

Rothbury Community Church

Missions Ministry

Philosophy of Ministry

Article 1: Purpose

- A. As part of Rothbury Community Church's purpose statement to glorify God through equipping believers, edifying the church, evangelizing the world, and exalting the Lord in all things (Matthew 28:18-20; 1 Peter 2:9-10), it is our goal to take the Gospel of Jesus Christ throughout the world for the salvation of many.
- B. We seek to accomplish this by:
 1. Preparing and commissioning missionaries from our own membership through prayer and discipleship.
 2. Partnering with missionaries and missionary organizations both through financial support and/or prayer support that are involved in ministries that seek to preach the gospel and establish local churches. It is our desire to have a strong relationship with our missionaries that we might adequately care for them and encourage them in the ministry.
 - i. Though it is not exclusive, we prioritize ministries involved in international church planting and revitalization in unreached and under-reached people groups (Acts 1:8; Matthew 24:14). This is based on our conviction that the local church is God's intended primary means for reaching the world with the gospel.
 - ii. Though it is not absolute, we prioritize geographical diversity in the overall makeup of those supported. This is so that we as a church have a worldwide impact, have a burden for many people groups, and are more aware of God's work around the world.
 3. Pursuing long-term relationships with international "sister churches" that are consistent with our purposes and philosophy.
 4. Planning and providing short-term mission trips for the membership of Rothbury Community Church to serve on.
 - i. The focus of these trips will primarily focus on missionaries, missionary organizations or churches supported by Rothbury Community Church.

Article 2: Policies

Section 1: Missions Committee

1. The Missions Committee shall consist of a minimum of 5 members of Rothbury Community Church. At least one of those of the members must be an Elder or Deacon currently serving on their respective boards.
2. The Board of Elders shall approve all appointments of members to the Missions Committee.
3. The Board of Elders shall appoint a chairperson for the Missions Committee, who shall oversee the organization and operations of the committee.

4. The Missions Committee is charged with the oversight of the Missions Ministry. Responsibilities include:
 - a. Faithfully praying for the Missions Ministry and for supported missionaries.
 - b. Overseeing the Missions Ministry budget in a responsible manner.
 - c. Communicating regularly with supported missionaries, keeping them aware of the activities and needs of the Missions Ministry of Rothbury Community Church.
 - d. Keeping the membership aware of the supported missionaries, including progress, needs, projects, family news, etc.
 - e. Promoting prayer among the membership on behalf of the missionaries.
 - f. Challenging the membership to be actively involved with the Missions Ministry.
 - g. Assisting commissioned missionaries in finding appropriate organizations to work with, receiving financial support as needed, housing during furlough, etc.
 - h. Processing applications of those seeking support.
 - i. Organizing the annual Missions Conference along with the Board of Elders.
 - j. Organizing short-term mission trips for the membership to participate in.
 - k. Communicating with the Board of Elders and/or the Board of Deacons as needed.
5. The missions committee will be accountable to the board of Elders. One of the elders will be appointed to have regular communication with the missions committee and be available to the missions committee for input or other needs.

B. Missionaries

1. Definition of a Missionary

- a. A missionary is someone sent by a local church to be engaged in God's work of preaching the Gospel to the nations. For the purposes of the Missions Ministry of Rothbury Community Church we recognize two types of missionaries: commissioned missionaries and non-commissioned missionaries.
 - i. Commissioned Missionaries are those from within our church body to serve God in vocational missionary service. When individuals do make themselves available to serve in this way, and when the church recognizes in these individuals the gifts and character for ministry, they will be "set apart" or "commissioned" for missionary service. As the "sending church" Rothbury Community Church accepts greater responsibility for these missionaries and requires greater accountability from them than for non-commissioned missionaries.
 - ii. Non-Commissioned Missionaries are those from outside our church body to serve God in vocational missionary service that seek the support and affiliation of Rothbury Community Church.

2. Qualifications of a Missionary

a. Commissioned Missionaries:

- i. Must be a born again Christian for a minimum of 3 years, professing a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and sincerely living a life consistent with the Word of God.
- ii. Must be a member of Rothbury Community Church for a minimum of 3 years.
- iii. Must be involved in faithful and active ministry at Rothbury Community Church for a minimum of 2 years.
- iv. Must be manifesting the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23).
- v. Must have their gifts and abilities affirmed by the Missions Committee
- vi. If serving in the leadership of a local church on the mission field, they must meet the qualifications of an elder in 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1.
- vii. Must, if applicable, serve under an organization whose doctrine and practice is in agreement with that of Rothbury Community Church.
 - a. Any organization a missionary serves with must be willing to provide its statement of faith, its philosophy of missions, etc. to the Missions Committee.

b. Non-commissioned Missionaries

- i. Must be a born again Christian for a minimum of 3 years, professing a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and sincerely living a life consistent with the Word of God.
- ii. Must be an active member of a church whose doctrine and practice is in agreement with that of Rothbury Community Church for a minimum of 3 years.
- iii. Must be involved in faithful and active ministry of some type for a minimum of 2 years.
- iv. Must be manifesting the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23).
- v. Must have their gifts and abilities confirmed by the Missions Committee
- vi. If serving in the leadership of a local church on the mission field, they must meet the qualifications of an elder in 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1.
- vii. Must serve under an organization whose doctrine and practice is in agreement with that of Rothbury Community Church.

3. Acceptance Procedure

- a. Any requests for support and/or partnership from the Missions Ministry must be submitted to the Missions Committee for evaluation. The evaluation includes the candidate's portfolio, doctrinal statement, philosophy of missions, references, information about organizations they are serving with, and any other pertinent

information. The Missions Committee is responsible to review all requests and to provide timely correspondence with all candidates.

- b.If the Missions Committee is interested in partnering with a candidate after the initial evaluation, it will conduct an interview with the candidate.
- c.If the Missions Committee unanimously recommends support of the candidate, it will submit its recommendations to the Board of Elders for approval. All recommendations shall include a proposed amount of support and date for implementation.

4. Support

a.Financial Support

i. Source

- a. The primary source of finances shall be from the Faith Promise budget (November 1 – October 31). Members and attendees of Rothbury Community Church are asked to prayerfully commit to giving a set amount over and above their regular giving on the final Sunday of the annual Missions Conference.
- b. Special offerings may be taken at Rothbury Community Church as needed after consultation with the Board of Elders.
- c. No individual, ministry, etc. may take on financial support of a missionary in the name of Rothbury Community Church unless approved by the Board of Elders and Board of Deacons.
- d. No individually designated support shall be received or remitted by Rothbury Community Church for missionaries, agencies, etc., unless a fund has been opened by the Board of Deacons for that purpose.

ii. Support Levels

- a. The Faith Promise budget and recommended support levels will be submitted to and approved by the Board of Elders and Board of Deacons by the Missions Committee not less than 4 weeks after the end of the Missions Conference.
- b. Support levels shall be determined based on current support levels, specific needs, and the overall evaluation of the missionary and their ministry compared with the purposes of the Missions Ministry of Rothbury Community Church.
- c. Commissioned missionaries shall receive prioritization over non-commissioned missionaries for support levels.
- d. All supported missionaries are encouraged to inform the Missions Committee as needed of their support levels and any other opportunities where a financial increase or gift may be needed.

b.Prayer Support

- i. In the event that Rothbury Community Church is not in a position to offer financial support at the time, or if a missionary is not in need of financial support, the missions committee may still pursue inviting a missionary to be “supported” by Rothbury Community Church through prayer.

5. Duration

- a. Support will be committed for one term of missionary service (as determined by the sending agency) at a time, and renewed after each term upon the recommendation of the Missions Committee and approval of the Board of Elders. If a sending agency does not have a set length of term, one will be agreed upon by the missionary and Missions Committee.
 - i. A renewal of support will be based upon the overall evaluation of the missionary and their ministry compared with the purposes of the Missions Ministry of Rothbury Community Church.
 - ii. If no recommendation is made to renew support, the Missions Committee shall as quickly as possible notify the missionary and agency.
- b. Support for missionaries involved in pre-field ministry shall be determined on an as-needed basis by recommendation of the Missions Committee and approval of the Board of Elders.
- c. Support may be reviewed and/or terminated at any time for, but not limited to, the following reasons:
 - i. Unacceptable change of doctrine from the missionary or an organization they are associated with.
 - ii. Unreported change in type of ministry.
 - iii. Unreported change of sending agency.
 - iv. Spiritual disqualification through sin.
- d. The procedure for the termination of support during a term of commitment will include:
 - i. A thorough review by the Missions Committee.
 - ii. A letter of intent to terminate support sent to the missionary and/or organization inviting them to discuss the situation in person or through technology with the Missions Committee and the Board of Elders.
 - iii. The notification of the membership of Rothbury Community Church once support has been terminated.
- e. Support will normally be terminated upon retirement of a missionary, however support during retirement will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

6. Expectations of Missionaries

- a. To be steadfast in their commitment to sound doctrine.

- b. To be faithful to the ministry they have committed to.
- c. To provide regular updates to the Missions Committee of the status of their ministry, family, support levels, etc.

C. Short-Term Mission Trips

1. The purposes of short-term missions trips are:

- a. To provide on-field support and encouragement for supported missionaries or organizations.
- b. To expand the membership's understanding of the life and work of a missionary through firsthand experience and secondhand reports.
- c. To encourage the membership's willingness and consideration to serve in fulltime mission work.
- d. To inspire the membership to a greater commitment to evangelism in their local community.

2. Selection of Short-Term Mission Trips

- a. The Missions Committee is to seek to organize a short-term missions trip at least on an annual basis.
- b. Supported missionaries are encouraged to request that a team from Rothbury Community Church come to serve alongside them.
- c. Members are encouraged to submit recommendations for upcoming short-term mission trips.
- d. Short-Term Mission Trip opportunities will be given preference when, in order:
 - i. It would assist a commissioned missionary.
 - ii. It would assist a non-commissioned missionary.
 - iii. It would be with an organization that meets the qualifications laid out in this document.
 - iv. It would provide opportunity for multiple people of varied giftedness from the membership to serve.
- e. All short-term mission trips, including participants and financial support, will be submitted by the Missions Committee to the Board of Elders for approval.

3. Participants

- a. The Missions Committee shall solicit the membership and their immediate families to prayerfully consider serving on the short-term mission trip and to sufficiently educate the membership of the details of the opportunity.

- b. The Missions Committee shall process and initially filter applications made to become a team member.
- c. The Missions Committee shall appoint a team leader who will oversee promotion, assist in team formation, delegate team responsibilities, oversee any training necessary, and facilitate communication between the church, team, and missionaries/organizations involved.
- d. To be a team member, an individual must be:
 - i. A member or the underage child of a member of Rothbury Community Church
 - ii. A regular attendee of the Sunday service of Rothbury Community Church for at least 12 weeks who is a professing believer.
 - iii. Demonstrating active involvement in church life.
 - iv. Demonstrating an obvious walk of faith and obedience.

4. Support

- a. Support will not generally be recommended from the Missions Ministry budget for individuals on a church sponsored short-term mission trip unless otherwise specified by the Missions Committee. If financial assistance is needed, support is encouraged to be sought from personal work, savings, and contacts willing to help with financial gifts.
- b. When a short-term missions trip is approved, the Missions Committee may request the Board of Deacons to open a special fund that the membership may donate to. The Missions Committee shall see that the dispensing of the received funds shall be given in the following order:
 - i. Expenses related to the purchasing of materials, equipment, etc. for the trip.
 - ii. Expenses of team members who, after sincerely pursuing other avenues, are unable to raise all of their support. The Missions Committee may recommend to the Board of Deacons an amount to be given out of the special fund for a team member.
 - iii. All left over monies will be designated for future short-term mission trips.

5. Other Short-Term Mission Trips

- a. It is recognized that from time to time individuals may seek support from the Missions Ministry for a short-term mission trip organized outside of Rothbury Community Church. All individuals are invited to seek support from the Missions Ministry.
- b. To qualify for consideration, an individual must be:
 - i. If of age, a member of Rothbury Community Church or of a church of like faith and practice.
 - ii. Actively involved in their local church (as determined by references if not a member of Rothbury Community Church).

- iii. Demonstrating an obvious walk of faith and obedience.
 - iv. Working with a missionary and/or agency meeting the qualifications delineated in this document.
- c. Approval of funds for other short-term mission trips will be given by the Board of Elders upon the recommendation of the Missions Committee.