

GLOBAL MISSIONS POLICY
of
GLOBAL MISSIONS COMMITTEE
GRACE FELLOWSHIP CHAPEL

This policy grows out of **GRACE FELLOWSHIP CHAPEL'S** Mission Statement:

*Grace Fellowship Chapel exists
to experience the transforming power of the gospel
and to welcome people of all nations
to join in the joyful celebration of Jesus Christ, our King.*

I. Introduction

A. Purpose of World Evangelism

The commission to disciple the nations (Matthew 28:19-20) begin at the local church level and reaches to the uttermost part of the earth. As Acts 1:8 says, Missions includes "... both Jerusalem [Long Island City] and Judea [Queens] and Samaria [New York Metro] and to the uttermost part of the earth." The Lord's commissioning orders to the Church make it imperative that we support a vigorous and balanced world-wide program of outreach. This includes the enlisting, training, mobilizing, and sending of the members of Grace Fellowship Chapel, and others as God leads, for local outreach as well as for career missionary service.

B. World Evangelism Defined

The obligation of world evangelism is found in Matthew 28:19-20, Mark 16:15, Luke 24:44-48, John 20:21, and Acts 13. World Evangelism primarily involves the efforts to evangelize, to disciple peoples of all nations and to plant and nurture indigenous churches among them. Secondly, World Evangelism includes those ministries that are supplementary to the above task.

This definition includes both what takes place in the evangelism ministry of our local church as well as those Career Missionary efforts that are beyond the limits and scope of our local church. While we make no distinction between the local outreach of Grace Fellowship Chapel and other Career Missionary efforts that extend beyond the church. However, Global Missions Committee (GMC) will focus on overseas ministry.

C. Missionary Defined

1. All believers as Missionaries

Technically, every Christian is a missionary, commissioned as part of Christ's church to make disciples of all nations with the intent of seeing them incorporated into a local church.

2. Career Missionaries

We are interested in partnering with career missionaries who are committed to our definition of World Evangelism. We recognize that there are diverse spiritual gifts, varied ministry opportunities, and *biblical* role distinctions in the work of World Evangelism. We will partner with mission agencies and career missionaries who demonstrate how their spiritual giftedness, their particular ministry opportunity, and their *biblical* role correlate to our understanding of World Evangelism.

II. Global Missions Committee Structure

1. Membership

- The GMC shall be composed of members of Grace Fellowship Chapel¹.
- The Chairman of the GMC will be appointed by ELT for a two-year term, repeatable up to three times of six years.
- The Chairman of the GMC will enlist GMC members from the congregation and present their names to ELT for approval.
- Members of GMC serve a two-year term, repeatable up to three times at the discretion of the GMC chairman.

2. Main Responsibilities of the Committee

- The GMC is to assist the Executive Leadership Team (ELT) in whatever way the ELT deem necessary for the initiation, implementation, and administration of a world missions strategy. The main activities of GMC are:

Directing Missions Education and Awareness

Mobilizing Prayer For Missions

Administering Missions Finances

Promote Career and Short Term Missionary Development

4. Committee Meetings

- The Committee shall meet monthly.

5. Regular Sub-Committees

The Chairman of GMC will annually appoint GMC members to committee assignments. Those Committees may be any one or a combination of the following:

- World Evangelism Conferences - Organizes and carries out conferences.
- Evaluation/Support Request - Evaluates missionaries and mission agencies, current and prospective.
Short Term Missions Committee - Encourages, identifies, recommends and guides our people for short term missionary service.
- Education - Interacts with the Christian Education Department to include missionary World Evangelism emphasis in Sunday School and Youth Programs.
- Prayer - Coordinates continual prayer concern among the congregation.

6. Accountability

The GMC operates as a direct extension of the ELT. Decisions regarding finances or personnel are made as recommendations to the ELT for their approval. The committee may not, in and of itself, commit the church to any program, policy or obligation apart from that provided by the annual budget, and approved by ELT. The ELT are responsible for approving both long and short range goals for the GMC - goals that are measurable and that involve a step of faith. The ELT are responsible to evaluate the program. The ELT receive recommendations of missionaries from the GMC for support and removal, as well as other expenditures from the World Evangelism budget. The ELT are responsible to approve a missions budget prepared by the GMC.

III. First Core Activity: EDUCATION and AWARENESS

- The GMC is responsible for Global Missions education in the church. They are to oversee a thorough and consistent Global Missions education for all age groups. They are to see to the development and implementation of other ways and means of education in Global Missions such as:
 - World Evangelism conferences such as InterVarsity's Urbana
 - World Evangelism retreats
 - World Evangelism emphasis times
 - "know your career missionaries" slide presentation
 - bulletin inserts
 - Unreached peoples surveys and maps
 - capsule biographies of missionaries of Grace Fellowship Chapel
 - World Evangelism library
 - World Evangelism bulletin board and display centers
 - World Evangelism map
 - World Evangelism Adult Sunday school
 - special speakers and films

IV. Second core activity: MOBILIZING PRAYER

- The GMC is responsible for developing prayer concern for World Evangelism in the church.
- This can be accomplished through special prayer meetings, congregational prayer, prayer in mini-churches, or prayer through Operation World.

V. Third core activity: FINANCES

- Those who support the ministry of Grace Fellowship Chapel are encouraged to place their tithes in the regular church offering. A portion of these offerings is used for supporting GMC programs *apart* from direct financial support of career and short-term missionaries (STM). Examples of GMC expenditures supported from the general GFC budget include:
 - Honoraria for missionary speakers at conferences and their expenses. At the discretion of the Pastor, an offering may be taken in place of an honorarium.
 - Funding for special missionary projects proposed in the conferences format or throughout the year.
 - Purchasing of material for educational purposes (books, video, tapes)
 - A budget is to be submitted annually by December 1st to the Finance Committee.
 - Career missionary and STM financing are discussed in the next sections.

VI. Fourth core activity: PROMOTE CAREER AND SHORT TERM MISSIONARY DEVELOPMENT

GMC will actively pursue and foster GFC members to consider their calling for career missions through all of GMC's activities.

A. Career Missionary Candidates

1. Qualifications of a Career Missionary Candidate

- The candidate shall be a member of Grace Fellowship Chapel (or a church of like faith and practice) at the time of his appointment for a period of no less than two years before becoming eligible. Exceptions may be considered by the Board of Elders.
- The candidate must be accepted by a Mission Agency approved by the Board of Elders.
- We believe the candidate is an extension of Grace Fellowship Chapel and must, in position and practice, support and personally adhere to the Doctrinal Statement of Grace Fellowship Chapel, and not hold to any other doctrines which are, in the opinion of the Board of Elders, inconsistent with these doctrines.

2. The Procedure for Acquiring Support

- The missionary is to receive from the church a copy of the Missionary Questionnaire, complete it and return it to the church, along with a cassette of a sermon recently preached. He is also to receive a copy of our Doctrinal Statement and of our World Evangelism Policy.
- Upon receipt and review of the questionnaire, GMC will contact the home church of the missionary and extensively inquire concerning the missionary's character, home, proven discipleship and leadership ability, and the nature of the relationship between the missionary, the sending church, and any mission agency that is involved.
- While the career missionary candidate is here at Grace Fellowship Chapel, the GMC will have opportunity to meet with him and his family, if available, and inquire about any areas of concern. Ideally, the church should also have a time with the missionary for questions and answers.
- Upon discussion with the GMC and a majority recommendation from them, the candidate will be presented to the Elders for their approval.

The following points should be considered in evaluating a career missionary:

- Adequacy of preparation, scholastic background, personal work, thoroughly grounded in the Word of God.
- Personality traits including evaluation of ability to get along and work with others.
- Candidate's personal testimony and Christian conduct.
- Questionnaire/Application forms may be used as a basis for evaluation. The GMC and the Board of Elders will seek the "mind of the Lord", in prayerful consideration of the applicant.

- Strategic concentration of career missionaries
 - Due to the obvious limitation of our financial resources, it is necessary for us to set our priorities among the fields of the world. Since our ultimate mission is to penetrate every people group of the world, our strategy must reflect Biblical stewardship and wise planning as a solution to the problem of world evangelism. Areas of the world can be categorized as follows (not listed by priority):
 - Unreached people groups - such as many tribal areas
 - Restricted people groups - such as communist and Muslim countries
 - Recession stage people groups - such as much of Western Europe
 - Recessive, but resurgent people groups - such as Eastern Europe and Russia

3. The Career Missionary's Support

a. Missionaries sent by our church and other churches

- A missionary sent out from this church will have priority in support. This priority will be reflected in the amount of financial support, as well as the care and supervision that are given to his ministry.
- We will endeavor to take on a minimum of 25% of the total support needed by missionaries from our church. We will support missionaries sent out by other churches as funds permit.
- GMC will appoint and oversee a liaison to the GMC for each missionary whom we send in order to keep the pastor, GMC, and Elders informed of the needs and progress of that ministry, both while on deputation and on the field.
- Each year the GMC will evaluate the financial status of the missionary and will recommend appropriate action to the church.
- Missionaries from our church shall be granted "Emeritus Status" upon their retirement. They may retire at any time having attained the age of 65. Their regular support shall continue for one year following their retirement.
- Periodically all missionaries sent out by this church will have an on-site evaluation of the work either by the pastor or his appointed representative.
- Support is promised for the entire continuous term that the missionary intends to be on the field, as long as there is no change in his doctrine or moral character, or a proven neglect of ministry on the field.
- During the time of furlough, the GMC will evaluate the continuation of support for career missionaries.

4. Requirements for Continued Support

- All missionaries are expected to communicate to the GMC at least on a quarterly basis. No newsletter to the church or to individuals within the church is to contain any request, financial or otherwise, that is contrary to our field policy.
- Periodically all missionaries will be asked to provide a statistical report concerning the nature of their ministry.
- All missionaries are expected to maintain their stated doctrinal convictions and an impeccable moral character.
- All missionaries are expected to diligently carry forth a self-motivated ministry.
- Failure in any of the above constitutes grounds for a careful reconsideration of support whether on the field or at home, as such a case may warrant.

5. Funds Shortage Policy

Should the Elders determine a need to reduce Global Missions budget expenditures, the GMC will contact the Treasurer, Finance Committee, and the Board of Elders to ascertain if other funds are available. At the discretion of the Elders, the congregation may be informed as to the amount of the budget deficit and urged to give and to pray. If funds on hand to meet monthly GMC commitments are insufficient, the following guidelines may apply at the Elders discretion to the mission portion of the Annual Budget:

- The Elders will not approve any new projects;
- Any discretionary amounts will be applied toward the shortage;
- Reduce support to other mission ministries;
- Discontinue support to mission ministries considered least essential;
- Discontinue support to all other mission ministries;
- Reduce the cost of developing, coordinating, and administering the GMC program;
- Reduce the support to active and retired workers.

The GMC will take into account any hardship situations and will develop a plan to allocate available funds. This will be approved by the Elders. Support that has been discontinued temporarily may be made up during the fiscal year as funds permit and will be done at the discretion of the Elders.

6. Faith Promise Pledge

GMC will financially support Career Missionaries through Faith Promise Pledges. Briefly, these are pledges between voluntary GFC members and God to give monthly or one time for the purpose of supporting GFC's career missionaries. It is expected that these pledges are above whatever he/she is already giving to GFC.

- GMC will annually organize a Faith Promise Pledge drive for the congregation.
- Pledges will be written, one copy given to the person and one to GMC for record keeping.
- Pledges will be collected through the offering box in envelopes marked for Faith Promise Pledge.
- We will initially not have a target goal of pledges, but instead collect whatever each person is led to pledge.
- Every year, by faith, GMC will seek to increase the sum of pledges.
- Any checks or cash marked for FPP, will be counted and recorded by the deacons counting offering and deposited in GFC's account.
- We will disburse all pledge money collected for career missionaries.
- Dispersal of checks for missionary support will be every other month

B. Short Term World Evangelism

1. Initiating Short-Term and Summer Work Possibilities.

The GMC will encourage members to consider summer or short-term missions service with GFC sponsored missions or through approved agencies. Help and counsel will be given applicants to then get in touch with approved agencies. Families and retirees seeking to serve the Lord on the field in service functions will also be encouraged to participate in such programs.

2. Choosing Short-Term projects.

GMC will organize short term missions for GFC members usually in the summer. The priority for choosing missions will be to work with our career missionaries. Projects shall supply at least the following benefits: exposure first-hand to another way of life, opportunity to minister cross-culturally, time and opportunity to confirm one's call to such a ministry, the revealing of any weak or deficient area in one's preparation, and the revealing of one's effectiveness away from the "warm" confines of GFC.

3. Selecting Short-Term Candidates for financial support

All applicants must fulfill qualifications for short-term or summer service as stated below and receive approval from the GMC and confirmation from the Board of Elders.

The following qualifications and procedures apply to short-term missionaries:

- One sent out for a term of service of not more than two years is the definition of a short-term missionary.
- Only members of Grace Fellowship Chapel for at least one year will be considered. Exceptions must be approved by GMC.
- One currently involved in a faithful ministry of GFC.
- Not a new believer, but one showing evidence of maturity, ongoing spiritual growth, a genuine Christian walk, and a love for others.
- One in agreement with the doctrinal position of GFC.
- One that is at least 16 years of age.
- One that has obtained parental approval if a minor, though the feelings of the parents are weighed in all cases where appropriate.
- One who is being sponsored by a mission agency, organization, local church, or GFC itself.
- One who understands that he will be encouraged to raise or supply at least part of the funds necessary for his mission project.
- Be able to give a presentation to GFC about the mission trip, motivation for going, and any prayer requests.
- Be able to give a presentation to GFC about the missions experience about 2 weeks upon return from trip.
- Normally, the candidate must complete and return the short-term missionary application no later than two months prior to departure for the field.
- Have a preliminary interview with the candidate, including in the meeting anyone outside the GMC who might also be appropriate to the discussion.
- Following that or any subsequent meeting, information of the personal interview and a recommendation on the candidate will be given to the full Elder board.
- A candidate must have the approval of the GMC and confirmation of the Elder board.
- The GMC stands available to assist the approved candidate in any way possible prior to his departure for the field.

4. Financial support for STM

- For GFC sponsored short term missions trip:
 - If there is a GFC short term missions trip, we may budget a percentage of the total. The team will do special fund raising with the help of GMC. There will be a special offering.

- For individuals not going on a GFC mission:
 - After the presentation to the congregation we will ask GFC to give special offering the following Sunday. They will put offering (check made out to GFC) in an envelope at designate that it will go towards that specific short term missions. The next week we will write a check for that person.

 - The missionary will not give out a support letter stating financial need church-wide, but may give letters to individuals (family, friends) of GFC. A prayer letter is always appropriate to give church wide. The missionary may also do fund raisers in GFC with prior approval from GMC.