

## **How To Create An Effective Missions Committee** **adapted from The Pentecostal assemblies of Canada**

Do you want to create an effective missions leadership team within your church which will assist you in the Great Commission?

It is not difficult to create such a group of people. You may be surprised at the simplicity of this 'How To' guide. The fact of the matter is that with a clear mandate, the right people, and a useful policy to guide them, your committee can raise missions to be a fundamental component of who you are as a local church. There are two key concepts that are required.

### **Key Concepts Required For An Effective Missions Committee**

#### **1. Empowerment**

If a committee is not empowered to think and act on its own, then it will just become another dull, administrative committee. If, on the other hand, there is faith and trust placed in the committee to truly carry out its mandate, then it can become a dynamic source of information and inspiration within the church. Missions can be part of who you are, not just what you do.

#### **2. Partnership**

Coupled with empowerment, the concept of partnership is essential to the effectiveness of the missions committee. The term partnership defines a synergistic relationship between the leadership groups within the local church. Unity of purpose in the body provides the greatest opportunity for an abundant harvest for the Kingdom. So don't think of the missions committee as 'just another committee'. Think of them as a leadership partner in the growth and development of the local church.

### **What Is The Purpose Of A Missions Committee?**

The mandate of a missions committee can include some or all of the following:

1. Raise the profile within the congregation
2. Encourage missionaries
3. Assist the missionary during itineration (communication, housing, other needs)
4. Provide prayer direction for the congregation
5. Raise financial support

6. Organise and lead short-term missions teams
7. Assist with missions education at all age levels within the church
8. Act as liaison between the church, the missionary, the District Missions Representative, and the World Missions Division
10. Recommend to the Pastor and Board specific fields or missionaries for support
11. Identify, develop and prepare new missionaries from within the congregation
12. Evaluate requests for support from missionaries and missions organisations

Can you think of other responsibilities for your missions committee?

Joshua Banda, a leader with the Pentecostal Assemblies of God – Zambia and the pastor of a local church in Lusaka, states: “if we truly accept the commission that Christ gives us, missions must become integral to our ministry.” It can no longer be represented solely by periodic Sunday offerings or even once-a-year conferences. It must be integral to the fundamental ministry of the local church. Does your church reflect the kind of church that Joshua speaks of? Could an effective missions leadership team within your local church assist you in making missions part of who you are?

### **Who Should Be On The Missions Committee?**

A document such as this cannot definitively state how many people should be on the committee or who should chair it, just as it cannot state the specific people from your local church who should sit on the committee. Obviously those types of questions relate to the size of your church and the people in your pews.

Most important though are the characteristics of the people who would be most effective on your missions committee. And that question is easier to answer.

First of all, the committee needs people who are interested (yes, even passionate about missions). Each member needs to have a missionary heart – a burden for missions. They need to have an appreciation for God’s plan for world evangelism and discipleship. They need to have a glimpse of God’s world view.

Do we need to have missionaries on the committee? No, but it doesn’t hurt. Perhaps, you have a retired long-term missionary in your church or some people who have been on short-term missions. A combination of these kinds of people will be a tremendous addition to your team.

The members of your missions committee need to be people with the willingness to invest time and energy in the committee and the desire to grow in their own understanding of missions. God is not stagnant, He is eternally creative. Effective missions leadership requires the ability to sense new directions that the Lord is taking, and the willingness to embrace His leading. Effectiveness isn't a man-made concept. God seeks that we be as effective for Him as possible.

Remember, the mandate of the missions committee will influence the characteristics that are important for members of the committee. Does the purpose include communicating missions with passion to the congregation? Then you need to include people who are representative of the congregation and who will be able to speak to those same people. You will want members who cover the appropriate age spectrum and who can communicate well.