



Missions Funding Policy

Living Grace Community Church

Adopted: August 28, 2015; Amended: September 2, 2016

Living Grace Community Church ("LG") adopted a Missions Policy in August 2010. This Missions Funding Policy ("MFP") shall be attached to and in some respects clarify or even amend the Missions Policy. The goals of this MFP are as follows:

1. Assure adequate funding for LG full time missionaries and short-term mission teams.
2. Encourage regular giving to missions by the congregation.
3. Encourage reaching unreached and unchurched people groups.
4. Encourage a broader base of mission support for our missionaries.
5. Provide clarity for LG missionaries and mission teams in the planning process.

The Following Definitions will be Used in this MFP:

1. **FULL-TIME MISSIONARY ("FTM"):** An individual, or married couple (both spouses must complete all FTM requirements, exceptions by elder approval only), who:
 - a. Are members in good standing of LG,
 - b. Have completed the LG Mission Intern Training Program,
 - c. Will serve in accord with the LG Missions Policy,
 - d. Have been affirmed by the elders for full time service,
 - e. Have been approved by and accepted by a MSA ("Mission Sending Agency") as a full time missionary,
 - f. Generally, meet the requirements for spiritual leadership outlined in I Timothy 3,
 - g. Have completed a missions training program at a LG approved mission training school (e.g. New Tribes or Radius International) and have been affirmed by the training school as ready for full time mission service,
 - h. Have completed the Perspectives Class at a "Certificate Level,"
 - i. Have a record of cross-cultural missions involvement while at LG,
 - j. Are able to articulate reasons for pursuing a career in missions that are consistent with a biblical view of service,
 - We are seeking those who are looking at world missions in obedience to Christ's commands to preach the Gospel to all nations. Those who see themselves as totally at His command, willing to endure hardship and those who have set aside their own dreams and are committed to His agenda alone.
 - We desire candidates to be individuals who do not shy away from hard work or serious times of preparation.
 - We are looking for emotionally stable individuals, not those subject to personality highs and lows. We seek those who have seriously thought through what they are doing.
 - k. Are fully committed to language learning, fluency and cultural acquisition,
 - l. Accept input well and work well with others, and
 - m. Handle finances responsibly and biblically.



Definitions Continued (2)

2. **MISSION TRAINEES:** Individuals, or married couples, who qualify as a FTM's per #1 above, with the exception of items 1 (e) and 1 (g).
3. **MISSION SENDING AGENCY ("MSA"):** An elder approved mission sending agency capable of appropriate care and oversight of FTM's and qualifying as a 501 (C)3 tax exempt organization. The elders will not approve any MSA who does not emphasize language learning, fluency and cultural acquisition.
4. **TRAINING SUPPORT:** These costs would include training school tuition and room and board and other miscellaneous expenses while in training.
5. **ONE-TIME SUPPORT:** These costs would include start up, mission furloughs, emergency, and other specific travel costs.
6. **ONGOING SUPPORT:** The MSA approved budget for ongoing living expenses for FTM's.
7. **SHORT TERM MISSION TRIP:** A foreign or domestic mission trip of 30 days or less by regular attendees of LG. Excludes church sponsored youth events.
8. **MISSION FURLOUGH:** A visit home of 60 days or less no more frequently than every two years or as approved by MSA.

The elders may change, add to or subtract from these definitions at any time and as they deem wise and consistent with Scripture, the Missions Policy, and this MFP.

Funding Policies for Full-Time Missionaries and Short-Term Mission Teams:

Full Time Missionaries:

1. LG will fund up to **100%** of Training Support for Mission Trainees as funds allow. Payable only after budget approval by elders.
2. LG will fund up to **100%** of One-Time Support for FTM's as funds allow. Payable only after budget approval by elders.
3. LG will fund up to **15%** of Ongoing Support for FTM's as funds allow. LG shall fund this portion of Ongoing Support when the following conditions have been met: 1) FTM has secured at least 50% of Ongoing Support from other sources, and 2) An MOU has been fully executed between the FTM and LG.
4. LG will fund up to **15%** additional Ongoing Support for FTM's who go to "unreached" and/or "unchurched" people groups. Whether a people group is "unreached" or "unchurched" will be the sole decision of the elders. LG shall fund this portion of Ongoing Support when the following conditions have been met: 1) FTM has secured at least 50% of Ongoing Support from other sources, and 2) An MOU has been fully executed between the FTM and LG.
5. No support will be provided until a "Memo of Understanding" ("MOU") has been signed by the FTM and the elders. At a minimum the MOU will provide for clarity on actual support levels, a funding term of 3-5 years, a provision that support levels will not be reduced except on 12 month's notice (except in the case of a funding emergency at LG), and confirmation of the FTM's MSA.
6. FTM's shall be affiliated with and supported by a MSA to provide for accountability and protection.



Funding Policies Continued (2)

7. Financial support shall be channeled through MSA or training school or other approved 501(C)3 organizations. FTM's shall not be employees of LG (exceptions to this rule at the sole discretion of the elders). Minor funding amounts may be sent directly to FTM's for which LG will send out annual tax reporting information to FTM.
8. FTM fund raising inside the LG family shall only be conducted by a plan approved by elders.

Short Term Mission Teams:

1. LG will fund 100% of the following costs for short term mission trip participants:
 - Travel (airfare, food and lodging associated with travel days)
 - In country transportation
 - Luggage fees
 - Visa fees
2. Participants will fund 100% of the following short-term mission trip costs:
 - In country food
 - In country lodging
3. Participants share of short-term mission costs will increase for multiple trips as follows (Trip leaders excepted):
 - Trip #1 – See #1 and #2 above.
 - Trip #2 – See #1 and #2 above.
 - Trip #3 – Participant to pay 25% of airfare in addition.
 - Trip #4 – Participant to pay 50% of airfare in addition.
 - Trip #5 and beyond – Participant to pay 75% of airfare in addition.
 - The elders will consider deviations from this policy on a case by case basis.
4. Other costs not mentioned will be categorized by the elders.
5. In the event that a short-term missionary desires to raise support within the LG family, said fund raising shall be conducted by a plan approved by the elders.
6. LG will provide cash as needed for all team costs with participants reimbursing LG, per #2 above, after final cost reconciliation.
7. Short term mission teams must receive budget approval prior to expending of funds, unless individual costs are approved by elders.
8. Careful accounting is expected for all short-term mission trips, including receipts, exchange rates and cost reconciliation.