



## Faith Presbyterian Church :: Anchorage, Alaska

Charter of the Missions Committee

May 5, 2011

The Session charters a Missions Committee with the following expectations.

### **Purpose of the Mission Committee**

The purpose of the Missions Committee is to support Faith PCA's extension of the gospel beyond Anchorage.

*May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face to shine upon us, that your way may be known on earth, your saving power among all nations. Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you! (Psalm 67:1-3, ESV)*

### **Role of the Mission Committee**

The Committee's role can be considered in two main categories:

1. Communication and Relationship with Supported Missions
  - Communicate with missionaries supported by Faith.
  - Promote the Committee's and the congregation's sense of and understanding of Missions.
  - Facilitate communication and relationship between congregants and supported missionaries.
2. Identifying Missions for Support
  - Manage requests for support.
  - Identify and screen candidates for support.

### **Relationship with Session and Board of Deacons**

The Committee shall be under the authority of the Session and the Board of Deacons. It shall report directly to the Board of Deacons, which shall appoint one deacon as liaison with the Committee. The Committee's line of authority is immediately to the Board of Deacons, and secondly to the Session.

### **Membership of the Missions Committee**

A Committee member must be: of Faith's congregation; interested in missions; faithful in his or her Christian walk; willing to commit time to the Committee's work; committed to prayer; and submissive to the authority of the Session and Board of Deacons. A Committee member need not necessarily be a member of Faith PCA, but must be a regular attendee of Faith's worship services. The membership of each person on the Committee must be approved by the Session. The Committee need not necessarily have an elder or deacon in its membership.

### **Organization of the Missions Committee**

The Committee shall have at least three members. The Committee shall maintain a roll of members.

The Committee shall have one Chairman and one Secretary. Preferably, neither the Chairman nor the Secretary will be an elder or a deacon.

Voting members shall be limited to Committee members that are members of Faith PCA.

The Committee may appoint other roles according to its needs.

### **Operating Guidelines**

The Committee shall establish a regular meeting schedule. In advance of each meeting, the Secretary shall notify each member of the meeting and its agenda. The Chairman shall convene the meetings.

The Secretary shall record formal minutes of the meetings of the Committee. The Committee shall approve these minutes, upon which the Secretary shall submit approved minutes via email to the Pastor, the Clerk of the Session, and the Secretary of the Board of Deacons.

In fulfilling its role of Communication and Relationship, the Committee shall consider the following:

- Maintain regular communication with supported missionaries through various means. Share such communication with the congregation through, for example, messages in the worship bulletin, spoken messages to the congregation, prayer requests in the bulletin, etc..
- Promote the congregation's sense of and understanding of Missions by organizing and managing visits by supported missionaries and by organizing and managing special events, for example, Missions Conferences.
- Receive, review, and screen unsolicited requests for support. Actively identify worthy missions and missionaries as candidates for support to be recommended to the Board of Deacons and the Session. If the committee determines that a particular candidate should be considered for support by Faith, the Committee shall so report to the Board of Deacons, and upon the approval of the Board of Deacons, shall so report to the Session.
- Organize and manage visits by missionaries not supported by Faith, after review and approval by the Session.

### **Screening Criteria**

To be considered for support by Faith, a mission or missionary must:

1. Be committed to orthodox Protestant Christianity.
2. Be in submission to other Christians through oversight by denomination or mission agency.
3. Be involved in person-to-person, missionary-to-recipient ministry (as distinct from indirect ministries such as production of books, media, or programs).
4. Support the indigenous Church through church planting, discipleship ministry, or evangelism that feed's the local church, etc.
5. Provide and commit to adhere to a mission plan of at least two years duration.
6. Expect Faith's financial support to be subject to review minimally every two years or upon significant change in mission plan or objective.
7. Commit to regular communication with the Committee.

Additionally, preferred candidates will:

1. Be theologically Reformed and connected to a Reformed denomination or agency.
2. Plan to minister in an area with little Christian exposure.
3. Be nationals with ethnic connections to the target people group.
4. Plan to receive a large relative portion of his support from Faith, not to exceed 25% of his total budget, and to receive support from other PCA congregations.