

# Chinese Faith Baptist Church Mission Policy

## **MISSION POLICY OF CHINESE FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH**

### I. INTRODUCTION

#### A. Purpose of a Mission Policy

1. To describe function and purpose of Mission Committee.
2. To avoid making decisions based on emotions or haphazard thinking.
3. To ensure that each mission dollar is spent as God would have it spent.
4. To bring new committee members up to speed quickly, allowing them to familiarize themselves with issues and directions of the mission program of the Church.
5. To maintain consistency of policy and program even though membership of the committee changes.
6. To develop a loving accountability between committee, congregation, missionaries and mission agencies.

#### B. Flexibility

In any issue contrary to the policy herein, following majority action of the committee, counsel will be sought from the Board of Deacons. If the Board of Deacons approves the exception to the mission policy, the matter will be taken to the congregation for majority approval.

#### C. Revision

This Mission Policy Manual shall be subject to review, and revision if necessary, at least every three years by the Mission Committee. Recommended revisions must be submitted to the Board of Deacons for endorsement and then to the congregation for majority approval.

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## II. PURPOSE AND DEFINITION OF MISSION

### A. Purpose

To fulfill the Great Commission of Jesus Christ given to His disciples as the Church's on-going directive until He returns:

*"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing in the name of the Father and of the Son and the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the end of the age." (NIV) Matthew 28:19-20*

To share God's heart for the world:

*"The Lord, the Lord, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin." (NIV) Exodus 34:6-7*

*"For God so loved the world and he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." (NIV) John 3:16*

To obey God's desire that every person shall be saved through faith in Jesus.

*"He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance." (NIV) 2 Peter 3:9*

To follow Jesus' example and share His love for those who do not know Him:

*"When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd." (NIV) Matthew 9:36*

To tell about Jesus, His gift of salvation and His great love:

*"'Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.' How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, 'How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!'" (NIV) Romans 10:13-15*

### B. Definition:

Mission is any ministry of this Church that extends beyond the church community, for the ultimate purpose of evangelizing, discipling, planting and growing Churches in a different socio-cultural setting, and under the sending authority of the Lord Jesus Christ and His Church.

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### III. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE MISSION COMMITTEE

- A. Prayer: The committee shall be responsible to encourage prayer for mission among the congregation. This can be done by: presenting news and needs to the pastors for pulpit announcement, bulletin notations, regular distribution of missionary prayer letters and mission information, and hosting prayer meetings.
- B. Education: The committee shall be responsible to identify the different departments of the church in which mission education is needed, and in conjunction with the Sunday School Committee, Fellowship & Library Committee and Board of Deacons, establish programs and lines of communication that will communicate mission information to every age level within the congregation. The committee shall encourage congregation to participate in mission conferences, host missionaries in their homes, and ensure the effective distribution of printed materials from Mission Agencies supported by our Church or from Mission Agencies whose doctrine is consistent with that of our Church.
- C. Short Term Mission: The committee shall locate mission field, organize, and promote Short Term Mission among congregation, recruit church members as Short Term Mission team members and appoint or affirm a Team Leader. The committee should explore and discuss potential Short Term Mission trips (if any) early on within a year, to provide sufficient preparation time. The committee shall provide training and support to the participants and continue to follow up with them after their return to encourage and help them to seek their role in mission.
  - 1. Short Term Mission Team Leader  
Team Leader is appointed or affirmed by the Mission Committee for any Short Term mission team that has more than one member. The Team Leader is responsible for all administrative aspect of the Short-Term Mission team. Together with the Mission Committee, the Team Leader organizes the trip, including planning, training, fund raising, delegating and assigning responsibilities to the team members. The Team Leader is also responsible for overseeing the welfare of the team both spiritually and physically. He/She is responsible for counseling, shepherding and discipling the team in their growth as world Christians. These responsibilities begin the first day the Team Leader is appointed and will end after the return from the trip and appropriate follow up has been done for each team member.
- D. Long Term Mission: The committee shall encourage & support members of the congregation to consider career missionary service. The committee will collect and provide appropriate literature concerning available opportunities. The committee will provide or recommend training to those who are considering career mission. The committee will work with Mission Agencies to provide support for our own missionaries in the mission fields.
- E. Missionary and Mission Agency Selection and Support: The committee will make certain of the doctrinal purity, leadership qualification, and sound financial business practices under which missionaries are appointed. The agency should be a member of the Evangelical Council of Financial Accountability or other like council. The Committee shall recommend both Mission Agencies and individual missionaries as well as specific amounts of support to the congregation after consultation with and approval of the Board of Deacons and the Property and Finance Committee.

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- F. **Missionary Care:** The committee shall be responsible to encourage the congregation to support the financial, spiritual, and emotional needs of our missionaries. The committee shall communicate with our missionaries regularly by means of letters, emails, telephone, visits, etc. The committee shall help find accommodations for visiting missionaries when the need arises.
- G. **Missionary Evaluation:** The committee shall review individual missionaries annually for his/her effectiveness in ministry and to make sure the missionary is continuing to uphold the selection criteria. The missionary shall be evaluated on their financial accountability, focus of ministry, any change of vision, any change of ministry, effectiveness of witness and doctrinal purity. Any issues that would affect his/her ministry should be follow-up. Special meetings may need to be set up to decide an appropriate course of action.
- H. **Mission Financing**
  - 1. The Mission Committee shall be responsible for carefully preparing an annual mission budget. The mission budget includes designating amounts of support for selected missionaries, Mission Agencies and Training Institutions. The budget will also include yearly operating cost of the Committee. This proposed budget shall be presented to the Property and Finance Committee and to the Board of Deacons, and be evaluated in conjunction with the overall annual budget of the church, and be submitted to the congregation for final approval.
  - 2. As steward of the Mission Fund and the Short Term Mission Fund, the Mission Committee shall be responsible for regular review of the amount of the two funds, making sure they will be used appropriately for purpose of the Great Commission. For any other disbursement of the funds that are not included in this Mission Policy, the Mission Committee shall be responsible to make recommendation to the Property and Finance Committee and the Board of Deacons for approval.
  - 3. For special needs or opportunities arising on a one time basis, the committee shall make recommendation of disbursements to the Property and Finance Committee and the Board of Deacons for approval.

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## IV. STRATEGY OF SUPPORT

### A. Stewardship:

As stewards of the mission funds, the committee shall regularly review its responsibilities for distributing the support monies between foreign and domestic mission, training institutions and service organizations.

### B. Priorities:

1. Missionaries, Mission Agencies and Training Institutions adopted before June 2004: Support level will be adjusted annually according to inflation rate (4 – 5%). When there is a fund shortage, missionaries will receive top priority over institutions.
2. Missionaries, Mission Agencies and Training Institutions adopted after June 2004: A new support guideline was adopted in June 2004. The guideline applies to all new adopted missionaries, mission agencies and training institutions.

#### Individual Missionaries

The level of financial support committed to missionaries is to be determined based on their annual support level recommended by their sending agencies and the number of Long-Term Mission Support criteria met by the missionaries. Criteria for Long-Term Mission Support are as follow:

- a. Affiliation with CB mission agencies or those who serve with an evangelical non-CB mission agency whose statement of faith is in agreement with CB.
- b. Membership at CFBC for at least one year.
- c. Direct impact on an unreached people group.
- d. Those reaching out to Chinese population.
- e. Those who have the experience and/or training to perform the ministry.

Out of the 5 criteria, for each met criterion, the missionary will be given 5% of his/her annual support level. The support level for the individual missionaries should be adjusted annually according to this guideline. When there is a fund shortage, missionaries will receive top priority over institutions.

#### Mission Agencies

When adopting a new mission agency, the agency will need to satisfy the following 2 criteria.

- a. The agency is either a CB Agencies, e.g. World Venture, CBA, CBNW, or a missionary agency whose doctrinal statements are compatible with that of CFBC and other CB organizations.
- b. The agency whose primary ministry is to Chinese population or an unreached people group; or Christian Humanitarian Aids organization whose doctrinal statements are compatible with that of CFBC and other CB organizations.

The Agency that met both criteria will be budgeted for \$600 for the first year. The amount of support will be adjusted annually according to inflation rate (4-5%) and is subjected to the amount of fund available.

#### Training Institutions

When adopting a new training institution, the institution's doctrinal statements and their teachings should be compatible with that of CFBC and other CB organizations. The Institution will receive \$600 for the first year. The amount of support will be adjusted annually according to inflation rate (4-5%) and is subjected to the amount of fund available.

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### C. Procedure for selecting New Candidates for Support

Steps are as follow:

1. Candidate submits a pre-selection questionnaire.
2. Candidate shall be interviewed by at least one member of the Mission Committee.  
The candidate should meet the following criteria:
  - a. Agree with the doctrinal statement of CFBC.
  - b. Agree with the terms, goals, and focus set forth by the Mission Policy.
  - c. Evidence the reality of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and consistent Christian lifestyle.
  - d. Indicate his/her call to mission.
  - e. Give an assurance that their spiritual gifts will match their ministry.
  - f. Go on at least one mission trip with CFBC or an approved partner agency or organization and be evaluated by the team leader.
3. Mission Committee will recommend the candidate to the Board of Deacons.
4. Candidate will present his/her vision to the congregation.
5. The congregation will vote on his/her support.
6. Once the candidate is selected. They are responsible to submit financial statement, annual report and monthly prayer letters.

### D. Beginning of Support

Beginning of Support: Missionary support will begin the first day of the month, following approval of the congregation. All support will be sent directly by the church treasurer to the mission agency.

### E. Termination of Support

The missionary support will be terminated upon retirement or resignation. Support can also be terminated if the missionary takes longer than two years for deputation, takes a leave of absence or goes on extended furlough. Support may also be terminated with change of ministry focus. Also in the case of moral or doctrinal deviation by the missionary, support can be terminated. In the event that the church decides to terminate a missionary's support for any other reason than the above, such as budgetary changes or redirection of the church's mission focus, the missionary will be given at least a six month advance notice. In the event that the church decides to terminate a missionary's support because of change of ministry focus, the missionary will be given at least a three month advance notice.

### E. Fund Shortage

Any support losses suffered by individual missionaries as a result of the church financial condition will receive top priority over institutions in the attempt to make up the shortage as soon as possible.

### F. Support Levels

A schedule of support levels will be maintained by the Mission Committee reflecting the percentage of support the missionaries are receiving compared to the Mission Agency's amount of desired support.

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### G. Individual Designations

The church treasurer will not handle contributions made by church members for specific missionaries, mission organizations or training institutions. When individual members of the church have a specific mission commitment, they should go directly to the agency involved.

## V. SHORT-TERM MISSION FUNDING

Short-Term Mission funding is normally outside the scope of the Mission budget. For Short-Term Mission trips organized by CFBC, expenses for the trips are to be funded as follow.

### A. Definition of a Short-Term Mission team

A Short-Term Mission team may consist of 1 or more team members. The duration of the trip may vary from 1 day to 2 years. The goal of Short-Term mission is to minister cross-culturally to Christians and/or non-Christians whether locally or overseas, to make a significant contribution to the completion of the Great Commission, and to motivate and educate CFBC in her role in world mission.

### B. Cost of the trip

The cost of the trip is to be determined by the Mission Committee. It would cover all expenses for the trip, including: food, lodging, transportations and ministry cost.

### C. Personal contribution

Each participant is responsible to pay for portion of the cost. The general guideline is: adults are responsible for half of the cost, and teenagers and college students are responsible for 1/3 of the cost. The total contribution should not be over \$1,200. Team Leader is exempt from the personal contribution. The cost will be covered by mission scholarship from the Short-Term Mission Fund. For the case of a one person team, the team member will not be considered as Team Leader. He/She is responsible to pay for his/her own contribution.

### D. Scholarship

Those who have financial difficulties and are not able to fulfill their financial responsibilities may apply for scholarship from the Mission Committee. Scholarship is given based on the need of the applicant, evidence of calling to the ministry and the amount of funding available.

### E. Raising Support

Each participant is expected to raise support to cover the rest of the funding. Raising support is an important part of missionary experience and a way to experience God's faithfulness. This can be done through sending support letters to friends and families and other fund raising activities. The total amount of money raised will be used to cover the needs for the entire team.

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### F. CFBC contribution

When there is a shortage of funding due to non-sufficient fund raised during fund raising or the expenditure of the trip is over the original budget, CFBC may cover the balance from the Short-Term Mission Fund.

### G. Surplus of funding

When there is a surplus in funding due to the budget being over the actual expenditure or when the support raised is over the original budget, these monies will be re-directed to the Short-Term Mission Fund.

### H. Shortage of funding

When the total fund raised together with the Short-Term Mission fund cannot cover the cost of the trip, the Mission Committee may make recommendation to the Board of Deacons to reallocate the Mission Fund for Short-Term Mission use. If the Mission Fund has also run out, then the trip may have to be postponed until enough funding is raised.

End of Policy