

# PFEBC MISSIONS POLICY

## Section I: MISSIONS PHILOSOPHY

**I. Missions Purpose Statement:** The primary purpose of PFEBC missions is to engage in global efforts to **reproduce Bible teaching New Testament churches** that bring glory to God by winning people to Jesus Christ and equipping them to be more faithful disciples. This is in keeping with the overall purpose of our church which is to:

- A. Glorify God (Eph. 1:5-6; 11-12; 3:21; 1 Cor. 10:31).
- B. Evangelize the Lost (Matt. 28:19-20; Acts 1:8; Rom. 10:13-14).
- C. Edify Believers (Matt. 28:19-20; Acts 20:28-32; Heb. 3:13; Eph. 4:11-13).

**II. The Missions Policy Purpose:** To connect this important aspect of our ministry to our church bylaws, ARTICLE 1, SECTION 1.02 – PURPOSE, ARTICLE 2, SECTION 2.01 - STATEMENT OF FAITH, (I) The Church, (V) Missions; and to enable our church to have a sound, biblical missions program or outreach.

### **III. The Missions Policy Goals:**

- A. To ensure that missions decisions are made on a biblical basis and in accordance with our philosophy of missions and ministry.
- B. To ensure good stewardship of our financial resources.
- C. To strengthen the relationship between our church family and our supported missionaries.

## IV. Definitions

- A. *Evangelism* is actively sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ with the people around us.
  
- B. *Discipleship* is the process of helping a person to change and grow in the likeness of Christ as that person is equipped for the work of the ministry.
  
- C. *Missions* means evangelizing and discipling, fulfilling the Great Commission. It includes living a Christ-like life in front of unbelievers.
  
- D. *Missionary* is a believer called of God and sent out by a local church to fulfill the Great Commission with people in a different geographic location.
  
- E. *Foreign Missions* are ministries that fit the above definitions that are conducted outside the United States.
  
- F. *Home Missions* are ministries that fit the above definitions that are conducted within the United States.
  
- G. *Short Term Missionary* is a person who is considering pursuing missions as a vocational ministry; usually the consideration is for 2 years or less.
  
- H. *National Missionary* is a missionary not from the U.S. who is seeking to engage in full-time Christian vocational ministry in his own country.

## V. Types of Ministries Served by our Missionaries

As a matter of stewardship, we will place primary emphasis on the establishment, growth, and multiplication of local churches which is our primary purpose. Other gospel promoting “helps” ministries that are consistent with the doctrine and practice of Pine Forest Estates Baptist Church will be considered on a case by case basis.

### A. Church Planting Ministries

1. **The primary focus of the individual’s efforts are for the establishing of new, indigenous, reproducing churches.**
2. Consideration will be given to projects to assist church planting efforts that meet our missions criteria with priority given to our currently supported missionaries.

### B. Church Development Ministries

These ministries focus on evangelism and discipleship in strategic populations which enable an existing church to reach beyond their current sphere of influence —i.e. campus ministry, jail ministry, radio ministry, etc. We may designate a portion of our missions support to go to these types of ministries.

### C. Church Support Ministries

There are individuals and/or organizations that are involved in ministries that complement the work of the local church. (e.g. medical work, relief and development, technology, educational, etc.) We may designate a portion of our missions support to go to these types of ministries.

1. Stateside administration and counsel which directly supports people in church-planting or extension type ministries (i.e. agencies like BIMI, BMM, etc.)
2. Schools and/or educational institutions that can contribute to the training of those who seek to plant/develop local churches. (i.e. On field Bible Institute/College, etc.)

## VI. The Biblical Foundation of Missions

- A. **The Great Commission:** Matthew 28:19,20 says, — “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.”
1. This passage serves as the foundation for our Mission Statement: The ministry of Pine Forest Estates Baptist Church is to win people to Jesus Christ and equip them to be more faithful disciples.
  2. Christ delegated authority to the disciples and commanded them to make disciples of all nations.
  3. The word — “nations” rather than referring to geo-political nation states, points to the idea that the body of Christ is to be made up of people from —every nation and all tribes and peoples and tongues (Revelation 7:9).
- B. **Acts 13:2** says, — “As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them.” Over time, the Church in Antioch became the leading church of the first century (Acts 13:1-14:28).

In the midst of worship, prayer, and fasting, the church responded to the Holy Spirit by commissioning two of their leaders, Barnabas and Saul, sending them into ministry.

1. Barnabas and Saul were already actively serving in the church – seeking to win souls to Christ and engaged in regular discipleship opportunities.
2. The church recognized their gifts and service, and the church authenticated Barnabas and Saul’s call to the ministry by commissioning them for the task.

3. In each new city that Barnabas and Saul visited, their goal was to plant and establish new churches. This is evident by the fact that they evangelized key cities, preached the gospel, strengthened the disciples, and appointed elders.
4. Following their missionary journey, Barnabas and Saul reported back to the church in Antioch, demonstrating their submission to the leadership and authority of that local church.
5. Therefore, missionaries are directly accountable to the local church that commissioned them and indirectly to the churches supporting them. Mission Agencies/Board are considered 'Support Ministries' as stated in our Missions Philosophy (cf. V. Types of Ministries).

## VII. The Process of Teaching Our Missions Philosophy

- A. Keeping Missions Visible - We will be involved in accomplishing our missions' purpose through: Keeping missions visible before the church. We will teach and train our people in the area of missions. (Matthew 8:30; II Timothy 2:2).

We will seek the Lord for laborers in missions (Matthew 9:37-38). We will expose our people to missions.

The exposure to missions will come through the following:

1. We will have missionaries into our church to preach and present their ministries.
2. We will have our supported missionaries visit our church and give updates to our people when in the area.
3. We will hold missions conferences and have times of missions' emphasis during the course of the year.
4. We will post prayer letters on the missionary board and present select prayer letters for special prayer.

5. We will showcase visional presentations at the back of the auditorium.

6. We will send our pastor on mission trips to encourage our missionaries and update the church concerning their ministries.

B. Taking mission trips - We will encourage individuals and families at PFEBC to be involved in mission trips.

C. Sending missionaries from our church.

1. We will send only those who have a proven testimony before God and man (1 Timothy 4:12; Acts 13:1-3).

2. We will send those who give evidence of a Divine calling to the ministry (Acts 13:2).

3. We will send those who are like-minded in the doctrine and philosophy of our church (II John 10; Rom. 16:17; II Thess. 3:14-15).

4. We will endeavor to support missionaries who are American or Canadian citizens in accordance with our missions policy.

5. We will send only those who identify as Independent Baptists and go out under either an approved Independent Baptist Board or this church.

6. We will support only Baptist missionaries who are active members of Independent Baptist churches.

7. We will insist that missionaries, whom the church supports, not solicit funds from individuals within the church because we believe this to be unethical.

D. Supporting missionaries in their work.

1. Our responsibility to our missionaries

- a. We will provide regular prayer support (Eph. 6:18-19).
- b. We will provide pastoral support (Rom. 1:11-12).
- c. We will provide financial support.  
\*We will support each missionary on a monthly support basis through the regular offerings that are designated to missions. Our goal is to increase our giving to missions annually and to support more missionaries in the future. — Faith promise giving will be the Biblical plan for financial missionary support (II Cor. 8-9).
  - 1) We will provide a love offering to missionaries who come into our church to preach during a service.
  - 2) We will endeavor to provide greater support to full time missionaries we send from our church as opposed to missionaries sent out from other churches.

2. Our missionaries responsibility to PFEBBC.

- a. We expect our missionaries to correspond regularly with our church (a minimum of once per quarter).
- b. We expect our missionaries to while on furlough to report to our church concerning their ministry.
- c. We expect our missionaries to be faithful in their calling and to maintain a Godly testimony before the Lord at home and abroad.
- d. We expect our missionaries to inform us when there is a field or ministry change. In this case support may be re-evaluted.

## Section 2: MISSIONS COMMITTEE

### I. Missions Committee

It is the purpose of the Missions Committee to strategically select missionaries whose field assignments are dispersed throughout the world. Our goal is to follow the command of Jesus and "go unto all the world and preach the Gospel." We currently support missionaries in various nations around the globe, but there are geographical locations where we do not have a witness. To extend our global outreach, the Missions Committee would do well to find favor in missionaries called to the indigenous people of South America, Africa, the Middle East, India, and Canada: as well as Cambodia, Vietnam and Indonesia to fill the void. Our support could be extended to mission boards where their member missionaries are providing a witness in these areas.

This committee shall consist of members of PFEBC who have been appointed by the Pastor annually. Specific committee positions include: Director, Correspondence Secretary, Missionary Closet/Pantry Coordinator, Records Secretary, etc.

**Director:** Oversee missions ministry for the church. Assists Pastor in informing church of supported missionary actives.

**Corr. Secretary:** Stay in touch with the missionaries and sends birthday/anniversary cards to family and individuals on the field.

**Missionary Closet Coordinator:** Seek donations from PFEBC members to stock the pantry and disperse to missionaries in need.

**Records Secretary:** Take notes during the missions committee meetings and briefs committee of our missions financial status.

**Support Members:** These are committee members who are willing to offer support to other members in accomplishing the tasks associated with their position.

Requirements for such committee members as mentioned above must be in accordance with our church by-laws. All members of the pastoral staff will automatically serve as ex-officio members of the committee.

The additional duties of the committee shall be to:

- A. Assist the Pastor in the planning and promotion of the Missions Conference.
- B. Interview/Vet prospective missionary candidates discussing with them our church's missionary policy, doctrines, and practices to determine legitimacy for potential support. Upon committee determination, the missionary candidates will be recommended to the Pastor/Deacons and for consideration of the church.
- C. Meet with those who are returning from missionary service to discover special prayer needs and burdens.
- D. Make every effort to promote missions at PFEBC.

## II. Missions Committee Financial Policies

### A. Process for Approving Financial Support

1. The Missions Committee will meet quarterly and review material from perspective missionary candidates. Pastor may call upon the committee for special meetings as needed.
2. Missionaries that submit information to our committee but are not recommended for support will receive an explanation letter from the committee.
3. The Missions Committee will make recommendations to the Pastor.
4. Upon Pastor's approval, select missionaries will be invited to present their work to the church sometime throughout the year or primarily at our next Missions/Outreach Conference.
5. At the Church Administration Meeting following the missionaries presentations, and upon full review, the church will consider to receive the missionary for support.
6. Missionaries who come home on extended furlough for various reasons will be reviewed for support. These situations will be handled on a case-by-case basis.

B. Procedures for Determining the Amount of Financial Support

We will determine financial support of individual missionaries based on the following criteria:

1. Missionaries who are new to the PFEBC mission family will receive an entry-level amount as approved by the church.
2. The number of years that a missionary has served with our mission family is a determination for the amount of financial support.
3. Missionaries that are sent out of PFEBC will receive greater support.

C. Procedures for Discontinuing Financial Support

Support will be discontinued for the following reasons:

1. Resignation from the perspective mission work that PFEBC voted to support.
2. Request for missionary resignation by their board or sending church.
3. Change of fields – support may be continued if the Missions Committee/Pastor deems it a legitimate addition to our overall missions program/outreach.
4. Elder Missionaries who leave the field for retirement will have their support reviewed/evaluated and potentially adjusted/discontinued depending on their involvement in ministry.
5. Following resignation or request for resignation, missionaries will receive support for an additional three months after which support will automatically end depending on the circumstances of the situation.

## Section 3: MISSIONS PROCEDURES

Upon initial contact (call/email/mail/in person) from the missionaries, that missionaries information will be reviewed at the next committee meeting. After a comprehensive review by the committee a response will be issued to the missionary. That review by the committee will include theological agreement, field priority, Spirit leadership and the church's missions budget availability. If the committee determines appropriately, they will recommend the missionary to the Pastor for potential invite to present their work. If the committee determines to not recommend the missionary to the Pastor, the Records Secretary of the committee will send a letter of explanation to the missionary.

Throughout the year missionaries who contact the PFEBC office will be invited to give a presentation of their ministry, whether they are on deputation, furlough, or just in the local area presenting their work. The pastor can identify their Christian roots by asking a few questions that reveal their doctrine and then work to fit them into a service.

At minimum, the missionary will be allowed to give a short presentation with a DVD that will give the church members insight into their ministry.

The missionary will be told that all presentations are reviewed by the Missions Committee at the end of each quarter and then passed along to the deacon board during the PFEBC mission conference in October for acceptance. A small gift and thank you note will be given to the missionary family before they depart.

If the Missions Committee decides not to recommend the missionary in their quarterly meeting, then a note will be sent and an explanation given for the refusal.

If the Missions Committee decides to recommend the missionary to the deacon board, then a note will be sent to explain the process of the church voting at the end of the Mission Conference in October.

At the conclusion of the Mission Conference when the new missionaries are accepted, the Missions Committee will send a note to the new missionaries and welcome them into the PFEBC family and give them the date and amount that they will start receiving their support checks. This will be in January at the start of the new budget year.