

Northside church of Christ

Missionary Works Policy

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

1. GENERAL

- a. The vision of the Northside church of Christ (“Northside”) is to glorify God by revealing to people Jesus Christ as directed by God’s Word.
- b. In keeping with this vision, a deacon will plan, organize, and implement the Northside mission program under the oversight of the elders.

2. SPECIFIC

- a. To achieve a clear sense of direction in the missions program.
 - b. To avoid making decisions on an emotional or haphazard basis (e.g. charisma of speaker, friends and/or relatives of those seeking support, or the mood or time in which the decision is made).
 - c. To insure that each mission dollar is spent wisely.
 - d. To prevent confusion, inconsistency, and misunderstanding of our missions program (e.g. to build confidence and cohesion in the mission program; to inform the congregation of the direction of the missions program and to build trust; to let everyone know ahead of time what to expect in order to avoid sudden surprises).
 - e. To maintain consistency as the missionaries change.
 - f. To permit the mission ministry to work in harmony with the other ministries.
3. It is intended that this policy be generally followed. Exceptions can be made by the elders.
 4. The policy will be reviewed and revised as needed, with policy revisions to be approved by the elders.

GOVERNING PRINCIPLES

1. Our missionary program is based on several central convictions about God, the people of the world, and the church.

- a. God is the Creator, the maker of heaven and earth, and the sustainer of the world and its people. He sends rain and sun on the good and evil alike. People depend utterly upon Him for life, breath and all things. Because of this, He deserves to receive glory and honor and praise from all His creation.
- 1) God made human beings in His image, after His likeness, with the capacity to seek Him and to know Him. From the earliest biblical period sin has separated people from their Maker and Sustainer, preventing them from enjoying the blessings of fellowship with God and having His nature exhibited in them.
 - 2) God has always expressed a concern for mankind. He wanted people to inhabit the whole earth. His promise to Abram involved all peoples on earth. God himself said the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the water covers the sea.
 - 3) Jesus Christ is God's Son and the One through whom God deals decisively with the effects of sin on people. Through Christ alone sinful people may be reconciled to God, redeemed, adopted into God's family, saved, and become partakers in His holiness. It is not surprising therefore, that God mandated a worldwide proclamation of the Good News about Jesus Christ.
 - 4) While God is sovereign and can use even His enemies to accomplish His purposes, He intends His people to be the primary vehicle for carrying the Gospel to the world. The local church is God's missionary and must undertake to the best of its ability the responsibilities entailed in selecting, supporting, supervising, and evaluating missionaries, and in wisely using other human and monetary resources for evangelism.
 - 5) God's intention is that as many as possible be brought to faith in and obedience to Christ, and that they remain steadfast in their obedience and loyalty. While many means may be used both to evangelize and train, it is clear that the establishment and maturing of viable, scripturally sound churches is a God ordained means of keeping people faithful.
 - 6) Since evangelization is a God ordained work designed to deliver people from the kingdom of darkness in the kingdom of Christ, we wish to carry out this dimension of the work of the church with the mind of Christ, that the name of God may be glorified. This includes encouraging both individuals and sister congregations in their evangelistic efforts as well as our own evangelistic initiatives.

2. As a response to this Biblical understanding, we see our ultimate goal as that of converting people to Christ. This involves establishing congregations in receptive fields which will become self-supporting, self-governing, and self-propagating as soon as possible.

Receptive Fields: Areas where people are open to the gospel, or where there are people known to be responsive.

Self-supporting: Not requiring the use of outside funds to carry on worship, teaching, and evangelism.

Self-governing: Autonomous congregations with scripturally qualified elders, or leaders, who make prayerful decisions concerning worship, teaching, activities and discipline.

Self-propagating: Able and willing to convert people in their own communities, with growth coming through the efforts of the local Christians; reaching out in their own mission efforts to establish other congregations.

SELECTION, SUPPORT AND OVERSIGHT OF MISSIONARIES

1. Missionaries must have a passion and desire to actively engage in the work of this ministry. They must have a thorough, sound and working knowledge of God's word through formal or individual study. Support is subject to termination if the missionary's message or conduct is contrary to God's word.
2. Concentrating in select areas, Northside will provide support to a missionary or team of missionaries, and will monitor the mission work. This support may be provided for either full-time or part-time missionaries.
3. The missionary work of Northside will generally be planned and will include the provision of some or all the support for a particular missionary work. However, Northside may also assist in special projects, appeals for temporary or one-time assistance, or emergencies. However any special projects or appeals will be reviewed within the framework of ongoing work and other planned work so as to not detract from or diminish these efforts.
4. Northside will seek long-term involvement and avoid short period commitments, where possible.
5. Generally, the mission program will be funded out of a planned budget. An evaluation of how the support of a new missionary work will affect the budget must be made before

committing support. However, a special contribution may be taken with the approval of the elders.

6. Each congregation established by mission efforts will be encouraged to become scripturally organized and self-supporting as quickly as possible.
7. It is goal that local Christians be developed for leadership and ministry in all congregations receiving support. Assignments of any full-time or part-time missionaries will be considered temporary until such time that local Christians can effectively take over the work. Northside may support missionaries in the pursuit of Biblical training and schooling.
8. Local Christians will be encouraged to provide their own places of worship. In general, Northside will concentrate on supporting missionaries and supplying their needs rather than funding the purchase of land, buildings, and other facility related expenditures. Exceptions to this rule may be made if the need is great and economic conditions at the mission point are such that the members cannot logically be expected to meet this financial responsibility. Requests for this type of support must be approved by the elders.
9. Responsibilities of the Missionary
 - a. Anyone desiring support from Northside to participate in mission work will make their desire known to the deacon in charge of the mission program.
 - b. Missionaries seeking support must explain in detail the purpose and goals of the missionary work, and an estimate of how long it will take for the missionary to reach the goals. A detailed financial statement which discloses all support from other congregations and sources, and expenses, must also be provided. Support by Northside will be re-evaluated on a yearly basis.
 - c. Candidates for support will be thoroughly evaluated by the deacon in charge of the missionary program, and he will submit a recommendation to the elders for their review and approval.
 - d. Missionaries will be expected to visit Northside and report on the missionary work. The frequency of the visits will depend on various factors such as distance, cost of travel, etc.
 - e. The first day of each month, a report describing in detail the activities of the missionary and the status of the missionary work will be provided to Northside. The report will also identify any change (increase or decrease) in support, income, revenue or expenditures of the missionary. Any specific problems discovered in the monthly report will be reported to the elders for appropriate review and action.

- f. On January 1 of each year, a report will be provided to Northside which will include a summary of the work and other information including, but not limited to, the following:
 - 1) Worship attendance monthly averages
 - 2) Contribution monthly averages
 - 3) Number of baptisms
 - 4) Retention rate of those converted
 - 5) Number of Bible studies with non-Christians
 - 6) A general description of the activities conducted, such as preaching, teaching, community activities, home Bible studies, etc.
 - 7) Involvement of the local Christians in the work of the congregation
 - 8) Growth and maturity of the local Christians
 - 9) Make-up of the congregation by age, gender and leadership potential
 - 10) Progress toward the yearly goals and objectives of the missionary work, and goals and objectives for the next year
 - 11) A financial statement showing all support, income, revenue and expenditures of the missionary

- g. A signed Release of Liability will be submitted by every missionary receiving support from Northside (Appendix I).

- h. If the goals and objectives of the missionary work are not attained within a reasonable period of time as determined by the elders, support of the effort may be terminated.

10. Responsibilities of the Deacon

- a. Direct, supervise, and promote the missionary program.

- b. Propose an annual budget for the missionary work. In doing so, the Deacon will re-evaluate the level of support of each missionary work and make recommendations regarding changes to the elders.

- c. Evaluate each request for missionary support and make a recommendation to the elders. It should include a recommendation for the length of time for support and an exit strategy.

- d. Look for other missionary opportunities.

- e. Assist the elders in overseeing the supported works.
- f. Submit recommended yearly goals and objectives of each missionary work to be approved by the elders.
- g. Promote in-the-field visits to the missionaries.
- h. Re-evaluate, at least yearly, each missionary work and provide a report and recommendation to the elders.
- i. Recommend revisions to the mission policy for approval by the elders.
- j. Serve as liaison between the congregation and the missionaries so that the congregation is kept informed about the mission program, and good communication is maintained between the congregation and the ministry. Such activities may include:
 - 1) Ensuring reports from the missionaries are accessible to the members of Northside.
 - 2) Maintaining contact with the missionaries through phone calls, faxes, email, and letters, and by encouraging members of Northside to participate in these communications.
 - 3) Sending study materials and supplies as needed to the missionaries.
 - 4) Promoting benevolent activities related to the missionary work.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

1. Short Range

- a. Create a greater Northside member interest in missions.
- b. Strive to develop worthy opportunities which may necessitate an increase in the mission's budget each year, both in dollars and in percentage of the total church budget.
- c. Visiting our missionaries at least annually.

2. Long Range

- a. Stimulate interest and involvement in missions among the Northside members.
- b. Encourage our youth to be involved in missions and to become missionaries.
- c. Establish new congregations.
- d. Assist and encourage congregations being supported by Northside to become self-supporting and self-governing as soon as is practical and prudent. This will involve the development and implementation of an exit strategy.

Appendix I

R E L E A S E O F L I A B I L I T Y

Northside church of Christ
20222 N. 32nd Drive
Phoenix, Arizona 85027

TO: THE ELDERS

FROM _____ (Please Print Name)

I, the undersigned, agree to participate in the Mission Program to be conducted in:

I realize that risks to my health and safety may exist in this missionary work and agree to hold the Northside church of Christ and all its members harmless in respect to, but not limited to, injuries, accidents, sickness, disease, or acts or consequences which may affect my health, welfare and safety.

Signed: _____

Date: _____