

# **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. 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.
3. For a missionary to receive support, they must sign our “Statement of Agreement” in testimony of their acceptance.
4. 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.
5. Supported missionaries must maintain consistent communication (at least 4 times annually) with our church and be available to report to our church every 3 or 4 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.

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

\_\_\_\_\_

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

# Missionary Commissioning Policy of First Baptist Church of Newaygo

## **Qualifications to be Commissioned by FBC**

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 FBC.
5. Church membership vote of approval to be sent out by FBC.

## **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 FBC 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 FBC 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.

## **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. Publicly commission our missionary before departure for language school or the field.
6. Be available to advise, direct and hold its missionary accountable for personal and ministry well-being. This may involve field visit(s) by a church representative chosen by the committee and paid for by the church.
7. Faithfully pray, communicate, and encourage the missionary.