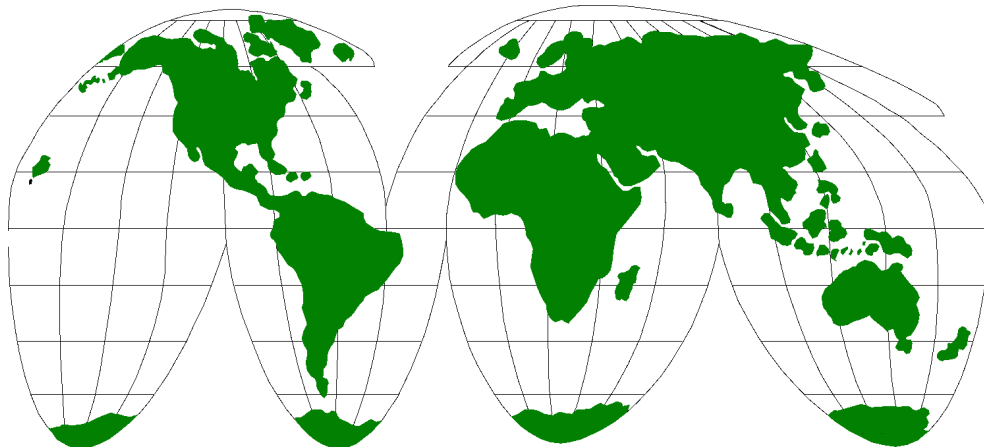


# **MISSIONS PROGRAM**

## **POLICIES AND ORGANIZATION**



**(Revised Oct. 2006) by Ben Fong, Jacob Poon, Galen Jee)**

**APPROVED REVISION:** July 1999

**SUPERSEDES:** Missions & Support Policy August 1991

**CHINESE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**  
**11636 LOWER AZUSA ROAD**  
**EL MONTE CALIFORNIA 91732**  
**626 401-3305**

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## **I. THE PURPOSE, FLEXIBILITY, AND REVISION OF POLICY**

The operating procedures and this policy established in this document provide a philosophy of missions for the Elders and, if necessary, the Missions Committee and its sub-committees to meet the vision and goal of this aspect of church ministry. This document is also intended to inform members of the church, board members, pastoral staff, missionaries, and missions agencies of the philosophy and principles by which the Elders and, if necessary, the Missions Committee of Chinese Congregational Church will make decisions and administer the missions program of the church.

### **A. Purpose of this document**

1. To establish and maintain a clear sense of direction based upon the mission of the church and the vision of the ministry.
2. To avoid making important decisions based on an emotional or subjective basis.
3. To insure better stewardship of human and financial resources.
4. To encourage continuity and consistency with leadership/committee membership changes and to inform and educate the congregation.
5. To develop a loving, mutually accountable, inter-connectedness in our missions program.
6. To work in harmony and consistency with the church leadership.

### **B. Flexibility of this document**

The Missions Policy is to be followed. Therefore, counsel must be sought when an issue arises that is contrary to policy. Exceptions can be considered at any time, but must be approved by mutual agreement of the Mission Committee members followed by a report to the Elders.

## **C. Revision of this document**

This policy may be reviewed as often as needed and requires a thorough review every third year, beginning in 1999 by the Elders and or the Missions Committee. The review proposal will be prepared by the Elders and or the Missions Committee and will be approved by the Elders.

## **II. THE VISION**

### **A. Introduction**

#### **GOD**

The picture of God through the revelation of the Bible is of an infinitely wise and sovereign God. God is self-sufficient and all sufficient, because of His limitless power and knowledge. Therefore, He does not need nor derive His glory from creation, but only manifests His own glory in, by, to, and upon it. ([Dan 4:25,35](#), [Romans 11:36](#), [Revelation 4:11](#)) God's ultimate endeavor is motivated by the desire to display the fullness of His glory.

God does everything from all eternity including creation and redemption for his own glory. ([Proverbs 16:4](#) [John 17:1-5](#), [John 17:22-24](#), [Romans 11:36](#), [Philippians 2:5-11](#)) The chief end of man is to glorify God and enjoy him forever. ([Psalm 16:5-11](#), [Psalm 86](#), [Psalm 144:15](#), [Isaiah 12:2](#), [Isaiah 60:21](#), [Luke 2:10](#), [Romans 11:36](#), [1 Corinthians 6:20](#), [Philippians 4:4](#), [Revelation 4:11](#), [Revelation 21:3-4](#)) We cannot add to God's glory. We can only reflect its value by enjoying, adoring, praising, worshipping, obeying, and being so satisfied that our sufficiency is in God alone.

#### **MAN**

The vision of God in Scripture is of a majestic and Sovereign God who does all things for the sake of his own glory. And the view of man in Scripture is that, although initially created to be perfect and sinless, Adam and Eve sinned in the Garden of Eden: "The Fall". Now since the Fall, all men and women suppress the truth of who God is and by nature find more joy in their own glory than they do in God's.

Through "The Fall", man by nature is dead and cannot glorify God. All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God ([Romans 3:23](#)). In our wickedness we suppress the truth that God is our Sovereign and worthy of all our allegiance, affection, and worship. By nature we exchange the glory of an immortal God for dim images of mortal creation ([Romans 1:18,23](#)). The nations "are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart." ([Ephesians 4:18](#)) By nature we were all once dead in trespasses and sins following the Deceiver and Destroyer, Satan, and therefore children of wrath ([Ephesians 2:1-3](#)). Our end, apart from Jesus Christ, is "eternal punishment" ([Matt. 25:46](#)), "exclusion from the presence of the Lord's glory" ([2 Thess. 1:9](#)), and endless torments in "the second death which is the lake of fire" ([Rev. 14:11; 20:10; 21:8](#)).

The consequences of hell are intended by God to be a vivid demonstration of the infinite value of the glory of God. The Biblical portrait of God's justice is the clearest testimony to the infiniteness of our sin of failing to glorify and worship a God, who is worthy to be glorified and worshiped. All of us have sinned. All of mankind has sinned. The penalty for our sin is an eternity in hell. The penalty is an infinite penalty because the offense of our sin is against an infinite being. Therefore the weight of infinite guilt rests on every human head because of our failure to love and glorify God more than we love to glorify ourselves in our own self-sufficiency.

## **WORLD MISSIONS**

World Missions is God's method for calling out of "every nation, and all tribes, and peoples and tongues" a chosen people for the praise of the glory of His grace. "Christ became a servant to the circumcised...in order that the nations might glorify God for his mercy." (Romans 15:8-9) Therefore, the end and goal of World Missions is that the nations might glorify God for his mercy.

God will complete World Missions and "...the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory the Lord, as the waters cover the sea" ([Habakkuk 2:14](#)). The certainty of this hope is the power of God to see to it that His people will give heed to the word of His missionaries. Jesus described the missionary task remaining like this: "I have other sheep that are not of this fold; I must bring them also and they will heed My voice" ([John 10:16](#)). The success of their ingathering is certain. He said that the reason some don't believe in the proclamation of the gospel is that they are not His sheep. "But My sheep hear My voice and I know them and they follow Me" ([John 10:26-27; cf. 8:47; 18:37](#)). So the remaining missionary task as Jesus conceived it was "to gather into one the children of God who are scattered abroad" ([John 11:52](#)).

"...And how shall they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach unless they are sent? Just as it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring glad tidings of good things!" ([Romans 10:10-15](#)) In the sovereignty of our Lord, He has called us, His people, to continue in His task in going forth and proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ. ([Psalm 96:1-3; Isaiah 49:6; Matthew 28:19-20; Mark 13:10; Mark 16:15; Luke 24:46-48; John 20:21-22; Acts 1:8](#)) If the Book of Acts teaches anything, it teaches that God's will is to reach the end of the earth through us. Until Christians who are His missionaries, carry the message of Christ crucified and risen for the forgiveness of sins to His people, they will remain in darkness and rebellion ([Acts 26:18](#)). We are an important link in the chain of redemption through the sovereignty of our Lord.

We are not alone in this endeavor. In His sovereignty, our Lord has promised the gift of the Holy Spirit to indwell and empower His people to bear witness to the ends of the earth. ([Acts 1:8](#); [Acts 8:29,39](#); [Acts 9:17,31](#); [Acts 10:19-20](#); [Acts 11:12](#); [Acts 13:4](#); [Acts 16:6-9](#); [Acts 19:21](#) ) Jesus said, "...you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you and you shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the end of the earth." ([Acts 1:8](#))

The assured success of the cause of World Missions rests on the great realities of our Lord's sovereignty and in the preaching of the gospel through the sovereignty of His grace. Therefore, our missionary theology, vision, and strategy begin and end in the sovereignty of God. It is His Will for His people to be used and empowered for missions. It is His Will that the work of missions will bring about the ingathering of all His people. It is His Will that one day there will be "a great multitude which no man can number, from every nation, and all tribes, and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb...crying with a loud voice, `Salvation belongs to our God who sits upon the throne, and to the Lamb!'" ([Rev. 7:9-10](#)). It is His Will that the delight, praise, love, and worship of all His people will fill all of heaven and earth and they will sing to the praise of His glory. Then God's Will in creation and redemption will be accomplished.

## **B. Definition of Missions**

1. God's plan and purpose is to glorify Himself through the proclamation of the excellencies of Christ and the spreading of joy in Christ through the Gospel. As God's people are going about, they have the privilege of making disciples of all nations, baptizing them and teaching them to observe all that Jesus has commanded. These disciples are saved into a local church to be equipped to do the work of ministry for the building up of the local church to God's glory.



2. We have grouped the missions field into broad categories, so that priorities can be established. There are two broad categories with many sub-categories.

a. National Ministries

- i. North American Church Extension/Church Planting Ministries
- ii. Cultural Ministries in North America (i.e. Chinese refugees, recent Chinese immigrants, etc.)
- iii. Inter-cultural Ministries in North America (i.e. American Indians, cross-cultural refugees, cross-cultural new immigrants, etc.)
- iv. Campus or Student Ministries
- v. Sub-cultural Ministries (Inner-city Ministries, Prison Ministries, Street Ministries, etc.)
- vi. Home Office Personnel (North American Ministries)
- vii. Life on life - loving our neighbors as ourselves Ministry

b. Foreign (International) Ministries

- i. Building up the local church through evangelism and discipleship among people groups with little or no exposure to the Gospel and no established evangelical church capable of providing ministry
- ii. Building up the local church through evangelism and discipleship among people groups with exposure to the Gospel and where an established evangelical church is providing ministry
- iii. Bible translation
- iv. Nurture/Teaching/Training Ministries for existing local churches (Bible Colleges, seminaries, , conferences, etc.)
- v. Support of National Christian missionaries

- vi. Support Service Ministries (administration, medical, aviation, technical, relief, and development, TESL, “Tentmaking” Ministry, etc.)
- vii. Ministry to North Americans overseas
- viii. Home Office Personnel (Foreign Ministries)

### **C. Vision of Missions**

We are confident of God’s goal through missions. God’s goal of missions is to bring glory to Himself by gathering His people from every nation, and all tribes, and peoples and tongues so that they too might see how merciful, gracious and glorious our Lord is. (Psalm 50:15, Psalm 96:1-3, Isaiah 12:4, Isaiah 66:19, Isaiah 49:6, Matt 5:16, John 15:8, Acts 15:14, Romans 1:5, Romans 9:17, Romans 15:9-12, Ephesians 1:11-12) We participate in this by being faithful and true to the Word of God and the Gospel of Christ. So then, one way to state this is that Christians exist to savor and shine the excellencies of Christ striving together for the progress of the Gospel in all peoples. We are certain that missions will succeed because our God who is sovereign and is committed to His own glory is certain of its success. (Job 42:2, Isaiah 48:9-11, Matthew 16:18-19, Matthew 24:14, Matthew 28:18-20, Revelation 5:9)

## **III. STRUCTURE**

### **A. Selection of Missions Committee Members**

1. Leadership and direction of missions for Chinese Congregational Church falls under the purview and responsibility of the Elders. If the Elders deem it good and necessary for the church, a mission committee will be selected and appointed by the Elders.

2. The manner of the selection of the members is determined by appointment by the Elders of Chinese Congregational Church. The Missions Committee will consist of at least three (3) individuals one of whom must be an elder.
3. In the event that a Committee member must resign his/her position before the term is completed, a replacement will be recommended by the standing Missions Committee and appointed by the Elders to complete that term. The replacement member will be eligible for a full term at the end of completing the resigned member's term.

## **B. Criteria for Missions Committee Members**

Missions Committee candidates must be vitally involved members in good standing of Chinese Congregational Church (cf. CCC Membership Covenant) and must additionally demonstrate the following:

1. Commitment to the mission of the church and the vision for missions as set forth in this document..
2. A joyful willingness to submit themselves to the direction, input, and leadership of the Elders, as unto the Lord

## **IV. STRATEGY**

### **A. Priorities**

1. We recognize that World Missions is properly the missions' field in proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ to every tribe, tongue, and nation. However, we currently see both national and international

(foreign) missions as important to the overarching mission goals of the church and the vision of the ministry.

2. We recognize that the call to missions carries with it a high personal responsibility and a high financial responsibility. Although the church would wish to provide any and all necessary help to all missionaries and candidates, the Elders and or the missions committee recognizes that with limited resources it can only provide help to some missionaries and candidates. While Chinese Congregational Church wishes to have a large missionary family, very few are supported at a level in which mutual accountability and inter-connectedness can flourish. The Elder's and or the Mission Committee's priority is to cultivate and develop missionaries from within the church. Priority is given to missionaries and candidates who are already members of Chinese Congregational Church's family. Non-members who are sponsored by a member of Chinese Congregational Church may be good candidates as well if their ministry is a good fit to the mission goals of the church and vision of the ministry.

## **B. Selection of Missionaries and Candidates (listed in order of priority)**

1. **The Relationship to our Lord, Jesus Christ** – The Elders agreed that the most paramount priority in the qualification of recommendation of a missionary candidate is the determination, to the best of the Elders' ability, of the relationship of the missionary candidate(s) to Christ. In addition, the Elders agreed that a missionary candidate must be confirmed to show evidence of spiritual maturity and be of irreproachable character. The following would be the guidelines of essential characteristics of a candidate whether they are a member of CCC or not.
  - a. Essentials

- i. Has a vital growing relationship to the Lord Jesus
- ii. Is Biblically faithful in their life and their teaching
  - 1. Soteriologically
    - a. priority of consideration given to Gospel impacting theology
    - b. able to clearly communicate the Gospel
    - c. able to apply the Gospel to everyday life
  - 2. Theologically
    - a. Will demonstrate in life and teaching full agreement with the elders in the non-negotiable, primary doctrines of the faith
    - b. Will demonstrate in life and teaching agreement or a direction toward, or a sound biblical reason for a contrary position regarding non-primary doctrines of the faith
  - 3. Ecclesiologically
    - a. In things pertaining to the Church there will be full agreement with the primacy and priority of the local church and the building up of God's local church in missions and ministry.
- iii. Lives a life worthy to be followed as they follow Christ
- iv. Has financial integrity
  - 1. Is Accountable
  - 2. Is Honest and truthful
  - 3. Is not greedy or a lover of money/sordid gain
- v. Has a God-honoring family life
- vi. Has been affirmed that God has directed and gifted them to be on the mission field.

**2. The Relationship to CCC** - The Elders agreed that a priority would be given to committed members of our local church. This priority was established to cultivate missionaries and to provide support for missionaries within our local church. Therefore,

missionary candidates will be prioritized for support according to the following criteria:

- i. Active and attending member of our local church for three years or more
- ii. Active and attending member of our local church for less than three years
- iii. Non-members endorsed by an active and attending member of our local church

Non-members who are endorsed by an active and attending member of our local church must be in agreement with Chinese Congregational Church's Statement of Faith.

3. **Exposure to the Gospel and access to the Bible** – The Elders recognize three (3) levels of exposure and access and will prioritize support according to the following (listed from highest priority down):

1. A people group with little or no exposure to the Gospel, access to the Bible, and no established evangelical church capable of providing ministry.
2. A people group with limited exposure to the Gospel, access to the Bible, and few established evangelical churches capable of providing ministry.
3. A people group with a substantial exposure to the Gospel, access to the Bible, and established evangelical churches capable of providing ministry.

4. **Type of Ministry** – The Elders agreed that a priority would be given to missionaries whose personal ministry involvement is to build up the local church through evangelism and discipleship

(Eph 4). . Priority would be given to missionaries whose personal ministry involvement is as follows:

- i. Building up the local church through evangelism and discipleship
- ii. Training, education, and nurture of indigenous believers in evangelism, church planting, and discipleship.
- iii. Service and support ministries including administration, medical, technical, education, social, relief, development, TESL, “Tent Making” ministry, etc. in so far as it is reasonably connected with building up the local church.

**5. Training and Preparation** – The Elders agreed that a priority would be given to missionaries who are or will be adequately prepared for their ministry task. This should be evidenced in their godly character, wisdom and skill in communication (e.g. foreign language studies), faithfulness in disciple-making. All candidates being considered under this category are qualified pending completion of their education or training.

**6. Missionary Agency or Institution** – The Elders agreed that a priority would be given to missionaries who are supported by a missionary agency or institution that has a doctrinal position, organizational structure, financial accountability, and a policy of administration that can be endorsed by Chinese Congregational Church. Priority is also given to a missionary agency or institution that is associated with the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability (ECFA). Priority may be also given to certain missionary agencies or institutions at a later date.

## **C. Procedure for Approval of Support**

1. All requests for support will first be directed to the Elders and or the Missions Committee. Only members of Chinese Congregational Church may inquire about support or inquire about sponsorship of a non-member or agency. The Elders and or the Missions Committee will inform the members of Chinese Congregational Church's ministry vision, priorities, policies, responsibilities, expectations, and procedures in regard to Missions. It is the responsibility of the sponsoring member to investigate, gather information about a missionary candidate or agency, and provide first hand accounts of the missionary candidate's or agency's ministry.
2. The member must make a formal request, preferably in writing, to Chinese Congregational Church directed to the Elders and or the Missions Committee. The applicant will fill out our Missions Support Application and turn it into the Elders and or the Missions Committee. Additional information regarding the missionary candidate or agency will be reviewed.
3. The Elders and or the Missions Committee will schedule a preliminary interview with the member to assess the candidacy of the applicant based upon the criteria in Section IVb
4. A recommendation will be made by the representative elder and or Missions Committee to the full elder team. If the elders have further questions, the representative elder and or the Missions Committee will follow up with the candidate. The Elders will make the final determination whether the candidate is approved for support.



5. Upon determination that the missionary or candidate is approved by the Elders, then a members meeting will be scheduled and announced.
6. During the members meeting the elders will inform the congregation of the missionary candidates being considered. Before making the final decision, the Elders will be open to hear affirmations or concerns privately from the members. The congregation will have 2 weeks from the end of the members meeting to voice their affirmation or concern. After input has been received the Elders will make the final decision.
7. The Elders or the Missions Committee will work with the deacons to determine the appropriate level of financial support. (see section V. sub paragraph C)
8. The Elders and or the Missions Committee will coordinate with the Pastor and Worship Leader to schedule a date to present the newly supported missionary to the congregation. In addition, the Elders and or the Missions Committee will attempt to coordinate with as many ministry leaders as possible to schedule meetings with the missionary. Exposure to as many groupings as possible will be explored.

## **V. FINANCIAL POLICIES**

### **A. Missions Giving**

1. Funds for Missions will be allocated from the General Fund at the discretion and stewardship of the Elders and deacons.
2. Missions support and other disbursements from the General Fund are extended only to individuals, agencies, and institutions meeting the requirements established by this policy.

3. Designated giving to individual church-supported missionary or agency will not be honored. The congregation is encouraged to exercise impartial consideration of all of our missionaries supported by Chinese Congregational Church and to contribute to the General Fund from which all disbursements are administered by the Elders and the Deacons in accordance to this policy. Exceptions would include special “one-time” gifts or “love offerings” approved by the Mission Committee and the Elders. Donors desiring to designate funds to particular individuals or organizations will be encouraged to send their checks directly to the sponsoring agency or individual. Information regarding this type of donation is the responsibility of the donor. Officers and committee members of the church are not obligated to provide information in this regard.

## **B. Annual Budget**

1. In cooperation with the church’s budgeting process, the Elders or Missions Committee will prepare a proposed Missions Budget for submission to the team of Elders and Deacons. The budget will be drawn based on past budgets, future plans, and opportunities, which meet the Mission of the church and the vision of the ministry.
2. The annual Missions Budget shall be divided into at least three (3) categories: Missions Support, Missions Emergency Support, and Missions Trip Support. The Missions Emergency and Missions Trip Support shall be escrowed accounts, funded by monthly allotments from the General Fund. The amount of the monthly allocations, as well as the categories’ ceilings, shall be part of the annual budget discussions.
  - a. **Missions Emergency Support** – As emergencies, such as medical expenses, unplanned trips, disasters, etc. come to the

attention of the Elders and Missions Committee, the committee may authorize disbursements followed by a report to the team of Elder.

- b. **Missions Trip Support** – This fund will help finance missions trips taken by the Elders or Missions Committee members or any of the officers of the church involved in missions, to participate in summer or short-term missions to our supported missionary's field of ministry.
- c. **Missions Support** – The bulk of Missions budget will be designated to this category with expenditures including, the support of our missionaries, summer missions, missions cultivating projects, missionary training, and etc.

WE STOPPED OUR GROUP REVISING HERE - what is below touches upon how we will spend money in the future. So we decided to pause until there we can finish our discussions on finances with the deacons.

- 3. An annual report of receipts, disbursements, activities, and developments from Missions Program will be prepared by the Mission Committee and shall be available to the congregation.
- 4. The Deacons shall administer disbursements of funds to our supported missionaries, agencies, and organizations on a monthly basis.
- 5. Caution will be observed if receipts do not meet budget goals. Disbursement priority will be given to our missionaries and therefore, be the last area subject to cutbacks. Should funds be still be insufficient to meet the monthly support requirements of our missionaries, the Missions Committee will recommend to prorate the available funds among our missionaries depending on the level of financial support pending approval by the Elders.

## C. Missionary Support

1. The Missions Committee according to the guidelines established in SECTION IV, STRATEGY would determine the level of financial support for missionary or candidate.
2. Support will begin when the missionary concludes deputation and is directed by the mission's agency to commence regular missionary activities. Should this include formal language study, support will begin one month prior to departure or the field of ministry or the designated language school, or in conjunction with policies of the missions' agency. If a missionary is already in the field of ministry, support will begin according the guidelines established in SECTION IV, C.
3. Support will be for one (1) year. An annual review of the missionary by the Missions Committee will be conducted. The Missions Committee will recommend any necessary changes and will recommend continued support. The Elders will approve all recommendations.

Financial assistance may be adjusted annually for an increase in cost of living, inflation, additional expenses, etc.

4. Financial assistance for outgoing expenses of new missionary appointees may be given with the following limits:
  - a. Member Missionary - Meet financial need up to \$1000-
  - b. Non-member Missionary – Meet financial need up to \$500.
5. Support may be changed or discontinued if the missionary:
  - a. Requests to discontinue support from CCC.
  - b. Leaves the missions' agency or organization.

- c. Leaves the field of ministry to pursue further study.
- d. Changes the type of ministry and/or field of ministry.
- e. Comes under church or agency discipline.
- f. Has severed communication with the Elders or Missions Committee for 4-6 months.
- g. Has failed to respond to requests from the Elders or Missions Committee.

The missionary is expected to notify the Missions Committee immediately when any changes, as noted above, are contemplated. If support is to be discontinued, as a general guideline it will occur within three months of notification.

- 6. Support will be terminated in the case of intentional and unrepentant misconduct.

## GOAL FOR OUR NEXT DISCUSSION

### **D. Solicitation of Support**

No organized or broad support solicitation will be allowed within the congregation without prior approval of the Missions Committee. Individual contact with friends and relatives is normal and appropriate, however; indiscriminate use of the Church Directory or class rosters for this purpose is prohibited. Unapproved soliciting of funds by missionaries or agency representatives from individuals, groups in the congregation, ministry gatherings, or church sanctioned ministry outings, giving the impression of official church sanction, is considered unethical and is not condoned by Chinese Congregational Church. The Missions Committee is responsible to inform members of the congregation and the solicitor of this policy.

### **E. Missionary Retirement**

The missionary's transition from full-time Christian ministry to retirement is often difficult, financially, emotionally, socially, and spiritually. In general, the church expects the missionary agency to provide an adequate retirement program for its missionaries, and a percentage of support funds will be designated for that purpose.

If the agency does not provide a retirement plan, the missionary will be counseled to structure a percentage of his/her support into a personal plan of his/her choosing.

Where a retirement program has not been in place for an adequate length of time, consideration may be given to supplement the missionary's retirement income. Only missionaries who have served 20 years or more will be considered. Since the retired missionary is still considered part of the church's missionary family. (No more than 5% of the Mission Budget will be allocated for the support of missionary retirees).

## **F. Disability Insurance**

It is assumed that the mission agency will provide for disability/medical and life insurance with a portion of the missionary's support contributing to the premiums. In the case of disability, the church will continue with support for up to one year in cooperation with the missions' agency's policy.

In the case where the missions' agency does not provide disability insurance and a medical emergency arises, the Elders may approve additional funds to aid the missionary in medical expenses. Only missionaries who have been supported by the church for 10 years or more will be considered.

## **VI. CHURCH AND MISSIONARY RELATIONSHIP**

## **A. Responsibility of CCC to our Missionaries**

Support of our missionaries should go beyond merely financial support. The following is a list of expectations the church will attempt to accomplish:

1. **Prayer Support** – We recognize the missionary’s work from beginning to end rests upon our sovereign Lord. We believe prayer is strategic to the success of missionary work. We will continually encourage our people to pray informatively for our missionaries.
2. **Financial Support** – We will disburse on a monthly basis what we promise to our missionaries for the length of their term. As the Lord provides, we may respond to one-time financial need as presented by the missionary.
3. **Communication** – We will attempt to keep our missionaries updated on our church through regular correspondence from the Mission Committee and the Elders, through encouragement of our people to write to our missionaries, and through audio and/or video media of our services and messages (as per missionary’s request). The Elders will try to have a video conference call at least once a year.
4. **Practical Assistance** – We will attempt to assist in meeting housing, transportation, furniture, etc. needs while the missionary is home or on furlough. If personal needs occur while in the ministry field, we will evaluate and consider any means of assistance.
5. **Ministry Reporting** – We will arrange as many speaking engagements as possible in our church to give the missionary the opportunity to share about their ministry.

6. **Missions Committee** – We will make every effort to arrange a meeting of the Missions Committee and the missionaries when they are home or on furlough.
7. **Ministry Relationship** – We desire to be viewed as a part of the missionary's ministry. The missionary can expect us to have concern for his/her ministry. Mutual concern and openness should be cultivated, resulting in a closer relationship.

## **B. Responsibility of our Missionaries to CCC**

We do not wish to use our support as the motivation for the missionary to be involved in the ministries of Chinese Congregational Church. Just as the missionary's ministry has been incorporated into the ministry of CCC, the missionary has incorporated the CCC into the missionary's ministry. We desire a relationship with the missionary, with his/her ministry, and with the supporting agency. As an outgrowth of this unique relationship, the following is a list of expectations the church has of our supported missionaries:

1. **Communication** – We desire to hear from our missionaries at least quarterly and preferably monthly, in the form of news and prayer letters or other appropriate means (email, audio / video). We expect to know how their ministry is progressing as well as how they are doing personally.
2. **Ministry Relationship** – We desire a relationship where the missionary, the missions agency, and the church will all work together in furthering God's kingdom. We expect to be informed of annual goals, reports, and evaluations similar to what is presented to the missionary's agency. Any changes in plans for ministry should be communicated to the church promptly.
3. **Reporting** – Every attempt should be made to report on their ministry while on a home service assignment or on furlough. Early



communication from the missionary will greatly facilitate better planning and scheduling.

4. **Solicitation of Funds** – The missionary should be aware of and observe the guidelines established by this policy in regards to solicitation of funds within the church (see SECTION V, A, C & D)
5. **Cultivating the Relationship** – When possible, attempts should be made to arrange a lengthier stay when missionaries are at home or on furlough in order to cultivate our relationship between our missionaries and our church family. In addition, the Missions Committee will attempt to coordinate with as many ministry leaders as possible to schedule meetings with the missionary. Exposure to as many groupings as possible will be explored.

## **VII. SHORT-TERM / SUMMER MISSIONS**

The following is a policy to guide the leadership of Chinese Congregational Church in selecting summer missions' candidates who will both represent and receive financial assistance from the church.

A Short-term or Summer Missions Project is generally defined as a specific time period from one week, but not to exceed one-year for missions service. By definition, a Short-term is an abbreviated period of time to accomplish two purposes:

- (1) To discern the will of God for possible future vocational missions ministry.
- (2) To provide opportunity for missions service for those that cannot commit to vocational missions ministry but who are willing to give a specific limited period of time for service.

The Missions Committee and/or the Elders, desire to encourage qualified persons within CCC to apply for service in some form of short-term missions outreach. This could take two forms:

1. Individuals participating in a short-term or summer missions project with an approved missions agency.
2. Teams organized under the auspices of the Missions Committee at CCC to be involved in summer missions or projects. These missions' projects may be developed in cooperation with any ministry within CCC.

Before official recognition can occur or funding be released, certain minimum requirements must be fulfilled:

1. The submission to the Missions Committee of the completed Short-Term Missions Application Form (refer to STMA-latest revision) by the deadline stated for each project.
2. The scheduling of an interview with the Missions Committee and the Elders is the responsibility of the applicant.
3. The completion of the Preparation/Training Classes scheduled for a summer missions trip or a short-term project. If an individual will be involved with a non-CCC program (i.e. missions agency), the orientation/preparation offered by the program may be seen as an equivalent fulfillment of this requirement. Proof of completion is mandatory to fulfill this requirement.
4. The recruitment of at least three (3) prayer partners from the church with whom you will communicate regularly. A maximum of two (2) partners may be from your family.

It is the desire of the Pastoral Staff, Elders, and Missions Committee for our short-term/summer missionaries to experience the blessings and

fullness of the life of a missionary. Acceptance into the Short-Term/Summer Missions Program will qualify the individual to receive up to 50% of their required support, depending on availability of funds in the Missions Budget. Once accepted, the candidate will be allowed to make presentations to various official groups, ministries within the church, and schedule a presentation before the congregation (i.e. Sunday School classes, services, etc) to both inform the people of the church and solicit their prayer support. They may also prepare informal mailings to their circle of acquaintances both within and outside of the church with the purpose of soliciting their support, but are strongly urged to avoid indiscriminate use of the church directory and class lists. If soliciting support from individuals in other churches, be sure to notify the Mission Board or Committee for their approval. Opportunities to report upon completion of the assignment will be arranged. Remember that the overall desire is to simulate the “missionary experience”.

The financial guidelines listed below will be followed:

1. When CCC missions' projects are involved, people in the congregation should designate their support amount to an approved team. Checks must be made out to the church with the name of the project and the approved team appearing as the designate.
2. When individuals are involved, people desiring to support the short-term/summer missionary will be directed to send gifts directly to the sponsoring missionary agency.
3. Receipts for tax purposes will be issued to those, including participants, who contribute to an approved CCC project and team and will be administered by the Deacons.
4. All individuals will be expected to keep the Missions Committee updated regarding the progress of the fund raising.

Those individuals involving themselves in a short-term/summer missions project, but choose not to pursue the above requirements, will not be permitted to make presentations in the various official programs of the church and are also strongly urged to avoid indiscriminate use of the Church Directory. Support solicitation among their circle of acquaintances and family in the church should be done in a discreet manner. Individuals not requiring financial assistance are strongly encouraged to fulfill the above requirements to assure adequate prayer backing and the participation of the congregation in the blessings of such a rewarding and enriching experience.

It is recognized that students studying abroad are at a disadvantage, not being residents at their home church. With good planning and early application, however the minimal requirements could be met. The following guidelines are made to accommodate the student studying abroad:

1. A copy of this policy will be sent to all known students studying abroad.
2. If a personal interview is not possible (e.g. on a trip home), a telephone interview may be arranged. In this case, greater weight will be placed on the requested references in the application.
3. With regard to the mandatory Preparation/Training Program, one of the following could take place:
  - a. The completion of the program by correspondence.
  - b. Recognition of the existing orientation program of the particular missionary agency to which the student will apply. Proof of completion is mandatory to fulfill this requirement.

## **VIII. SCHOLARSHIPS**

### **A. Philosophy**

Chinese Congregational Church desires to support both prayerfully and financially those students preparing to enter seminary or Bible College in preparation for a career in missionary service. With the high cost of college and post-graduate education, students not only find it difficult to fund this training, but also face the prospect of significant debt upon graduation. For those called by God into missions, this prospect often results in discouragement and significant delay in reaching their field of ministry. Most missionary agencies require that appointees leave for their assignment debt free; repayment of loans is not permitted to be built into their support. The resulting necessity of finding employment to support themselves and/or their family, as well as to reduce their debt, serves to delay departure at the very least, or to direct their energies into other career considerations at the worst.

At present, because of limited resources, scholarships are only available to students who meet the prerequisites listed below. Meeting the prerequisites does not guarantee a scholarship. Approved students will be prioritized based on available funds, need, commitment and desire to missions, and good academic standing. The appropriate financial level will be assigned by the Missions Committee or Elders and will be approved by the team of Elders.

### **B. Prerequisites to be Considered for a Scholarship**

1. Members of Chinese Congregational Church.
2. A full-time or part-time student studying at a recognized Evangelical institution by CCC (that is in agreement with CCC Statement of Faith and philosophy of ministry)..

3. A student with a definite goal towards missions.
4. Good academic standing for the academic year. (For Continuing Students)
5. Financial need must be quantifiable.
6. Schedule an interview with the Missions Committee and the Elders.
7. Completed application, along with proof of academic standing where required, must be submitted before the agreed deadline.

### **C. Process**

1. Application forms are available from the Missions Committee.
2. The deadline for the Fall Semester is July 1.
3. Applications will apply for the entire year. Scholarships for Continuing Students will be held until proof of “good academic standing” are received by the Missions Committee.
4. A new application will need to be completed each year.
5. Checks will be made out to the institution and mailed to the institution address within a reasonable time prior to payment deadline.
6. Scholarships are honored based on availability of funds and are not guaranteed.

## **APPENDIX A**

## **Chinese Congregational Church, Statement of Faith**

1. We believe that the Bible is the only complete, written, and reliable revelation from God. It is inspired of God. Therefore, it is inerrant in its original forms and infallible. We take it as our basis of authority.
2. We believe in the one true God who is spirit, infinite, holy, good, righteous, and truth. God exists in the persons of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. God created everything for His Glory.
3. We believe that man was made in the image of God. The disobedience of the first man, Adam, brought sin and brought total corruption to all mankind resulting in spiritual and physical death.
4. We believe angels are spiritual beings created to serve God. One angel, Satan, through disobedience, became the chief enemy of God and man. Satan and other fallen angels deceived and control the World and war with God and the believers.
5. We believe that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, born of the Virgin Mary, lived a sinless life. Yet He was crucified and died for our sins, was buried, and was bodily resurrected. He ascended to Heaven as our Intercessor and will return as Ruler and Judge.
6. We believe that Salvation is by the Grace of God, through Jesus Christ, who sacrificed His Life and shed His blood for the sins of mankind as their redemptive price. Individual repentance from sins and receipt of this grace results in being justified before God, being reconciled with Him, and eternally secured into His family. Salvation is not on the basis of human merit or works.
7. We believe that the Holy Spirit convicts men of sin, regenerates, indwells, sanctifies, and transform them for all eternity.

8. We believe that a Christian lives by faith in Christ. The Grace of God accomplishes this life that consists of submitting oneself to the Lordship of Jesus Christ, resulting in Christ-like character and ministry.
9. We believe that the universal church, founded by Jesus Christ at Pentecost, is composed of the Saved from every generation. Local groups of believers are bound together to worship God, develop spiritually, and to evangelize the world. The church administers the Rites of Baptism and the Lord's Supper. Jesus expresses His authority through the spiritual leaders. As the Bride of Christ, the Church will share His Riches and Glory.
10. We believe that all the enemies of God and the Unsaved shall suffer everlasting punishment. There will be a new heaven, new earth, and New Jerusalem, where God and Jesus will live among His people in Glory and Honor forever.