

## **BECC Missions - A guide to supporting missions.**

### **Why do we need a guide?**

- A guide is necessary to help define what we mean by missions.
- A guide is necessary to ensure the church remains faithful in its support of missions.
- A guide is necessary to ensure future leaders are guided by their decisions in supporting missions.
- A guide is necessary to ensure good stewardship of church funds.
- A guide is necessary to ensure the church is not unnecessarily burdened by unqualified mission organisations.

### **Missions Defined**

Christian missions are an organised effort to spread the gospel to non-believers, whether local or global, and to disciple new believers in the teachings of the Scriptures. (Matthew 28:19-20)

### **What requirements must missions meet in order to gain our support?**

- Mission organisations and individuals must be biblically sound, adhering to the fundamental doctrines of Scripture. This reassures the church that the mission aligns with our core doctrinal values. (Refer to both the church's doctrinal and purpose-mission-vision statements.)
- Mission organisations and individuals must be evangelical in nature, and reformed in their doctrine of salvation. This offers us some reassurance that they are both faithful and intentional regarding the gospel. Many mission groups fail to acknowledge the doctrine of salvation as taught in Scripture, to which the reformed tradition faithfully holds to. The consequence of failing to adhere to this condition can lead to either a lesser emphasis on evangelism, or a weaker and misleading gospel message.
- Mission organisations and individuals seeking support must demonstrate how they actively advance the gospel. This will ensure the church is supporting gospel centred and oriented missions. For example, a mission that is charitable in its work, like feeding the homeless and needy, but is not actively advancing or supporting the advancement of the gospel, would not qualify.

Since the church's membership is small, our financial commitment to missions at this stage is small. Therefore, we must consider with wisdom the number of missions we are able to support, to ensure we maximise our contribution.

### **Collection and distribution of funds for missions.**

- The church actively seeks regular support for missions, through donations from members, and proceeds from the mission table.
- The Officers have also approved that a percentage of the church's annual income (depending on the financial health of the church) shall be gifted to missions. The amount shall be decided by the Officers prior to each Annual General Meeting, and the figure will be presented to the AGM.
- The Treasurer, at the direction of the Officers, shall be responsible for forwarding funds to a nominated mission.

### **Distribution of funds.**

- The distribution of funds raised from the missions table shall be decided by the Officers.
- The distribution of funds collected as a “Love Offering” during a missionary visit shall be gifted to the visiting missionary, to support their work.
- If the “Love Offering” is insufficient, the Officers may choose to give a top up from church funds.
- The amount of funds allocated from the church’s annual income, shall be distributed evenly between each approved mission. However, the Officers may choose to grant a larger amount to a mission with a greater need.

### **The Church’s responsibility.**

- The church is responsible to advance the gospel, personally, and corporately. Support for missions is born out a personal and active desire to evangelise. It is not a substitute for personal evangelism. (1 Peter 3:15, Matthew 28:19-20)
- The church is responsible for the support of missions who faithfully advance the gospel. (Matthew 10:40-42, Philippians 1:3-7, 4:15-18.)
- The church is called to support the advancement of the gospel by giving financial support to missions. (Romans 12:13, 2 Corinthians 8:1-9)
- The church is called to pray for missions. (Luke 10:2, Ephesians 6:18-20)

### **The Officers responsibility.**

The Officers are responsible for,

- Encouraging the church to support missions.
- Deciding which missions to support.
- Deciding the number of missions to support.
- If a mission changes its position, compromising the church’s requirements and conditions, the Officers will need to liaise with the mission organisation or individual to establish whether the church continues with its ongoing support.
- Allocation and distribution of funds for missions. (Acts 6:1-6)

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*“If there be any one point in which the Christian church ought to keep its fervour at a white heat, it is concerning missions. If there be anything about which we cannot tolerate lukewarmness, it is in the matter of sending the gospel to a dying world.” C.H. Spurgeon*

*“And He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.”*

**Mark 16:15**