

# **Missionary Policy**

## **First Baptist Church – Newaygo, Michigan**

### **Introduction:**

Because the church is commanded by the Lord to evangelize the world and instruct those who believe, we engage in missionary work with and through those of like faith and practice to fulfill the great Commission. MA 28:19-20

Missionaries, mission boards, organizations, schools, or ministries will hereafter be referred to as “Missions”.

### **A. The Missionary Committee**

1. The Missionary Committee is appointed by the Pastor and Board of Deacons and consists of 5 or more of the following members:
  - a. The Pastor who is an ex officio member.
  - b. A deacon who is appointed annually to the missionary committee by the deacon board and is responsible to keep the deacon board informed. This member may serve as chairman.
  - c. The president of the JOY Missions Circle or their annually appointed representative.
  - d. Members of the church with a deep interest in Missions appointed by the deacon board.
2. Committee members shall serve for a term of 2 years and serve a maximum of 3 consecutive terms before taking a year off.
3. The Chairman, Vice-Chairman, and Secretary of the Missionary Committee are committee members selected annually by the committee for a term of one year.
4. The Missionary Committee shall meet monthly or as directed by the chairman.
5. In all regular or specially convened meetings of the Missionary Committee, a quorum shall consist of a simple majority of the total number of members.
6. All members of the Missionary Committee are voting members. In all votes taken at meetings, a simple majority of the total number of voting members present is required to approve of any action taken.
7. A Missionary Committee member who is related to a current Missionary or Missionary Candidate must absent him or herself from the meetings of discussion and voting on that Missionary or Missionary Candidate, unless otherwise agreed to by the committee.

### **B. Qualifications of a Missionary Committee Member**

1. Be an active member of our church.
2. Demonstrate spiritual maturity.

3. Have a vital interest in missions.
4. Be in agreement with the church missionary policy.

### **C. Responsibilities of the Missionary Committee and its Members**

1. Attend the Missionary Committee meetings and participate in carrying out the responsibilities of the Missionary Committee.
2. Pray regularly for supported missionaries, the mission agencies under which they serve, and for other ministries supported by our church.
3. Begin and promote programs within the church to increase the knowledge of, and to stimulate interest in, worldwide missionary activity. One way of doing this is to schedule a minimum of 4 speakers each year.
4. Encourage both youth and adults to participate in short-term or lifelong missionary service.
5. Evaluate the qualifications, effectiveness, and needs of missionaries, missionary candidates, Christian organizations, and the missionary boards under which they serve. Bring recommendations to the deacon board.
6. Maintain communication with church supported missionaries and keep the church informed of their work and of any special or emergency needs.
7. Meet with the missionaries when home on furlough and complete the Interview Form.
8. Update the church Missionary Letter Rack and Display Cupboard.
9. Manage the Future Outreach Funds giving consideration first to our supported missionary needs and then the needs of others such as short-term missionaries and projects.
10. Plan and coordinate the Annual Missionary Conference.
11. Prepare and submit the proposed Annual Budget to the deacon board.

### **D. Responsibilities of the Missionary Committee officers**

1. The Missionary Committee **Chairman** will be responsible to:
  - a. Maintain an updated master copy of the Missionary Committee Handbook.
  - b. Lead all Missionary Committee meetings.
  - c. Report to the Church Membership on the activities of the Missionary Committee as directed by the deacon board.
  - d. Work with the Missionary Committee Secretary to compile a written annual report.

2. The Missionary Committee **Vice-Chairman** will assume the responsibilities of the chairman in his absence.
3. The Missionary Committee **Secretary** will be responsible to:
  - a. Record, issue, and read the minutes of each Missionary Committee meeting.
  - b. Correspond with the “Missions” as directed by the committee.
  - c. Work with the Missionary Committee Chairman to compile and submit a written annual report.

#### **E. Qualifications of Missions**

1. To qualify for support, “Missions” must be in hearty agreement with our confession of faith both in doctrine and practice. A mission that is not Baptist in name may be considered as long as their doctrinal position and testimony are not at variance with ours, nor do their teachings violate our convictions.
2. Priority for consideration of missionary support will be given to candidates who are active members of FBCN and exhibit a high level of commitment, personal integrity, and capability of ministry.
3. Candidates who are children of supported missionaries will be given high consideration of support.
4. Candidates who are seeking to go to areas we do not have anyone or where hearing the gospel is relatively small will also have a high level in consideration of missionary support.
5. The missionary candidate shall meet with the Missionary Committee to give their testimony, call to service, and be interviewed by the committee prior to any recommendation for support.
6. For a missionary to receive support, they must sign our “Statement of Agreement” in testimony of their acceptance.
7. For a missionary to be commissioned by First Baptist Church, they must meet the qualifications and responsibilities of a commissioned missionary as outlined in the Missionary Commissioning Policy.
8. Supported missionaries must maintain consistent communication (at least 4 times annually) with our church and be available to report in person, if possible, to our church every 3 to 5 years.

#### **F. Support of Missions**

1. Active missionaries shall be considered for support at a minimum of \$100 per month. Our support goal for our own commissioned missionaries will be 10% to 25% of their need.
2. Missionaries who retire will be considered for continued support based on their need. Unless not needed, our recommended support would be 50% of our current support level to them.

3. To keep a balance in the total missionary budget of the church, the following percentages will be considered in each area:
  - 45% of budget for missions outside of the United States.
  - 40% of budget for missions in the United States.
  - 15% of budget for Agencies.
4. When members of our church are attending Fundamental Bible-believing Training Institutions, these Institutions shall be given first consideration for support.

### **G. Termination of Support**

1. Support may be terminated for causes where:
  - a. The “Mission” fails to meet Part (E), Qualifications of Missions, as outlined in this policy.
  - b. The missionary exhibits conduct that is Scripturally out of harmony with the Word of God.
  - c. The missionary changes the organization with which they serve or their field of service.
  - d. The missionary is dropped by their mission agency or their sending church.
  - e. The missionary fails to function effectively as a missionary.
2. Should the Missionary Committee recommend termination of support for any missionary, the missionary will be contacted in writing of any action being considered.
3. After communicating with the missionary in consideration of any response, should the committee still recommend termination of support, it will be presented to the deacon board for action.

### **H. Revision of Policy**

The Missions Policy is subject to addition or revision as needed by the Missionary Committee with approval of the Deacon Board. Should it be advisable, exceptions to this policy may be made with the approval of the Missionary Committee and Deacon Board and be recorded in the minutes as an exception.

# Statement of Agreement

I \_\_\_\_\_

a missionary serving under \_\_\_\_\_

have read and agree with the Articles of Faith of First Baptist Church of Newaygo, Michigan and am endeavoring to teach the whole council of God in my work on the mission field. The Mission agency I serve with also takes this position. I also understand and agree with the Missionary Policy.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Missionary Commissioning Policy of First Baptist Church of Newaygo

We believe the following Scriptural principles in Acts 11-13 are clear:

- 1) The local church has the Biblical authority to send out missionaries from their midst into the world to make disciples.
- 2) The local church has a Biblical responsibility to observe, examine, and prayerfully select those who would be sent out.
- 3) The missionary is an extension of First Baptist Church and should be character-qualified for full-time ministry and also have adequate training, skills, experience, and calling for field ministry. Therefore, these guidelines, as outlined in the Commissioning Policy, will govern the selection, evaluation, and sending/commissioning of missionaries from First Baptist Church, Newaygo (FBCN).

This Commissioning (authorization) Policy is part of the Missionary Policy and is intended to outline the church's responsibility to be involved in the selection, sending, and support process and can be updated as outlined in the Missionary Policy, paragraph *H. Revision of Policy*.

## **I. The Selection Process of Commissioned/Sent Missionaries**

1. Any member seeking to pursue full-time missions should notify the pastor and mission committee so that they may assist, evaluate, and guide the one sensing a call of God into missions. This should precede any formal application process with a mission agency or other group that facilitates work on a mission field.
2. The missions committee and pastor should examine the desires, goals, and qualifications of the candidate that may include, but not be limited to, a doctrinal examination, an in-depth interview, and a practical ministry evaluation.
3. If there is no further training, discipleship, or time needed to establish ministry effectiveness, FBCN will assist the candidate in their efforts to find an agency that fits with the doctrinal and practical ministry goals that are in step with our local church. This may include, but is not limited to, assistance in travel to candidate school, survey trips, and the application process.
4. Once a missionary has been accepted by a mission agency, FBCN will offer aid in the creation and publication of materials and assist in contacting other potential supporting churches for the purpose of raising one-time and monthly financial needs.

## **II. Qualifications to be Commissioned by FBCN**

1. Active membership in our church having demonstrated practical experience in Christian service.
2. The missionary shall meet with the Missionary Committee to give their testimony, call to service, and be interviewed by the committee followed by a recommendation to the deacons for consideration. (as per our missions policy)
3. Active in a Mission of like purpose and faith.
4. Understand and sign the "Statement of Agreement" in testimony of their acceptance to the church doctrinal statement, principles and practice. Also understand and be in agreement with the Missionary Policy of FBCN.
5. Church membership vote of approval to be sent out by FBCN.

## **III. The Commissioned Missionary**

1. Actively pursue pre-field ministry and report regularly throughout the pre-field journey.
2. Share support and prayer needs with the church.
3. Cooperate with the local church to provide ministry accountability.
4. Prior to leaving for their first term of service, participate in a FBCN commissioning service that recognizes the relationship of the church, the missionary, and the ministry.

5. Supported missionaries must maintain consistent communication (at least 4 times annually) with our church and be available to report to our church when on furlough. (as per our missions policy)
6. Serve faithfully in life and ministry pursuing holiness, humility, accountability, and harmony with church leadership, team members, and nationals.
7. Consult with FBCN leadership prior to any decision to change Mission, ministry role or location.
8. Stay connected with the church. The Web Site allows the missionary to listen to Sermons, read the Bulletin, and follow Events of the church.

#### **IV. The Commissioning Church's Responsibility**

1. Serve as a partner to assist, support, and hold its missionary accountable throughout the application, appointment, pre-field, and career ministry.
2. Work in conjunction with their Mission Board in assisting, encouraging, and advising the missionary.
3. Participate in the sending process with a goal of financial contribution of 10-25% of needed support. (as per our missions policy)
4. License or ordain men when field ministries require it.
5. When the missionary candidate has been given clearance to leave for language school or their selected field, FBCN will hold a formal commissioning service to send them to their God-given task.
6. FBCN commits to on-field evaluations by a member of the church staff or another appointed church representative chosen by the committee after the first year of service and at least once every five years to encourage, offer guidance and assistance, and hold our missionary accountable for personal and ministry well-being. This trip will be paid for by the church.
7. At any point in the examination phase, support-raising phase, or while active on a mission field, the missionary committee, in conjunction with the deacon board, has the authority and responsibility to recall a missionary as outlined in the Missionary Policy, paragraph G. Termination of Support. All due consideration will be given to the timing of such a decision.
8. Faithfully pray, communicate, and encourage the missionary.