

Melfort Evangelical Covenant Church
Missions Policy



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Melfort Evangelical Covenant Church Missions Policy

VISION STATEMENT

The vision of the MECC Missions Committee is that people will know Jesus Christ and make Him known in our community and to the ends of the earth.

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the MECC Missions Committee is to encourage, educate and equip the followers of Jesus Christ at Melfort Evangelical Covenant Church and our mission partners to passionately obey the great commission to go and make disciples of all nations.

CORE VALUES

We value PRAYER

It is essential that we seek God first before doing anything else. We believe that prayer changes things; changes lives; and demonstrates our full dependency upon God. Prayer aligns our will with God's will. (1 John 5:14&15, 2 Chron. 7:14, Eph 6:18)

We value the WORD OF GOD

Our lives must be rooted in scripture and it is the sole authority in directing our steps. (Joshua 1:8, 1 Thess. 2:13)

We value the SACRIFICIAL LOVE OF GOD

God's sacrificial love stepped into (His-story) history to change our story. We desire to be a people who will also love sacrificially and be a part of God's work in transforming others' stories. (Phil. 2:3-11, Mark 10:45)

We value DISCIPLESHIP

Making disciples is the responsibility of each person who has been redeemed by the blood of Christ. Jesus' last commandment to His followers was to "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations"(Matt 28:19). The aim of discipleship is nothing less than the complete transformation of the believers heart, mind, affections, will, relationships and purpose. This is done through the Word of God, the Spirit of God and the people of God. (2 Tim. 2:2)

CORE METHODS

Pray - Colossians 4:2 "Continue steadfastly in prayer."

Go - James 2:14 - 26 Faith requires action.

Serve - Mark 9:35 "If anyone would be first, he must be last of all and servant of all".

Disciple - Matthew 4:19 "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men."

I. MISSIONS COMMITTEE

A. Overall Responsibilities

1. To set measurable long and short term goals by which the missions program can be evaluated

Review the goals annually as to achievement and practicality

2. To care for missionaries on the field

It is the responsibility of the Missions Committee to take the lead role in communicating and caring for Missionaries who are supported by MECC. Communication and care may be accomplished through:

- a. Annually (in January) sending our Lead Pastors AGM report to them
- b. Maintain regular contact with them through notes, emails or texts (at least twice a year)
- b. Encouraging church groups and individuals to meet practical needs
- c. Encourage our supported missionaries to send MECC their regular prayer and missionary updates and letters
- d. Encourage people travelling near missionaries supported by MECC to visit them

3. To care for missionaries who are supported by MECC who are on furlough or visiting MECC

4. To inspire, involve and educate the congregation in missions

This task can be accomplished through the following:

- a. Missionary Conferences or Mini conferences or Mission Focused Sundays
- b. Bulletin inserts
- c. Bulletin Board
- d. Missionary Books
- e. Promote missions education within Christian Education Program
- f. Congregational missions projects

5. To increase the congregations awareness of the missionaries supported by MECC and promote intercessory prayer for them

6. To maintain regular monthly meetings (except in summer months) for the purpose of prayer for missions and committee business

7. To identify, encourage, counsel, disciple and commend members and adherents of MECC for missionary service. The committee will:

- a. Promote missions education
 - b. Provide literature and other media that informs about and motivates for, missionary service throughout the world
 - c. Encourages involvement of young people and adults in short-term and other missions activities
8. To recommend missionaries, agencies, special projects and ministries to the congregation for support
 9. To prepare and administer the missions budget section of the general budget
 10. To yearly evaluate missions efforts supported by the Church and recommend for continued, increased/decreased, or removal from support
 11. To evaluate and update the Church's Mission Policy

B. Structure:

1. The committee will consist of 4 regular attendees of MECC and the pastor or an elder
2. Sub-committees are established as needed for specific tasks/projects
3. The chair person is appointed from within the missions committee with approval of the elders board. This is done on a biannual basis in September
4. Secretary position is appointed from within the committee. This is done on a biannual basis in September

C. Term of Office:

1. Shall serve a 4 year term
2. Elder/Pastoral representative on the Missions committee will be determined by the Leadership team annually

D. Selection of Members

In prayerful consideration by the missions committee and elders, those who have a sincere interest in missions will be asked to be on the committee

E. Qualifications of a Missions Committee Member

1. A sincere interest in missions and the ministry of the church and a lifestyle confirming to biblical principles
2. A heart to serve and willingness to carry out assignments on the committee and to become familiar with the Missions Policy
3. Regular attendee of Melfort Evangelical Covenant Church
4. Willingness to commit to praying regularly for each of our missionaries in their own prayer time

II. MISSIONARY & MISSION AGENCY CRITERIA & EVALUATION

A. Doctrinal requirements

Missionaries supported by and Missions Agencies working with MECC shall be in agreement with the Covenant Affirmations and be theologically inline with MECC's adherence to the Word of God

B. Criteria for Missions Agencies

1. Independent Missionaries:

In the light of the fact that missionaries are more effective under an established sending agency, it will be the general practice of the Missions Committee and our church to not support missionaries who are independent of such affiliation and direction. Independent missionaries will be given consideration only under special circumstances

2. Special Criteria for Missions Agencies:

It is the policy of this committee to only support missionaries that serve under agencies meeting the following criteria:

- a. The Missions agency shall be a member of Missio Nexus (www.missionexus.org). Agencies that are not a member of this association will be given consideration only under special circumstances. Such an agency would then be evaluated individually as to their integrity and stability, principles and practices of operation, management and benefit to the missionary. Such evaluations will be based on materials from the agency, it's reputation among other missions agencies and reports by those working with that agency
- b. The Mission agency shall be a member of the Evangelical Council of Financial Accountability (www.ecfa.org) or the Canadian Council of Christian Charities (www.cccc.org) or similar association. Agencies that are not a member of such an association shall provide the Missions Committee with a yearly audit report prepared by some independent accounting agency

C. Criteria for Missionary Partnerships

All Candidates must meet the following qualifications:

1. Demonstrate a consistent and strong Christian life
2. Be an active adherent of this church or other church of like faith and practice
3. Demonstrate a thorough knowledge of the scriptures
4. Faithful in serving the body of Christ in which they belong through the use of their spiritual gifts

D. Procedure of Selecting New Long-term Missionary Partners

1. Each missionary seeking a partnership with MECC will submit an application for support to the Missions Committee. A MECC member may submit a recent prayer letter and an application (to the best of their ability) on behalf of a missionary. This applies only when the missionaries Missions Agency policy is clear that they may not pursue financial partners in ministry.
2. A copy of the application will be distributed to each member of the Missions committee two weeks prior to the next Missions meeting.
3. Prayer over and discussion of the viability of a partnership will occur at the Missions meeting.
4. If the committee decides to consider the applicant more seriously the chairman will contact the candidate and arrange a personal interview with the committee.
5. Following the personal interview, the missions committee will prayerfully consider the partnership until the next Missions meeting. Where in, they will decide if they are all in agreement to a partnership and decide on a suggested amount of support. The amount will be based on size of family, the amount of support needed and the missionaries connection with MECC.
6. The Missions Committee will then recommend the candidate to the Elders along with the amount of suggested support. The Elders may then veto, accept or modify the recommendation.
7. If approved, a report on recommendation prepared by the Missions Committee and approved by the Elders shall be sent to the church members at least two weeks prior to a business meeting.
8. A candidate will be approved for support upon receiving a positive majority vote from the members. A designated representative from the Missions committee shall be present to answer any questions at the meeting.
9. If the Missions Committee considers a candidate and does not recommend church support for the candidate, the leadership representative on the committee shall inform the Elders of this action along with the reasons for not recommending the candidate. The Elders would inform the congregation as they believe is appropriate.
10. If at any point in the process in which it is decided that MECC will not partner with the applicant, it will be the responsibility of the chairman of the Missions Committee to contact the applicant and inform them of this.

E. Procedure for Selecting Short-term Missions Service Partners

1. The applicant will fill out the application (MECC Funding Application for Short-Term Missions Service) and attach a prayer letter if they have one. They will submit the application to any of the Missions Committee members at least 60 days before their Missions service begins.

2. In order to receive funds, the individual must attend MECC, have exemplary Christian character and be committed to missions as demonstrated through church involvement. The Mission Agency will also be evaluated.
3. The amount of funds allocated per applicant will be based on the individuals need and the length of the missions experience.
4. Approval of applications will be decided by the Missions Committee at the next missions committee meeting and the information will be emailed within the next week to be affirmed by the Elders of MECC. Following approval, the applicant will be contacted by the Missions Committee before their mission experience begins.
5. The applicant may be asked to share with the church family about their experience prior to departure. This is for spiritual encouragement and enveloping prayer through their service. At the conclusion of the applicants service, it will be expected that they will prepare a short report for the Missions Committee or share on a Sunday morning about their short-term mission experience.

III. FINANCIAL POLICIES

A. Missions Budget

The Missions Committee will annually prepare the Missions Budget Recommendations based upon past budgets and future opportunities. The Missions Budget recommendations will be submitted to the Elders in the beginning of December for their approval before being submitted for congregational approval at the Annual Business Meeting.

B. Missionary Furloughs

A furlough is generally understood to be a leave of absence from field duties after a designated time of field service has been completed. The Missions committee recognizes such furlough designated by the sending agency and may continue support throughout it's duration.

The Missions Committee also recognizes the need for some missionaries to take a study leave. A study leave is defined as a leave of absence from field duties for the purpose of additional study in preparation for future work. The church may continue to support missionaries on study leave up to one year. Study leaves of longer duration will be considered on an individual basis.

C. Missionary Retirement

Retirement planning is the responsibility of the missionary in conjunction with their sending mission agency under which the missionary has served. Support for a retiring missionary will end when the sending agency designates them as retired.

Upon retirement of a long standing missionary who is a member or adherent of MECC, it may be deemed necessary that further support into retirement may be required. This will be reviewed on an individual basis.

D. When Support Begins

Support will begin when the missionary leaves for the field, or earlier, as determined by the Missions Committee.

E. When Support Ends

Support may be terminated for causes such as failure to maintain the standard used to qualify for support (see Section II), moral problems, a change of assignment or agency affiliation.

For Missionaries in good standing, support will cease at the end of an adjustment period of up to six months. This will allow a returning missionary adequate time to make adjustments and find other employment. For missionaries who are not in good standing, support will cease upon a date designated by the Missions Committee and Elders of MECC.

Support will cease at the beginning date of a leave of absence if other than a furlough or study leave. Support for retiring missionaries will end when the sending agency designates them as retired.

F. Evaluation and Revision of Support

Missionaries and Missions Agencies will be evaluated every five years. It is desired that as funds are available a minimum of a cost of living adjustment be given to all missionaries.

G. Missionaries Lacking Adequate Support

If a Missionary supported by MECC lacks adequate support, the Missions Committee will:

1. Alert the congregation to pray for this need
2. Evaluate the possibility of increasing regular support or give a one-time extra gift.

H. Honorariums

Missionary speakers will be paid an honorarium from the missions budget and/or a special offering will be collected from the congregation. The amount of the honorarium will be \$150.00 plus mileage for out of town speakers or amount deemed appropriate by the missions committee. The missionary may not appeal to the congregation for funds unless given specific permission from the Missions Committee.

I. Special Projects and Needs

The Missions Committee may from time to time present special projects or needs, above the budget, to the church and encourage giving to them. This will be for the benefit of the project or need and as a means of missions education. Such special projects or needs will be submitted to the Elders for approval prior to approaching the congregation.

J. Discretionary/Emergency Fund (Missions-Other)

A portion of the annual missions budget shall be designated for discretionary and emergency purposes. Honorariums, missions education material and one time needs for missionaries or projects will come out of this Budget Line.