

**Missions  
Policy and Procedure Guidelines**

**Revised**

**June 2014**

**Missions Committee  
Policy and Procedure Guidelines**

**General Introduction**

*“What God will do is always more than what He has given us to do. He has given us a clear and simple thing to finish, to see that Christ is worshipped and followed among every people. This is the essential missionary task. This task we must do with utmost focus and passion until it is finished.”*

Perspectives on the World Mission Movement  
Finishing the Task  
Ralph D. Winter and Bruce A. Koch (539)

**I. Missions Defined:**

By nature of its calling and commission (Matthew 28, Acts 1:8) the Church is missional. We exist for the purpose of making disciples of Jesus from of all peoples, tribes, and tongues. GSCC therefore defines “missions” as: God’s global purpose to reconcile all peoples to Himself through Jesus Christ.

**II. Purpose Statement of the Missions Committee:**

We exist to encourage, support, promote, and help prepare, through the actions of Gentle Shepherd Community Church, those who are called to missions. The committee has a responsibility to evaluate and facilitate ways in which our congregation can encourage, support, promote, pray for and equip our Missions partners throughout the world.

**III. Missions Committee Duties:**

The Missions Committee of Gentle Shepherd Community Church shall supervise the Mission’s ministry of the church. The Missions Committee shall:

- Foster missionary awareness, concern and involvement in the church
- Mobilize prayer for mission partners
- Disperse missions offerings as per the church envelope to mission partners
- Manage and disperse the 20% reserve fund as it is needed (See section V.)
- Plan an annual missions sermon series in conjunction with the lead pastor
- Follow the Mission Guidelines of GSCC
- Maintain contact with missionaries and other Christian workers supported by the church
- Discipleship (ongoing development of Christian character) and training of Short Term Missions Teams

## **Guidelines for Missions**

The following guidelines are to assist the missions committee in their decision-making processes.

### **I. Selection of Mission Partners**

<sup>20</sup> *It has always been my ambition to preach the gospel where Christ was not known, so that I would not be building on someone else's foundation.* <sup>21</sup> *Rather, as it is written:*

*“Those who were not told about him will see,  
and those who have not heard will understand.”*

*Romans 15:20–21 (NIV84)*

Any reaching out beyond our own congregation with the good news of Jesus Christ is valid and necessary missional work; however at this point in the history of the Christian Church, Gentle Shepherd Community Church shall select **Mission Partners** who endeavour to bring the gospel of Jesus Christ to unreached people groups who are peoples with no access to an indigenous, viable Christian church.

The Missions Committee will recommend specific Mission Partners to the Council of Elders. If endorsed by the Council of Elders, the names of the Mission Partners would then be taken to the membership for information.

**Priority** will be given to mission partners who:

- a) Expect to work with unreached peoples who have no access to an indigenous, viable Christian church
- b) Are intentional in developing indigenous church/missional strategies

### **II. Selection of Missionary (Long Term) for Support**

At some time, an individual from GSCC might serve as a long term missionary. Long term is defined as more than one year. Such individuals may be supported by GSCC if they meet the following criterion:

- a) Has a personal faith that Jesus Christ is Lord
- b) Agrees with GSCC statement of beliefs
- c) Evidence of maturity and spiritual growth
- d) Has been active in the ministries and the church body of GSCC for a minimum of one year
- e) Is under the supervision of a mission agency or sending agency/church

### **Application and Approval Procedure for Long Term Missionaries Requesting Support**

The procedure by which Gentle Shepherd Community Church approves long term missionaries for support is:

- a) A letter of application for support must be submitted to the Missions Committee
- b) The missionary candidate shall be interviewed by the Missions Committee
- c) The Missions Committee report to the Council of Elders, listing the candidates' names (s), which have been recommended for support.
- d) The Council of Elders will submit approved candidate(s) to the congregation at the next membership meeting (congregational meeting for members and adherents of GSCC held).
- e) The Missions Committee will maintain copies of the letters of application and recommendations.
- f) Final approval of support for new long term missionaries is contingent upon adequate membership financial support.

### **III. Selection/ Sending of Missionary (Short Term) for Support**

Short term is defined as not more than one year. The criteria for short term missionaries will be:

- a) Has a personal faith that Jesus Christ is Lord
- b) Agrees with GSCC statement of beliefs
- c) Evidence of maturity and spiritual growth

In addition, the candidate must have written parental/guardian consent, if under the age of 18 at the time of application.

### **Application and Approval Procedure for Short Term Missionaries Requesting Support**

The procedure by which Gentle Shepherd Community Church approves short term missionaries for support is:

- a) A letter of application for support must be submitted to the Missions Committee
- b) The missionary candidate shall be interviewed by the Missions Committee
- c) The Missions Committee report to the Council of Elders, listing the candidates' names (s), which have been recommended for support (prayerful and/or financial).
- d) Upon approval by the Council of Elders this information will be given to the congregation as soon as possible (during a church service or at a membership meeting).
- e) The Missions Committee will maintain copies of the letters of application and recommendations.
- f) Financial support for short term missionaries is contingent upon adequate membership financial support (i.e. funds being directed through a special offering or a special event hosted by the candidate).

#### **IV. Reporting from our Mission Partners and Missionaries**

Our Mission Partners are asked to communicate with the Missions Committee as frequently as possible. Our Mission Partners work in very challenging geographical areas and may be limited in their electronic report submissions. As is possible, our Mission Partners are requested to submit updates on their ministry and also prayer requests.

Upon returning from the field, long term missionaries and also short term missionaries supported by GSCC shall have a debriefing with the Missions Committee. In addition, the congregation will be debriefed about their ministry experiences.

#### **V. Financial Guidelines**

Missions is supported through the weekly offerings as designated on the church envelope. Eighty percent of these funds are dispersed quarterly to our Mission Partners and twenty percent is held in reserve.

Missions reserve funds will support expenses incurred for:

- teaching or training workshops
- honorarium for mission speakers
- administrative costs (i.e. cards, letters for missionaries)
- other forms of correspondence/communication/advertising as they relate to the purposes of the Missions Committee

#### **Preparation and Approval of a Missions Financial Goal:**

The Missions Committee shall determine an annual financial goal for missions and this will be presented to the Council of Elders for endorsement. This financial goal will be presented to the congregation for discussion and approval at the annual congregational meeting.

#### **Special Projects and Expenses of Missionaries:**

The Missions Committee may consider special projects by:

- a) Alerting the congregation about the need
- b) Accepting a special congregational offering
- c) Encouraging a special group within the church (i.e. Youth group, Sunday School, Women's Fellowship) to undertake these expenses as a special one- time project

#### **VI. Review Process:**

The Missions Committee will review their current practises as noted below:

- a) Annually debrief
- b) Record the previous year's activities and submit an annual report
- c) Every two years review the mission partners to be supported
- d) At least every three years review the policy and procedure guidelines (this document)

June 5<sup>th</sup> 2014