

D.1 Missions Policy

Purpose of Missions

The purpose of Missions is to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ to all nations in order to bring people into fellowship by faith with God the Father, Jesus the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Core Convictions That Drive Our Commitment to Missions

Beautiful Feet—the work of global evangelization— is a core value of Christ Community Church, rooted in Romans 10:15: “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!” The following Core Convictions drive Christ Community Church’s commitment and provide direction for how the church conducts missions activities.

Beautiful Feet display God’s character.

- Our God is a missionary God. He sent His Son on a mission to redeem people from every tribe, tongue and nation for the worship of His glory. Psalm 67:3-4; Isaiah 12:4; John 3:16; Revelation 7:9
- God enjoys perfect fellowship in the Trinity. He does not need our praise but has a deep desire to display His glory and bring His redeemed people into fellowship with Him. Isaiah 66:18; John 17:2-23; Revelation 5:9
- God’s character and desire to display His glory is the storyline of Scripture from Genesis through Revelation.

Beautiful Feet proclaim Jesus in word and deed.

- The local church is God’s primary means for proclaiming Jesus in word and deed. Matthew 28:19-20; 2 Corinthians 8:23-24; Philippians 1:7; 1 Peter 2:9-10
- We send Paul-type and Timothy-type missionaries to all parts of the world.
 - Paul-types go to plant churches in unreached areas of the world.
 - Timothy-types go to existing churches to teach, shepherd, and continue proclaiming the gospel.
- We support missions that proclaim the gospel while showing mercy in the Name of Christ. Micah 6:8; James 2:14-17; Matthew 25:40

Beautiful Feet call for sacrifice.

- We are called to a simple lifestyle—giving up luxuries—for the sake of going and sending. Philippians 3:8
- Our resources are given to us to be used for the advancement of the kingdom of God—not our comfort. Matthew 6:33; 2 Corinthians 8:3-5
- Suffering, sacrifice, and even death is gain in pursuit of proclaiming the gospel. Mark 8:34-35; 2 Corinthians 4:17
- Laboring in prayer is part of our lifestyle and part of God’s plan to advance the mission. Matthew 9:38; John 14:12-14; Romans 15:30; 2 Thessalonians 3:1

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Beautiful Feet will succeed.

- Not everyone is called to go, but everyone is called to be a part of the mission. Romans 12:4,5; Philippians 4:3; 3 John 7, 8
- God is sovereign and can do all things. No purpose of His can be thwarted. Job 42:2, Isaiah 55:11
- In God's timing, the work of missions will be done and people from every tribe, tongue and nation will enjoy his glory. Psalm 46:10; . Isaiah 66:1; Revelation 5:9; Revelation 7:9

Purposes of the Missions Policy

- To give the Missions team a clear sense of direction.
- To avoid making important decisions on an emotional or haphazard basis.
- To help the church be good stewards of each mission dollar.
- To inform new Missions team members of the goals, strategies, and responsibilities of the Missions team.

Review and Revision of Our Missions Policy

The Missions team will review the policy with new members at the first meeting following installation. Recommendations for changes will be proposed to the Council of Elders.

Doctrinal Requirements

All supported missionaries, ministries, or agencies must have a doctrinal statement that is true to the Word of God, in agreement with Christ Community Church's Statement of Faith, and the Mission Policy Core Convictions.

Expectations for Supported Missionaries

Communication

All missionaries will communicate with Christ Community Church through the Missions team.

Correspondence

All missionaries are asked to correspond with the Missions team at least three times each year to keep the team apprised of their activities and prayer needs.

Personal Witness

The Missions team expects all missionaries to work in the power of the Spirit of God, to be men and women of conviction, to show evidence of commitment and dedication to following God's will and meet the standards of I Timothy 3 and Titus 1.

Annual Survey

Each supported missionary is required to complete an annual survey that details their work, goals, prayer and financial support needs. The annual survey will be prepared and sent by the Missions team deacon.

When a non-profit organization is supported, the organization will be asked to submit the most recent year's Form 990.

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Short Term Mission Trips/Service

Short-term is defined as those serving on the field for six months or less.

Trips Sponsored by Christ Community Church

The Missions Team will be responsible for overseeing the planning for short term trips sponsored by Christ Community Church. Responsibilities will include:

- Communicating plans to the Council of Elders and the congregation.
- Coordinating the planning efforts with the host organization/missionaries.
- Preparing the trip budget and overseeing fund-raising efforts.
- Preparing and reviewing the applications of those who wish to be part of the team.
- Training and preparing the team.
- Debriefing of the team upon return.

Individuals Taking Short-Term Trips

The Missions Team will be responsible for meeting with applicants interested in short-term service. The applicant must:

- Display a sincere interest in missions.
- Provide evidence of parental or guardian support if a minor.
- Show desire and ability to lead others to Christ.
- Show evidence of faithfulness in ministry, cooperative spirit, submission to authority, and fruit of the Spirit.
- Complete a Christ Community Church short-term mission trip application for review by the Mission team.

Financial Policies

Mission Team Budget

The Missions team budget is based upon a minimum of 12% of General Fund giving of the previous year. The amount allocated to each account is based upon missionary support and plans for the upcoming year.

The Missions Team will disburse 12% of total general fund giving each year. The final distribution will be completed by the end of each fiscal year.

Financial Accountability

There must be evidence of financial accountability from the agencies and organizations the Missions team partners with. Agencies and organizations who meet the standards of the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability (ECFA) or other accountability groups are preferred. All organizations must be a recognized 501(c)3 non-profit organization by the Internal Revenue Service.

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Strategy for Distribution of Funds

The Core Convictions will shape the strategy for distributions. The team will seek to balance financial support between Paul-type and Timothy-type missionaries.

Relationship Between Church and Missions Organizations

When concerns arise, the team will request status and/or financial reports from the sending agency of the missionaries supported.

Procedure for Selecting New Candidates to Support

The Missions team will request a personal application from candidates who request support. The application will include background information, personal goals and testimony. All candidates must meet all convictions, guidelines, and requirements stated within the Missions Policy.

Requirements for Considering Support

All candidates must:

- Show evidence of past commitment and dedication to following God's will;
- Adhere to Christ Community Church's Statement of Faith and agree with the Core Convictions;
- Be accepted by a sending agency approved by the church;
- Show evidence of pre-field training and preparation (may include training in language, theology, Bible Study, team dynamics, cross-cultural experiences, and family preparations).

Missionary Support

Support will begin at the discretion of the Missions Team.

Support will terminate when:

- Budget changes require changes in missionary support;
- The missionary resigns or retires;
- The agency terminates the missionary;
- The missionary fails to abide by the rules and requests of our church;
- The missionary's doctrinal position differs significantly from that of the church;
- The missionary consistently demonstrates inadequate accountability;
- The missionary's duties and functions have changed significantly from the original application.

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Funding for Short-Term and Project Missions

Requests for support from individuals will be reviewed on an individual basis at the discretion of the Missions team.

When Christ Community Church plans a short-term mission trip for the congregation, expenses for the trip may be covered by the Missions budget, fundraising event, or solicitation of funds from the congregation as determined by the Missions team in consultation with the Council of Elders.

Handling of Designated Giving

Designated giving by individuals through the church to specific missionaries or missions is not allowed. Instead individuals are encouraged to send support directly to the missionary or the missionary's organization. See Designated Giving Policy. (Section C.5).

Adopted by the team on 09/17/1996. Amended by the team on 12/2007; 12/2011; 05/2012; 12/2013

Missionary Preparation Process

The decision to become a long-term cross-cultural missionary is not a quick, spontaneous decision. Prayer, counsel, and preparation is needed before anyone leaves as a career-missionary.

The purpose of this preparation process is to bring about one of two successful outcomes:

1. The missionary candidate and missions leadership will realize that the candidate is not called, at this time, to go and work as a career missionary. The candidate will be equipped to serve at home as an informed world Christian and sender.
2. The missionary candidate and missions leadership will confirm that the candidate is called to go and work as a career missionary. They will have taken necessary preparatory steps and will have forged a strong relationship with Christ Community Church to help sustain them while on the field.

Since the preparation process can be relatively long, there is time for the Missions Team to evaluate, along with the candidate, how the preparation is going and if/when the candidate is, indeed, prepared to leave.

When considering a missionary candidate for long-term support, the following items will be considered by Christ Community Church's Missions team. On a case-by-case basis, specific recommendations may be given to the candidate from either the Missions Team or the candidate's pastor. The Missions Team is willing and eager to help the candidate with these steps as well as help with raising financial and prayer support.

If the candidate is not part of the Christ Community church family, these items along with references from the candidate's pastor, will be considered before any decision for support is made.

Candidate's Convictions, Beliefs and Character

1. Mission, work, and purpose are aligned with Christ Community Church's Core Convictions and Mission Policy.
2. Personal beliefs are in agreement with Christ Community Church's Statement of Faith.
3. Meets the qualifications for leaders as defined in 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1.

Candidate's Personal and Spiritual Growth

1. Demonstrated patterns of personal spiritual growth in prayer and study of God's Word.
2. Invested in personal biblical education. Demonstrates a good grasp of Scripture; settled in doctrine.
3. Invested in missions education. Demonstrates an understanding of the Biblical mandate of missions.

Candidate's Local Church Involvement

1. Has been active in his/her local church.
 - a. uses gifts in the local church that will be used on the mission field
 - b. participates in evangelism
 - c. reaches out and fellowships with others outside of own social group
 - d. participates in building up the local Body as needed
2. Has communicated with Christ Community's Mission team (or local church mission team) his/her desire to enter the mission field and worked with the team as part of preparation.

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Other Preparation Steps

1. Has completed a Christ Community Church missionary application.
2. Has been building a base of supporters and developing a relationship with Christ Community Church's Mission team for prayer and encouragement.
3. Has prepared financially. Candidate will present a proposed budget showing how total support will be used. Will obtain financial counseling when advised to do so.
4. Has taken steps to understand the culture to which they are going and considered cultural differences that may help/hinder the gospel.
5. Has partnered with a sending organization that has been approved by Christ Community Church's Mission team.
6. Has counseled with his/her pastors. Pastor must agree with and support the decision to go. Pastoral counseling/discussion includes:
 - a. Sharing weaknesses or past sins that have not been resolved
 - b. Obtaining counseling as suggested by pastor
 - c. Discussing doctrine proving that his/her understanding of doctrine is sound and unwavering
 - d. Demonstrated ability to articulate the overarching plan/themes of Scripture