, financial needs, or other opportunities for service. Report any urgent needs immediately to mission chairperson.
2. **Strategize-** Be involved in annual goal setting and evaluations. Make plans to be a more effective sending church to short and long term missionaries locally and internationally.
3. **Mobilize-** Identify and seek out members of the congregation, or special projects that could involve the congregation, and provide resources, discipleship, and prayer in order to send people out into the mission field, locally or abroad.
4. **Promote-** Introduce and explain missions opportunities and goals to the congregation and maintain the missions wall to keep our ministry current and relevant to the congregation.
5. **Educate-** Books include When Helping Hurts by Corbett and Fikkert; Let the Nations Be Glad by John Piper (these are essential for each member). Take part in any educational training provided by REACH global via online tools or visiting reps. Be able to train and educate members of the congregation when necessary for short term trips and/or local mission work.
6. **Evaluate-** Each year, the mission committee will evaluate the ministry using the philosophy of mission and the vision statement of CEFC. The committee will also evaluate the mission policy and suggest revisions every odd numbered year.

III. STRATEGY

A. Goals

The Missions Committee shall seek to establish short and long range goals for their various responsibilities in dependence upon the Holy Spirit. These goals should be communicated annually to the congregation and open for discussion when necessary.

1. Develop plans for stewarding a 1% annual budget increase. This can be for partnership development, emergency funding, mobilizing new missionaries, or special projects. A budget increase must always be approved by the congregation.
2. Hold an annual mission conference or something similar (i.e. international dinner, global prayer night).
3. Establish an ongoing partnership with an international church and send a minimum of one short term team each year as the main component of that partnership.
4. Review all missionaries and perform assessments on how to best support them into the future.
5. Explore and consider the possibility of a local/regional partnership with one of our church planting partners in the Rocky Mountain District.

These goals shall be evaluated and a progress report made at the end of each calendar year.

B. Priorities

Recognizing that we must maintain focus on goals and strategies, the following is meant to assist us in our decision making. It is our desire to support those involved in church planting, training of nationals and development of indigenous missionary efforts, remembering that priority will be given to people, over projects and organizations.

With the above objective in mind, the following priorities should be evaluated when we want to consider supporting new partners.

1. Priority will be given to members of Cornerstone Evangelical Free Church who have demonstrated a pattern of faithfulness and active involvement in their commitment to our church.
2. Priority will be given to missionaries serving with the Evangelical Free Church of America second.
3. Priority will be given to missionaries from Evangelical Free Churches serving with other missions agencies third.
4. Priority will be given to others fourth.

C. Future Missions Budget Projections

It is our desire over a period of years for the missionary support segment of our missions budget to approximate the following percentages:

USA 40%	OVERSEAS 60%
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IV. FINANCIAL POLICIES

A. Annual Budget

The Missions Committee shall prepare an annual budget which is to be submitted to the Budget Committee.

B. Minimum/Maximum

The mission budget shall have a maximum amount defined in each line item. For instance, monthly support should not exceed 50% of a given missionary's total monthly need.

C. Monetary Support

Support for a missionary shall be given on a monthly basis. In order to help with mobilizing expenses, a new partner is eligible for a one-time gift equal to three months of committed support. In the event of a missionary returning from the field, a severance or other re-entry support will be considered, given the missionary is in good standing.

D. Changes

If there is a major change in either the ministry and/or location or if the person joins a different missions agency, then the Missions Committee will immediately re-evaluate its commitment to the person. Cornerstone Evangelical Free Church is requesting advance notice of any significant changes in the ministry of the missionary.

E. Missionary Support Reassignment

Termination of financial support for a missionary is the exception with Cornerstone Evangelical Free Church. However, when it is to occur, both the Missions Committee and the Elders and Deacons need to be in favor of the decision. Reasons for termination would be if missionaries did not fulfill the responsibilities asked of them in this policy statement.

F. Parameters

No more than twenty-five percent (25%) of our missionary support budget will go to a single missions agency other than the Evangelical Free Church of America.

G. Review

Each year an evaluation will be made to see if more money can be given to a currently supported missionary as well as to the taking on of new missionaries for support.

I. Priorities

The expenditure of funds will be in light of the priorities mentioned earlier. **Budget Items**
In order to increase our effectiveness as a sending church, the budget shall be itemized as follows: Monthly support, partnership and short term, missionary care, special projects, education and training, contingency.

J. Fundraising

All fundraising by teams or individuals from Cornerstone Evangelical Free Church needs Missions Committee approval. An individual seeking to solicit funds from the general congregation must have the permission of the Missions Committee.

V. SELECTION POLICIES

A. Long Term Missionary Qualifications

1. Shall have a sending church; anyone who is not affiliated with a sending church should not be considered.
2. The mission agency shall be approved by the committee. The mission agency should provide a statement of faith. Tentmakers and nationals may be an exception in special situations.
3. Shall have a good track record of ministry within their local church, demonstrating qualities of 1 Timothy 3:1-10.

B. Procedures

1. Fill out an application for support.
2. Spend a weekend at CEFC, specifically with mission committee member(s).
3. Make a formal presentation to the mission committee to explain call, proposed ministry, and any other pertinent information.
4. Should go through adequate cultural training in order to maximize effectiveness and sustainability on the field.

C. Responsibility of Cornerstone Evangelical Free Church to its Missionaries

1. Pray for and communicate with its missionaries via email and skype a minimum of quarterly.
2. Promote the ministry of the missionary via website, mission wall, etc.
3. Send committed amount of money in a timely fashion.
4. To assist with special needs while they are on home assignment or on the field, especially housing while in Casper, and emotional/spiritual care and counseling.

D. Responsibility of the Missionary to Cornerstone Evangelical Free Church

1. Communicate via email each month with brief updates and prayer needs. Provide a yearly summary and future goals and ministry projections.
2. Inform the mission committee of any major movements in ministry, location, or organizational.
3. Spend at least a weekend at CEFC during home assignment, specifically with mission committee member(s) and also with staff, and other CEFC members.

VI. SHORT TERM MISSIONS

A. Definition

Short term missions are a recent phenomenon, and CEFC sees this opportunity as a gift to be used appropriately. A short term missionary will be considered someone being sent for less than a year into the mission field. A short term mission trip will also be defined as less than a year.

B. Selection

Any person or group wishing to pursue a short term mission trip must fill out an application to be reviewed by the mission committee. Short term missionaries must meet the criteria of a long term missionary. The one exception will be that a short termer will not be required to be "called" as a missionary, as confirmed by a pastor and elders. Short termers will only be considered if they have shown a willingness and spiritual maturity necessary for serving in the local church. For example, CEFC should not send out a new believer, or someone who has proven themselves inconsistent, unreliable, or spiritually immature.

C. Finances and Support

Following the approval of the mission committee, short term missionaries should seek to raise funds from the congregation. The mission committee will provide support using the following procedure:

1. Member of Cornerstone: Maximum 60% of total need (monthly or one time)
2. Short termer connected to family of CEFC: Maximum 40% of total need (monthly or one time)

Exceptions shall be made in the event of a crisis response short term missionary. CEFC is not resourced for crisis response, but will seek to send those who are able and willing to serve in those situations.

VII. EVALUATION AND REVIEW PROCESS

All missionaries, short and long term, as well as any organizations and special projects, should be evaluated each year. A missionary will be evaluated approximately every two years **OR** when he/she is on home assignment. They shall be evaluated using the mission philosophy and purpose in this policy as well as the vision statement of CEFC. See missionary evaluation form called MISSIONARY REVIEW FORM (most current version).

- A.** The evaluation and review should be to inform the committee about the effectiveness of those we support, as well as how we can best serve our partners.
- B.** If any person, organization, or project presents a concern, the mission committee will discuss a proper course of action. The first step will be communication in writing the thoughts and concerns of the mission committee.
- C.** Support may be terminated after the concerns of the committee have been communicated in writing. If the missionary does not respond or ends communication, or the committee feels that the concerns at hand are irreparable, the partnership can then be terminated.

VIII. INTERNATIONAL CHURCH PARTNERSHIPS

A. Purpose

To extend the reach of our missions ministry into the world, CEFC shall explore partnership opportunities. The emphasis shall be on partnering to enhance the ministry of the indigenous church. The partnership must not be product driven, rather focused on relationship building and the process of learning and training.

B. Agreement

Prior to a partnership, our Missions Committee will work with Reach Global to set out a plan of action and expectations for the relationship. The agreement can be cancelled by either side in good faith.

C. Leadership Visit

Prior to considering a church or ministry for partnership, CEFC shall send a small exploratory team to evaluate the legitimacy and feasibility of forming a long term partnership. Criteria should include the following:

1. Is the ministry focused on Jesus and the gospel, based on the authority of scripture?
2. Is the ministry only interesting in financial partnership?
3. Can CEFC meet the actual needs of the ministry?
4. Other

D. Goals

Each church should begin sending monthly communication to report how the Lord is at work, and specific prayer requests. Other goals should be established and agreed upon between both churches early on in the partnership. The mission committee **MUST** approve the goals, and action steps for achieving them.

E. Financial Parameters

Financial considerations will be unique to each team member on a given trip. The following criteria must be met in order to receive support from the mission committee. Those who meet the criteria should have the majority of their trip expenses covered by the mission ministry budget.

1. Recommended by a pastor or elder for ministry
2. Willing to complete cultural and mission training
3. Willing to promote the partnership & advocate for prayer support

4. Willing to do any necessary fundraising (i.e. personal support raising, volunteering, etc.)