

Missions / Support-Raising Policy

Purpose: the purpose of this policy is to create an organized framework in which Valleybrook can encourage and help facilitate the active, personal involvement of the congregation in kingdom work around the globe; additionally, it will clarify support-raising procedures within the church for various types of trips.

Overview: Valleybrook would officially sponsor and organize one group missions trip per year; additionally we would help to provide support for those going individually on trips with our supported organizations.

Valleybrook-sponsored group trips

Valleybrook would strive to organize one group missions opportunity per year. Depending on the needs of our supported missionaries, these trips would focus primarily on supporting them and their efforts. We would strive to rotate these trips among each of these organizations- to have involvement with all of them as opportunities are available. At the discretion of the elders, additional opportunities beyond our supported organizations can be considered (disaster relief trips, etc.).

Valleybrook would seek to provide as much financial support as possible for these trips through a church-wide offering to be divided among those going. Individuals going on these trips would not conduct direct, individual support-raising within the congregation, but would raise additional funding as needed through their web of relationships outside the church. This approach is intended to prevent individuals within the congregation from receiving support-letters from multiple individuals for a given trip. Additionally, it would serve as an “equalizer” for those going who may have fewer relationships within the congregation.

Based on the amount raised in the offering, individuals going on these trips would be notified of how much they stand to receive from the church toward their overall expenses. As the time of the trip approaches and we prepare to make those contributions, the share of any individuals who may have already exceeded their needed amounts through personal, outside support-raising can be applied towards others on the team who may still be short.

Individual trips with supported organizations

Valleybrook would also hope to support the efforts of individuals going on trips of their own throughout the year with one of our supported organizations.

A “short-term missions fund” will be established from which individuals would receive a stipend toward their trip expenses. The amount of this stipend could be a flat amount or a certain percentage of trip expenses, as determined each budget year by the elders. This fund could be built over time through a church-wide offering collected for that purpose, or be added to our Missions budget as a line item (or both) (as determined by the elders). This fund could accrue from year-to-year if not fully used, and available funds could also be applied toward sponsored group trips at the discretion of the elders. Individuals going

on these trips would also be free to conduct direct, individual support-raising within the congregation. They would be asked to do this, though, via communications outside the context of church services/functions and to also show discretion by approaching only individuals within their circle of relationships (not a mass-mailing to the directory). In the event that it might be necessary, individuals making these trips may be allowed to channel support monies through the church name for the tax advantage of their donors.

An individual's trip could be broadly promoted to the congregation in the weeks leading up to their departure (for purposes of gathering prayer support).

Individual trips with organizations outside of those we directly support

At this time, individuals going on trips of their own to serve with an organization outside of those we already support would not receive official support through the church, but are free to conduct direct, individual support-raising within the congregation. Again, they would be asked, though, to do so via communications outside the context of church services/functions and to also show discretion by approaching only individuals within their circle of relationships (not a mass-mailing to the directory). Support monies in these circumstances cannot be raised through the church name. These individual's trips would generally not be promoted to the congregation in the weeks leading up to their departure.

The elders have discretion, though, and can both promote these trips and allow channeling of support monies when desired (disaster relief, etc.).