

## **Missions Committee Philosophy and Guiding Principles**

### **A. Philosophy Statement**

Providence Community Church, herein known simply as the church, seeks to support the Lord's gospel work through an active missions program that includes ongoing and one-time financial and prayer support to qualified individuals or groups. This support is encouraged both by the individual believer in their personal giving and discipline as well as through the regular offerings of the church.

### **B. Guiding Principles**

The church is responsible for endorsing the philosophy and its guiding principles, for providing the funds for the work, and for providing membership to the missions committee on a regular basis. The amount that will be devoted to missions from the regular offering is the decision of the church, not the recommendation of the missions committee.

The Missions Committee is established to implement the philosophy for missions support and the specific guiding principles for putting the philosophy into practice. The committee is also charged with the ongoing tasks of identifying and qualifying candidates within the church's guiding principles.

Candidates should be proven believers, who are engaged in, or seeking to be engaged in, full time gospel service. The nature of the service will vary, and the missions committee is charged with determining that the person and or agency have and maintain a testimony of faithfulness in both service and integrity to our Lord. The committee will seek candidates who will serve in three key ministries: the Word, Witness and Works. In addition, the committee will seek to support work where the need is the greatest. In all cases, the committee will seek to confirm that the candidate is going to work where the Lord is demonstrating He is at work. Self-supporting missionaries who need only partial support will be encouraged, as will third-world missionaries, who require far less support.

Ministries of the Word would be teaching at seminaries or preparing pastors for ministry in third world countries, or active participation in translation work. Witness ministries would be pioneer missions to unreached peoples, and witnessing where there is not already an abundance of missionaries. Works ministries will be considered. Jesus said, "...there will always be the poor with you". There will be times when we need to fulfill both James' and John's admonitions to love in deed, not in word. But these need to be carefully done to ensure true help and the possibility of a link to the Gospel.

Long term relationships are the priority for the church. The committee will actively seek to develop long term support relationships with individuals, and possibly agencies, that utilize at least 70% of the church's mission budget. The priority will be on individuals, though in some isolated cases a sending agency may merit long term support. It is the intent of these long term relationships that the church will be actively involved in praying for, communicating with, and providing other support as required, to these individuals.

Each long term relationship will include a contingency reserve equal to six to nine months support. This reserve is intended to provide a transition should the Lord change the direction of the local church, or should the missionary have a change and need to relocate. This reserve will be built over time by using the excess mission funds not committed to long term relationships. The mission committee should plan to have the contingency reserve for each support relationship built over an extended period. The need for and size of these reserves should be reviewed every few years as the local church matures.

Funds that are not committed to long term relationships will be used for short term and one-time mission opportunities. The mission committee expects members of the church to nominate candidates for these limited funds to ensure some contact between the local church and the candidate. When these do not present themselves, then the uncommitted funds will be sent on a quarterly basis to an appropriate, local assistance ministry, like Star of Hope Missions in Houston. This is not expected to be a regular gift but rather good stewardship of the funds the Lord provides when other support opportunities have not presented themselves.