

## **Missions Policy**

### **Missions Policy Purpose and Limitations**

Policy is meant to function harmoniously within the Constitution and Operating Guidelines of Sardis Community Church (SCC). Policy is to be ratified by the SCC Leadership Team (LT) and any changes proposed by the Missions Ministry Team (MMT) should be ratified by the LT before they take affect.

### **Definition of Missions at Sardis Community Church**

In Acts 1:8 Jesus commissions his disciples with the words “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” This commission radiated out from the city where the disciples were (Jerusalem) to the surrounding area to people of similar culture (Judea), to people who lived nearby but were of a different culture (Samaria) and finally to those who were both geographically and culturally distant from them (ends of the earth).

We believe it is every disciple’s privilege and responsibility to be involved in each aspect of the commission Jesus gave his disciples. All believers can be directly and immediately engaged in reaching out to those who are not yet disciples in our neighborhoods and in the surrounding area. These are the people who speak English and share our culture, and it doesn’t take any specialize knowledge or expertise to be a witness to them. We are all witnesses and ministers to these people.

Being a witness to those who are culturally and/or geographicly distant from us often requires extra effort and expertise. This area of ministry is what the Missions Ministry Team is mandated to promote and encourage. The MMT will place most of its efforts and resources in making disciples of those people who have the least opportunity to see the gospel demonstrated. We see our strongest mandate at the “outer edge ” of the radiated ring that Jesus described with less involvement in those ministries closer to the centre. This outer edge is not necessarily only geographically distant since some of the people that fit in that category now live among us as refugees and recent immigrants. People go out from us to the outer edges of the ring are called missionaries and usually they need specialized training and expertise to function effectively. Their mandate is to make disciples and to form congregations who can in turn send out missionaries. The MMT will make it possible for each SCC attendee to be significantly involved in the outer edge of

ministry that Jesus commissioned all of his disciples to. Jesus gives us all the mandate, the authority and the resources to have a part in the discipling of those who have the least opportunity to hear the gospel and are often hidden from our day to day view.

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### **Structure of Missions Ministry Team (MMT)**

MMT to be represented on the SCC Leadership Team by appointed Liaison.

Chairperson of MM Team to be elected by congregations at annual meetings for a term as required by the Constitution and Operating Guidelines of Sardis Community Church (SCC)

Members of Missions Ministry Team to be appointed by elected chairperson and ratified by Leadership Team on an annual basis (based on church financial year)

There should be between 4 to 9 members of the MMT and they should be generally representative of the demographic of SCC membership

Each member could recruit a subcommittee to assist in carrying out duties as assigned for specific tasks.

### **Qualifications of Members of Missions Ministry Team**

- Be members or regular attendees of Sardis Community Church who are in agreement with the Constitution and Operating Guidelines of SCC.
- Meet the qualifications found in 1Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:6-9
- Have a desire to contribute to the ministry goals of the Missions Ministry Team
- Be available and willing to attend most regular meetings of MMT (at least 6 times per year)
- Be willing to pray regularly for missionaries
- Have an interest in missions and be willing to learn about current mission issues
- Be available and willing to take on responsibility within the MMT.

### **Responsibilities of Mission Ministry Team Chairperson**

- Appoint members to MMT and submit those appointees for LT ratification.
- Call regular meetings of MMT (at least 6 times per year)
- Insure that minutes of meetings are taken and submitted to the Leadership Team Liaison
- Guide the MMT in carrying out responsibilities as outlined in this policy

### **Responsibilities of the Missions Ministry Team (MMT)**

- Facilitate and guide the overall missions ministry of SCC including Intercessory prayer for ministers and missionaries
- Educate the congregation in the theology of missions and missions issues
- Discern and encourage those in the congregation that God is calling to short term and long term missions commitments
- Promote communication between missionaries and/or agencies and the church
- Propose missions budget to the Leadership Team for Mission A & B activities.
- Administer budgeted money for missions in partnership with the Leadership Team
- Disperse contingency missions funding as needed and as available up to \$600 per quarter without the need for Leadership Team approval.
- Propose and/or update mission policy for ratification by the Leadership Team
- Interpret missions policy and apply it to particular situations
- Encourage a missions focus in all the programs of the church
- Maintain close ties with our denominational mission agencies
- Maintain close ties with our adopted ministers and missionaries and their agencies as necessary
- Arrange for and lead an annual mission focus at SCC
- Guide the mission ministry of SCC in the direction as outlined in this policy.
- Insure that visiting adopted missionaries and ministries are welcomed and have good access to the congregation.

### **Missions Ministry Focus**

**We will place priority on supporting those ministries and missionaries who meet most of the following criteria:**

- closely identified with the mission vision values of our church
- involving church members or those closely connected to our church

- involving ministries that are closely connected to our denominational focus in missions
- ministries benefiting those who have the least opportunity to see the gospel demonstrated.
- Ministries that are reproducible and do not require perpetual outside assistance
- Ministry benefiting those who are the most vulnerable and disadvantaged
- Demonstrating a holistic approach that avoids the spiritual/physical dichotomy.
- Realistic possibility of long term engagement and deep relationships
- Significant contribution to fewer ministries rather than smaller contributions to many ministries.

**Every two or three years we intend to have a major emphasis on one area of ministry that we are already committed to that will serve to:**

- involve many people in giving, praying, short term ministry and awareness
- penetrate each area of church life with awareness and involvement
- lead to a significant impact in the area of focus
- lead to the possibility of calling out long term missionaries from our church to the focus ministry.

### **Missions Ministry Budget**

- Those budgets listed in the SCC financial statement as “Missions” and “Conference Related Missions” ( approximately 30% of the SCC budget) are under the jurisdiction of the missions ministry team
- Approximately 40 % of total mission’s ministry budget should be reserved for “outer edge ministries” as defined above.

## **SHORT TERM MINISTRY POLICY**

This statement is intended to guide the missions ministry team in making decisions regarding the financial support of those from our congregation who are applying for financial assistance for short term ministries.

## ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

### Applicant's eligibility

Applicants should be individuals who are personally committed to Jesus Christ and are living a life that demonstrates this commitment.

Applicants should be active in the congregational life of Sardis Community Church and demonstrate their willingness to be taught and to serve in the congregation.

Applicants should have spiritual gifts that match expected task.

### Type of Service

Activities should be ministry related and not primarily training or travel

Typical ministry opportunities might include evangelism projects, and social service.

Ministry objectives should be an extension of our church's ministry objectives

Priority will be given to those areas of service that build on our long term mission commitments.

Length of service should be between one week and one year.

### Receiving organization

Should be a registered charitable organization in Canada with the ability to administer funds and adequately supervise the ministry.

### Applicant's responsibility

Apply to the missions committee at least six weeks before funds are required

Report back to the church during the ministry assignment if possible and after the assignment is complete in written form and oral if requested.

Be responsible to meet the requirements of the sending organization

## FINANCIAL GUIDELINES

Upon receiving the application the missions committee will use this guideline in making decisions regarding the financial support of the applicant. Other factors which will also affect the decision to support will include:

- financial need of the applicant
- availability of budgeted funds
- expenses incurred in the ministry

The recommended support amount will be decided upon by the missions committee. A guide for support will be 10% of the expense costs of the ministry.

APPLICATION FOR SHORT TERM MINISTRY SPONSORSHIP

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Age \_\_\_\_\_ Present occupation \_\_\_\_\_

Organization that you intend to work  
with \_\_\_\_\_

Address of  
organization \_\_\_\_\_

When did you apply for this ministry? \_\_\_\_\_

Have you been accepted for ministry with the organization? \_\_\_\_\_

Dates of proposed ministry: Begins \_\_\_\_\_

Ends \_\_\_\_\_

How much will this ministry cost? \_\_\_\_\_

When do your ministry costs need to be paid? \_\_\_\_\_

Describe the type of ministry that is planned and include any appropriate brochures or correspondence from the organization that you are intending to serve with. Use extra paper or the back of this form if you need more space.

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Give a brief testimony in terms that a non Christian would be able to understand:

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Describe your ministry experience so far in the church or in the community.

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Give names of individuals who can give you a character references.

Adult that knows you well \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Friend \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Employer \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_