

# New Life Christian Fellowship Mission Policy

## **I. PURPOSE**

### *A. Definition of Missions*

New Life Christian Fellowship defines missions to be any evangelistic endeavor outside our local congregation to fulfill the Great Commission by proclaiming the gospel of Christ, making disciples and gathering these disciples into local congregations, while relating to the needs of the total person (spiritual, physical, emotional and social).

### *B. Purpose Statement*

The goal of our missions effort is to win individuals to the Lord, equip them in the faith and establish churches that have the same aim in every tribe, tongue, people and nation (Acts 14:21-23; Rev. 5:9). The Church Mission Committee endeavors to assist New Life Christian Fellowship toward the fulfillment of this purpose.

### *C. The Missions Policy*

1. Purpose—The purpose of the missions policy is to:

- a) Identify a plan for the Missions Program of New Life Christian Fellowship (NLCF).
- b) Maintain consistency as team membership changes.
- c) Avoid making important decisions on an emotional or haphazard basis.
- d) Ensure good stewardship in the allocation of mission funds.

2. Exceptions—It is intended that these Mission policies be followed. However, these policies are not to become a source of limitation to the effectiveness of the operation of the Mission committee when facing exceptional circumstances. Thus the committee should be agreed to any certain action contrary to the policies here in and seek the counsel of the Church Board.

3. Revisions—The missions policy will be reviewed and revised as often as needed. The Church Board will be notified of any permanent changes in the policy manual.

## **II. THE MISSION COMMITTEE**

### *A. Size and Selection*

As many members as are approved by the Church Board, plus at least one Deacon.

### *B. Term of Office*

Each member is to serve for a two-year term. Ideally, members will serve for many years.

### *C. Expectations*

Members are expected to:

- a) Attend the meetings.
- b) Assist on projects as necessary.
- c) Take an active role in the decision-making process.
- d) Pray consistently for God to guide our efforts.
- e) Devote much of their energy to furthering the missions program at our church.

### *D. Responsibilities*

- a) Pray—Encourage intercession from the congregation for global outreach and for our missionaries.
- b) Mobilize— Utilize all the resources of the church (people, finances, contacts, facilities, etc.) to further the gospel. This includes offering short-term and other global outreach opportunities.

- c) Educate – Maintain contact with NLCF missionaries and provide updates and prayer requests to the wider congregation as necessary.
- e) Recruit/Train—Select and assist in the equipping individuals from within our congregation to become missionaries.
- f) Care— Schedule and provide for NLCF missionaries on deputation, i.e, housing, meals, transport, etc.
- g) Represent—Serve as a liaison between the church, our missionaries and mission agencies.
- h) Evaluate—Review the missions program of the church and make changes as necessary. This includes evaluating the mission policy statement as well as the ongoing support for missionaries, organizations and projects.

#### *E. Church Board's responsibility*

All new mission and annual ongoing mission support must be approved by Church Board prior to be delegated to Mission Committee.

### **III. STRATEGY**

#### *A. Goals*

Aware of our dependence upon the Holy Spirit, the mission team will seek to establish short- and long-range goals for our various responsibilities.

#### *B. High priorities for mission support*

- Organizations that have demonstrated track records of long-run, developmental ministry with strong financial and managerial accountability systems
- Partially subsidizing training and further study for missionaries, pastors
- Evangelism and discipleship programs
- Organizations that are started or have been requested by the nationals, and are still run largely by them or with their heavy input
- Bible translation
- Countries which are highly unreached or unevangelized (such as countries within 10/40 window)

#### *C. Low priorities for mission support*

- Pastors salary where there is an established church already (it is primarily the congregation's responsibility to support their own Pastor)
- Large amounts of money given to small churches or organisations with vague accountability systems
- Overseas church building projects

#### *D. Exceptions to mission support*

Special Offerings/Project - Throughout the year, special offerings or projects may be initiated and investigated by the Missions Committee and suggested to the Church Board for support. These may include:

- Aid Monies (for relief following natural disasters etc.). This should be given to local organizations or ministries that are willing and able to provide the necessary relief and assistance, and it is preferable to let them do so.
- Benevolent/Crisis Giving (where the church becomes aware of a need in a local individual's circumstances) Any individual should show their own commitment and be willing to participate some way in solving their financial problem. It is at the discretion of the Church Board to award funds with the Missions Committee available for input when required.

## **IV. SHORT-TERM MISSIONS**

### *A. Definition*

Any missions activity of one day to one year duration. It must be field driven – the primary benefits going to those whom we are serving, not ourselves.

### *B. Purpose*

Our primary purpose is to strengthen national believers and/or evangelize non-believers. Our secondary purpose is to mobilize and educate our constituency to be more missions active.

### *C. Short-Term Missions Criteria*

The short-term mission (STM) must be requested by and in subordinate partnership with a national church, a long-term ministry or mission agency. The team is seen as an extension of these local organisations rather than as independent, outside agents.

- 1) There must be a clear, long-term strategy in place.
- 2) There must be a qualified leader for the ministry.
- 3) The Team must be requested by the host community/organization/church and they must be the primary entity deciding what should be done, and how it should be.
- 4) The host church/community/organisation (“host community”) must have the option of requesting only the money the team would have otherwise spent in coming.
- 5) The host community will decide what should be done and how it should be done.
- 6) Focusing on the assets of a community is preferable to focusing on the community’s needs.
- 7) The trip must be designed to be about “being” and “learning” as much as “doing”.
- 8) The STM team will not do for people what they can do for themselves.
- 9) The work will primarily be done by the community members with the team in a helping role. If the community members don’t carry out their responsibilities, they are not to be taken up by the STM team.
- 10) The STM team must be kept small.
- 11) Trip members must demonstrate a serious interest in missions by being active in their church and its local outreach efforts
- 12) There must be appropriate pre-field training, on-the-field, and post-trip components, with a well-planned, mandated, learning journey for at least one year following the trip.

### *D. Requirement for STM leaders*

- 1) Demonstrate their commitment and serious interest in Missions through previous time spent on the mission field or a member of the Missions committee, with involvement in NLCF local outreach efforts
- 2) Must have read “When Helping Hurts” in its entirety by Brian Fikkert and Steve Corbett
- 3) Show integrity, with no offence held against them by anyone at NLCF
- 4) Conduct themselves in a manner which conveys maturity and wisdom
- 5) Be committed to pre-trip, on the field, and post-trip training (of up to a year post-trip)
- 6) Development & Recruiting for STM

### *E. Priorities*

- 1) It is a key part of our strategic plan.
- 2) The ministry is sponsored or endorsed by our church.
- 3) The ministry will help a person evaluate a long-term mission ministry.

### *F. Support*

Our church may provide support for the short-term ministry, subject to the Church Board approval

## **V. FINANCIAL POLICIES**

### *A. Annual Budget*

The Church Board will set an annual budget each year.

### *B. Minimum/Maximum Support*

Monthly support will be a significant sum, up to fifty percent (50%) of a missionary's total need, with the exception being missionaries sent from NLCF (up to 100%).

### *C. Monetary Support*

Support for a missionary will be ideally given on a monthly basis.

### *D. Outfitting Expenses*

In order to help with outfitting expenses, a one-time gift equivalent to up to three months of monthly support may be given to help meet these needs.

### *E. Ministry Evaluation*

All missionaries and ministries will be evaluated at least once every three years.

### *F. Ministry Changes*

If there is a major change in either the ministry and/or location or if the missionary joins a different mission agency, the mission team will immediately re-evaluate its support commitment. New Life Christian Fellowship requests advance notice of any significant changes in ministry.

### *G. Support Termination*

Termination of financial support for a missionary is the exception with New Life Christian Fellowship. For it to occur, the Church Board needs to approve the decision. Reasons for termination include missionaries' failure to fulfil the responsibilities stipulated in this policy. If we terminate support, we will strive to do it in such a way as to limit the negative effects on the missionary.

### *H. Support Review*

Based on available funds, each year the missions team will review the support needs of currently supported missionaries and consider initiating support for additional missionaries.

### *I. Funding Priorities*

The expenditure of funds will be consistent with the priorities mentioned earlier.

## **VI. MISSIONARY SELECTION POLICIES**

### *A. Qualifications*

1. All applicants must be in agreement with New Life Christian Fellowship's Statement of Faith.
2. They must have a proven track record in ministry.
3. They must demonstrate the qualities found in 1 Timothy 3:1-10.
4. They must provide a referral from their sending church.
5. Their sending church must also demonstrate financial commitment to support them.
6. We require strong, genuine financial, spiritual and ministry accountability and review, whether from an external organisation or board.
7. High priorities will be given to missionaries that meet requirement(s) in III (B)

### *B. Application Procedures*

Applicants must:

1. Complete a written application.
2. Meet with the member(s) of the Church Board.

3. Meet with the full mission team. If there is consensus, the mission team will then make a request for support to the Church Board.
4. The final decision will be made by the Church Board

*C. Responsibility of New Life Christian Fellowship to its Missionaries*

1. Remember the missionary in prayer.
2. Communicate with each missionary on regular basis.
3. Promote the work of each missionary within the church.
4. Send pledged funds in a timely fashion.
5. Work toward a partnership relationship with the missionary and his/her agency.

*D. Responsibility of the Missionary to New Life Christian Fellowship*

1. Communicate on regular basis
2. Give the missions team advance notice of any significant changes in ministry and/or location.
3. Spend quantity and quality time with the church during home assignments.
4. Work diligently in team building/maintenance with all supporters.
5. Work toward a close partnership relationship with New Life Christian Fellowship.