

Missions Policy of the Evangelical Free Church of the Conejo Valley

I. Purpose

A. Definition of Missions: The Evangelical Free Church of the Conejo Valley (EFCCV) defines missions of our church as cross cultural ministry, whether domestic or foreign; including:

- i. Evangelizing
- ii. Discipling
- iii. Planting churches
- iv. Aiding in the growth and development of churches

B. Purpose Statement

The purpose statement of the Mission Committee is to lead EFCCV to obey the Great Commission of Christ by proclaiming the Gospel of Christ, making disciples, teaching them to obey Christ's commands and relating to the whole need of mankind, both spiritual and physical. We believe that Churches are God's specially designed instrument for world evangelization. Accordingly, our Missions efforts will focus on establishing, strengthening and multiplying churches.

C. Mission Policy

1. Purpose

- i. To help us achieve a clear sense of direction.
 - ii. To avoid making important decisions on an emotional or haphazard basis (e.g. charisma of missions speaker, "connections" of those seeking support, the mood or time a decision is made).
 - iii. To insure that each mission dollar is spent as God would have spent it.
 - iv. To bring new committee members up to date, allowing them to quickly familiarize themselves with the issues to be faced in the general direction of our mission policy.
 - v. To maintain consistency as committees change membership.
 - vi. To develop a loving accountability in our church missions program.
 - vii. To work in better harmony with the church-wide leadership.
2. **Exceptions**: This policy is a statement of principles, not a rigid set of rules. Occasionally, exceptions will need to be made. When that occurs, two-thirds of the Mission Committee needs to be in favor of the exception. The proposal also must be approved by the Elder Board.
3. **Revisions**: The Missions Policy shall be reviewed and revised as often as needed. All revisions must be approved by the Elder Board before implementation.

II. The Mission Committee

A. Size and Selection: The core Mission committee shall consist of five to ten members including the chairperson and shall be represented by at least one member from each of the subcommittees. Proposed new members shall be approved by the committee before they are asked to join the committee. Each committee member must have been an active participant at EFCCV for at least a year and be a member of the church.

B. Term of Office: Each member is requested to serve for at least one year.

C. Chairman: The Chairman shall be the Director of Mission as appointed by the Elder Board. This individual is responsible for the proper functioning of the committee.

D. Expectations of core committee members:

1. Attend the meetings;
2. Serve on subcommittees as assigned;
3. Take an active role in the decision-making process;
4. Continue to learn about world evangelism;
5. Devote much of their energy to furthering the missions program at EFCCV.

E. Responsibilities of the Mission team

1. **Pray**: Lead intercession from the congregation for world evangelism and for our missionaries.
2. **Educate**: Provide a comprehensive missions education program for our entire congregation. This will include information about the world, our missionaries and the Evangelical Free Church of America missions program.
3. **Recruit/Train: Recruit**, select and prepare members of our congregation to become missionaries – whether short-, mid-, or long-term.
4. **Care**: Support missionaries spiritually, financially and emotionally during their term of service and provide practical assistance to missionaries while they are on their field and home assignments.
5. **Budget**: Prepare a missions budget and oversee the allocation of the funds throughout the year.
6. **Recommend**: Recommend additions to or deletions from the support list, which includes career missionaries, projects and organizations. Final approval for any of these changes will be made by the Elder Board. Input from the congregation regarding missionaries, projects, or organizations to support is welcomed by the missions committee.
7. **Represent**: Serve as a liaison between the church, its missionaries and missions agencies.

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8. **Evaluate:** Review the missions program of the church and make changes as necessary. This includes evaluating the Mission Policy statement, as well as the continuation of support for a missionary.
9. **Plan:** Develop a plan to strategically deploy the Church's people and resources for maximum impact for the Kingdom of Heaven. Develop measurable goals and long-range plans for future direction.

III. STRATEGY

- A. **Goals:** From time to time, the Mission Committee will establish short and long range goals for their various responsibilities in dependence upon the Holy Spirit. Since these goals are subject to change, they have been added as "Exhibit A" at the end of this document.
- B. **Support Priorities:** Recognizing that there always will be more needs for support than we can fulfill, the following priorities are meant to assist us in our decision making.
 1. Priority will be given to members of EFCCV first, missionaries from our district/region serving with the EFCM second.
 2. Priority will be given to ministries aimed at establishing and propagating self-sustaining, indigenous churches. This could include ministries aimed at equipping national leaders (or addressing other critical church planting "bottlenecks"), as well as those directly involved in evangelism.
 3. Priority will be given to work outside of the USA.
 4. Priority will be given to relatively unreached regions and peoples.
 5. Priority will be given to individuals directly involved in the ministry rather than those in "home office" or support positions.
 6. Priority will be given to people over projects and organizations.
 7. Priority will be given to the proclamation of the Gospel rather than social issues or physical needs. We recognize that meeting social or physical needs may sometimes be necessary as a platform for proclaiming the Gospel.

IV. Financial Policies

- A. **Annual Budget:** The Mission Team shall prepare an annual budget prior to the beginning of the church's fiscal year which is to be submitted to the Elder Board and/or Financial Integrity Team for approval.
- B. **Minimum/Maximum:** Monthly support shall usually be at least 20% of a person's total need. Support for organizations will generally be below this guideline because of the larger size of their budgets. The maximum support shall generally be 50% of a person's total need, except in the case of our support for nationals, which may be up to 100% of their total support needs.
- C. **Monetary Support:** Support for a missionary shall be given on a monthly basis. In order to help with initial, one-time expenses, it is suggested that up to three months of a monthly commitment may be given to this need.
- D. **Missionary Evaluation**
 1. **Survey:** A missionary will be evaluated each year by way of a survey mailed to them by the Mission Committee.
 2. **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 Mission Team will immediately reevaluate its commitment to the person. EFCCV requests notice of any significant changes in the life of the missionary.
 3. **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.
 4. **Termination:** Termination of financial support for a missionary is the exception with the EFCCV. Reasons for termination would be if missionaries did not fulfill the responsibilities asked of them in this policy statement.
- E. **Priorities:** The expenditure of funds will be in the light of the priorities mentioned earlier.
- F. **Budget Items:** The outreach budget will not only include missionary and local ministry support, but also other items as they are needed to fulfill the goals of the committee. Examples might include: missions education expenditures, money for church members to travel to mission fields, books, projects, conferences, etc.

V. SELECTION POLICIES

- A. **Qualifications**
 1. All applicant must be in agreement with the EFCCV's Statement of Faith.
 2. They must be going out with a mission agency approved by the committee. Tentmakers and nationals may be an exception in special situations.
 3. They need to be willing to spend quality and quantity time at the EFCCV in order to work on a meaningful relationship with us.
 4. They must have a proven track record in ministry.
 5. They must demonstrate the qualities found in 1 Timothy 3:1-10.
 6. Their home church must be in agreement with their decision.
- B. **Procedures**
 1. Fill out an application for support.
 2. Spend time in the EFCCV developing relationships.
 3. Meet with the missions chairperson or a subcommittee of the Mission Committee.

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4. Meet with the full Mission Committee. The committee will then make a request for Pastoral staff and Elder Board concurrence if there is the consensus of the committee.
5. Be available to meet with the Board.
- C. Responsibility of the EFCCV to its Missionaries
 1. Remember the missionary in prayer.
 2. Communicate at least quarterly, preferably every two months.
 3. Promote the work of the missionary within the church.
 4. Encourage the missionary.
 5. Help in the evaluation of the missionary.
 6. Send the financial support which has been promised on time.
 7. Assist in securing housing and furniture while they are on home assignment.
 8. Work toward a partner relationship with the missionary and his or her agency.
- D. Responsibility of the Missionary to the EFCCV
 1. Communicate at least once a quarter, preferably every two months.
 2. Tell the committee of any significant changes in ministry and/or location in advance.
 3. Spend quantity and quality time with the church during home assignments. This is requested so we can deepen our relationship with missionaries by exposing them to our people in a variety of ways, i.e. in home Bible studies, Sunday School classes, in front of the church, etc.
 4. Within the church, solicit funds only from those individuals with whom an established relationship exists. Our desire is that a missionary not contact individuals from within our church whom he/she barely knows and thus foster shallow commitments.
 5. Provide the committee with yearly goals and an appraisal of the last year's activities.
 6. Return completed survey sent by the committee each year.
 7. Work toward a partner relationship with the EFCCV.

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Exhibit A
Goals and Projects

Short Range:

- { Begin a program of education throughout the church on what Mission is all about. This is to be accomplished in part by the "Missions Minute" and by possibly an Adult Equipping Class.
- { Send out short term missionaries this summer.
- { Follow through on prayer for missionaries.
- { Evangelism: Continue and expand evangelistic outreaches over summer including summer concerts, evangelistic home Bible studies & Living Proof small groups.
- { Send a delegation of younger and older adults to the Urbana conference this winter

Long Range:

- I. Be used by God to have a deep, lasting impact by making reproducing disciples (and planting reproducing churches) in several previously unreached (relatively speaking) people groups or regions.
- II. Develop and implement a balanced Acts 1:8 "missions" approach; a strategy for "Jerusalem" (here, our culture), "Judea" (close by, our culture) "Samaria" (close by, cross-cultural) and the "ends of the earth."
- III. Become a holistic missions church. Everybody sees the Great Commission as their personal "Mission Statement." The church has the structure to equip and enable the people to implement.
 - a. Everybody motivated and equipped to do outreach in their "Jerusalem."
 - b. "Breed" missionaries.
 - i. Recruit.
 - ii. Prepare.
 - iii. Send. (We don't just react to their requests for support. We help select the place & people; formulate the strategy).
 - iv. Support. \$, people, resources, pastoral care.
 - c. "Whole church" strategy for selected regions/peoples – bring to bear full time missionaries, short termers, prayers, \$\$, expertise, political influence all in a strategic and focused way.
- IV. Become a multiplying (church-planting) church.
 - a. "Breed" new church leaders; church planters.
 - b. Plant new churches.

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