

Liberty Evangelical Free Church

Missions Policy

I. PURPOSE

A. Definition of Missions:

Liberty Evangelical Free Church of Pella, Iowa affirms the definition of missions to be any endeavor outside our local congregation to fulfill the Great Commission by demonstrating the power of the Gospel of Christ through acts of love, 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 send individuals from within our church family and outside our church family to demonstrate the power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ through acts of love with the ultimate goal of introducing individuals to Jesus Christ, equip them in the faith and establish churches that have the same aim . Our efforts are locally in Pella, regionally in Iowa and the United States, and internationally to the remote parts of the world. (Acts 14:21-23, Rev. 5:9). The Mission Commission shall seek to guide Liberty in light of this purpose statement.

C. The Missions Policy:

1. Purpose - The purpose of the Missions Policy shall be to:
 - a. Provide guidelines to stay on a straight course;
 - b. Avoid making important decisions on an emotional or hap-hazard basis;
 - c. Maintain consistency as committee membership changes;
 - d. Insure good stewardship in the allocation of missions funds.
2. Exceptions - This policy is a statement of principles, not a rigid set of rules. Occasionally, exceptions will need to be made. When that occurs, two-thirds of the Mission Commission need to be in favor of the exception. The proposal also must be approved by the Elder Board.
3. Revisions - The Missions Policy shall be reviewed and revised as often as needed, with a thorough review every odd numbered year. All revisions must be approved by the Elder Board before implementation.

II. THE MISSION COMMISSION

A. Size and Selection:

The Mission Commission shall consist of five to ten members including the chairperson. The names of the members shall be approved by the Elder Board before they are asked to join the committee. Each committee member must have been an active participant at Liberty for at least a year and be a member of the church.

B. Term of Office:

Each member is to serve for a three-year term. Every year one-third of the committee should be new members. A person may serve for two consecutive three-year terms.

C. Chairperson:

The Mission Commission will select a chairperson each year from within the committee. This individual is responsible for the proper functioning of the committee.

D. Expectations:

Members are expected to:

1. Attend the meetings;
2. Serve on subcommittees as assigned;
3. Take an active role in the decision-making process;
4. If possible, participate in short term missions opportunities

E. Responsibilities:

1. Pray- Encourage intercession from the congregation for world evangelism and for our missionaries.
2. Educate- Provide a comprehensive missions education program for our entire congregation. This will include opportunities for service throughout the world both long term and short term, information about our missionaries and the Evangelical Free Church of America missions program.
3. Recruit/Train- Encourage members of our church family to participate on short term mission opportunities as well as career missions opportunities.
4. Send - Support short term and career missionaries spiritually, financially and emotionally during their term of service.
5. Care - Provide practical assistance to missionaries while they are on their field and home assignments.
6. Support- Prepare a missions budget and oversee the allocation of the funds throughout the year.
7. Recommend - Recommend additions to or deletions from the support list, which includes career missionaries, short-term serve projects and organizations. Final approval for any of these changes will be made by the Elder Board. In-put from the congregation regarding missionaries, projects, or organizations to support is welcomed by the Mission Commission.
8. Represent- Serve as a liaison between the church, its missionaries and missions agencies.
9. Evaluate - Review the missions program of the church and make changes as necessary. This includes evaluating the Missions Policy statement, as well as the continuation of support for a missionary.

III. STRATEGY

A. Goals:

The Mission Commission shall seek to establish short and long range goals for their various responsibilities in dependence upon the Holy Spirit.

B. Priorities:

Recognizing that there always will be more needs for support than we can fulfill, the following is meant to assist us in our decision making. The primary objective is that we support members of Liberty who have demonstrated a pattern of faithfulness and active involvement in their commitment to our church and who are involved in strategic ministries. With the above objective in mind, the following priorities should be evaluated when we want to consider supporting a missionary candidate.

1. Priority will be given to members of Liberty first, missionaries from our district/region serving with the EFCM second.

C. Future Missions Projections:

It is our desire over a period of years for the missionary support segment of our missions strategy to approximate the following percentages by number, not necessarily by dollar:

- 1/3 local (Pella and surrounding communities)
- 1/3 regional (Iowa and US)
- 1/3 international

IV. FINANCIAL POLICIES

A. Annual Budget:

The Mission Commission shall prepare an annual budget each year which is to be submitted to the Elder Board for review, approval and recommendation to the Deacons for the annual church budget.

B. Minimum/Maximum:

It is desired that the monthly support for members of Liberty EFC serving on the mission field shall be a significant sum, up to fifty percent (50%) of a person's total need. For other missionaries that are supported by Liberty EFC, a guideline of 5 to 10 % of the total need should be followed. Organizational support and special projects should be handled on a case by case basis.

C. Monetary Support:

Support for a missionary shall be given on a monthly basis. In order to help with outfitting expenses for members of Liberty EFC serving on the mission field, it suggested that up to three months of a monthly commitment be given to this need.

D. Ministry Evaluation:

A missionary will be evaluated and support re-assessed approximately every five years when he/she is on home assignment.

E. Changes:

If there is a major change in either the ministry and/or location or if the person joins a different missions agency, then the Mission Commission will immediately re-evaluate its commitment to the person. Liberty is requesting advance notice of any significant changes in the ministry of the missionary.

G. Missionary Support Reassignment:

Termination of financial support for a missionary is the exception with Liberty. However, when it is to occur, both the Missions Committee and the Elder Board need to be in favor of the decision. Reasons for termination would be if missionaries did not fulfill the responsibilities asked of them in this policy statement.

H. Review:

Each year prior to the church budgeting process, an evaluation will be made to see if more money can be given to a currently supported missionary as well as to the taking on of new missionaries for support.

I. Priorities:

The expenditure of funds will be in light of the priorities mentioned earlier.

K. Budget Items:

The missions budget will not only include missionary support but also other items as they are needed to fulfill the goals of the committee. Examples might include: missions conferences, money for the pastors to travel to missions fields, books, short term projects, etc.

V. SELECTION POLICIES FOR MISSIONARIES WE WILL SUPPORT

A. Qualifications:

1. All applicants must be in agreement with Liberty's Statement of Faith.
2. They must be going out with a mission agency which has been approved by the Mission Commission.
3. They need to be willing to spend quality and quantity time at Liberty in order to work on a meaningful relationship with us.
4. They must have a proven track record in ministry.
5. They must demonstrate the qualities found in 1 Timothy 3:1-10.
6. Their home church must be in agreement with their decision.
7. Tentmakers and nationals will be considered as long as their home church is in full agreement with their ministry.

B. Procedures:

1. Fill out an application for support.
2. Spend time at Liberty developing relationships. The suggested format would be similar to a pastoral candidate weekend of three to five days.
3. Meet with the missions chairperson or a subcommittee of the Mission Commission.
4. Meet with the full Mission Commission. The committee will then make a request for support to the Elder Board if there is consensus of the committee.
5. Be available to meet with the Elder Board.

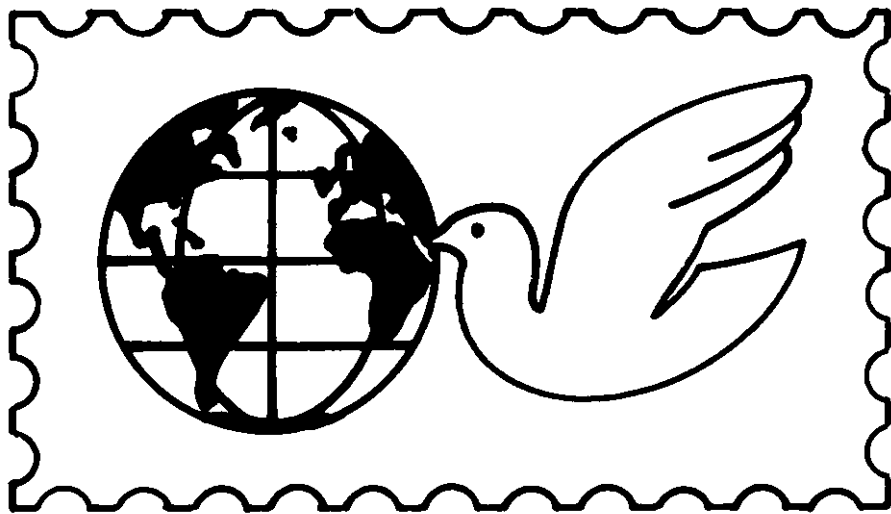
C. Responsibility of Liberty to its Missionaries:

1. Remember the missionary in prayer.
2. Communicate at least quarterly, preferably every two months.
3. Promote the work of the missionary within the church.
4. Encourage the missionary.
5. To help in the evaluation of the missionary.
6. Send the money which has been promised in an orderly fashion.
7. Assist in securing housing and furniture while they are on home assignment if needed. While this assistance will vary depending on the need, generally it will consist of assistance in location of rather than financing.
8. Work toward a partnership relationship with the missionary and his or her agency.
9. Actively pursue sending short term teams to assist in ministry.

D. Responsibility of the Missionary to Liberty:

1. Communicate at least once a quarter, preferably every two months.
2. Tell the committee of any significant changes in ministry and/or location in advance.
3. Spend quantity and quality time with the church during home assignments. This is requested so we can deepen our relationship with missionaries by exposing them to our people in a variety of ways, i.e. in home Bible studies, Sunday School classes, in front of the church, etc.

4. Solicit funds only from family members and close friends from within the church. While "close friends" is an elastic description of relationships, our desire is that a missionary not contact individuals from within our church whom he/she barely knows.
5. Provide the committee with yearly goals and an appraisal of the last year's activities.
6. Send to the committee updated support figures for each year. A supervisor's signature is needed verifying the new amount.
7. Work toward a partnership relationship with Liberty.



**WORLDWIDE
MISSIONS**