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# COMMUNITY HEIGHTS CHURCH

## MISSIONS STRATEGY

"Leading People to Become Fully Devoted Followers of Christ"

January 1, 2017

## INTRODUCTION

It is the goal of Community Heights Church (CHC) to carry out the command of Christ's Great Commission as found in Matthew 28:18-20. Therefore, CHC views world missions, local and abroad, as a major ministry of our Church and our individual members. CHC is further committed to the development and sending of members as missionaries as well as the support of other missionaries outside the CHC family.

*Romans 10:13-14, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can they preach unless they are sent?*

The following strategy has been designed by the Missions Committee of CHC. It has been designed to establish direction and guidelines for fulfilling the purposes and responsibilities of the CHC Missions Committee which are listed below.

### PURPOSE

1. To provide a clear sense of direction in mission to the church as a whole
2. To develop loving accountability in our missions programs
3. To maintain consistency over time and as leadership changes
4. To insure effective stewardship of human and financial resources
5. To inform missionaries and prospective missionaries regarding their relationship with CHC.

### RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Periodically plan and coordinate special missions emphasis services or a World Missions Conference
2. Promote missions at CHC including education, prayer and correspondence
3. Recommend organizations, candidates, and projects for support
4. Recommend levels of support and propose the annual support budget
5. Review and maintain the missions policy
6. To encourage a strong congregational relationship with our missionaries and supported organizations through prayer and financial support

## **LONG TERM SUPPORT OF MISSIONARIES/ORGANIZATIONS**

The beliefs of Individuals and organizations to be supported by CHC must not contradict the essentials in which CHC believes as stated in the CHC By-Laws, Section IV. Statement of Faith.

Since it is CHC's mission to "Lead People To Become Fully Devoted Followers Of Christ," our first priority is to be involved with those individuals and organizations that are committed not only to producing Christian converts, but also to the development of spiritually mature believer's in Christ.

*Hebrews 6:1 So let us stop going over the basics of Christianity again and again. Let us go on instead and become mature in our understanding.*

*2 Peter 3:18 But grow in the special favor and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.*

The next priority is given to those support ministries such as educational, medical, business, and social which are directly connected with and have a specific strategy for evangelism, discipleship and orphan/widow care.

CHC does not support social-type ministries that do not have specific strategies associated with the advancement of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

### **SUPPORT PRIORITY**

CHC gives priority to those individual/organizations that have had an ongoing relationship with CHC. These are determined by the missions committee and reviewed annually for additions and changes.

Priority will also be given to members of Community Heights Church.

## **LONG TERM MISSIONS FUNDING**

CHC encourages the individuals and organizations supported by the church to develop friendships, prayer partners, and communications with the CHC family. However, we do not allow solicitation of funds on an individual basis. Any missionary currently supported by CHC will forfeit their support and prospective missionaries will be rejected if individual solicitations occur.

An appeal to individual members of CHC may only be made if the church is not giving monthly support to the missionary or if an individual from the church seeks the missionary out.

If any CHC member wishes to give above and beyond their tithe to a specific ministry that CHC is supporting, the designations must be made in writing. Any designations to budgeted individuals or organizations will be applied toward the budgeted amount. Any designations that are made for individuals or organizations that have not been approved by the missions

committee will be put in the general fund and applied where needed. CHC reserves the rights to withdraw funding at any time during a funding cycle if the supported missionary or organization's actions or beliefs do not align with those stated by CHC.

We welcome relationship building with congregation members but it will be expected that correspondence will only be sent to members that initiate and ask for it.

All missionaries/organizations will be reviewed annually. It is the responsibility of the missionary/organization to provide the CHC mission committee with a letter of update yearly (Due October 1<sup>st</sup>) for next year's support to be continued.

## **SHORT TERM MISSIONS**

All fundraising activities undertaken by a CHC short term missions team should be cleared through the leader of that specific team and oversight provided by the leader. It's the Team Leader's responsibility to communicate plans and put that fundraiser on the CHC event calendar.

If a short term mission team wishes to be considered for travel assistance from the CHC annual budget, the Team Leader will submit a "Group Mission Trip Registration Form" to the Missions Team Chairperson no later than October 1 of the fiscal year prior to the trip's departure date. Financial assistance is not guaranteed and will be considered by the Missions Team for recommendation to the CHC Stewardship Team to be included in the next fiscal year's budget request. The Stewardship Team will determine if any recommended assistance should be included in the proposed annual budget.

If an individual is participating in a non-CHC sponsored short term mission trip, they may request travel assistance at any time during the fiscal year by submitting an "Individual Mission Trip Registration Form" to the Missions Team Chairperson. Assistance is not guaranteed and will be considered for approval by the Missions Team. Once all travel assistance funds are exhausted during the fiscal year, no additional requests for assistance will be considered until the next budget goes into effect.

Travel assistance from CHC will not exceed either 50% of the trip cost or \$500, whichever amount is less.

### Criteria for Travel Assistance

1. If an adult, must be a member or regular attendee of CHC.
2. If a minor, must be between the ages of 12 – 18 by the trip departure date.

3. If an adult, must regularly attend services at CHC and actively participate in a CHC sponsored ministry. Regular attendance is defined as a minimum of 2 services per month.
4. If a minor, must regularly attend services at CHC and participate in either Sunday School, regular youth group meetings or the AWANA program at CHC.
5. If an adult, must regularly tithe to CHC.

If CHC approves funds that are designated for use by a Short Term Mission Team to assist with the cost of construction, rehabilitation or ministry work, the Missions Organization the team will be working with must have a verifiable bank account where the funds can be electronically transferred. An accounting of the disbursed funds will be prepared by the Team Leader and submitted to the Missions Team Chairperson within 30 days of returning from the trip.

#### Criteria for Participation in a Short Term Mission Trip

1. All participants must regularly attend church services, either at CHC or their home church. Regular attendance is defined as a minimum of 2 services per month.
2. If a participant is not a member or regular attendee of CHC, they must be invited to participate by a CHC member or regular attendee that will be part of the team and submit a letter of recommendation from the Pastor of their home church. The recommendation letter should also confirm their regular church attendance.
3. Depending on the nature of the work the team will be involved in, minors may or may not be allowed to participate. All minors must have a recommendation to participate from the Team Leader. All minors must have their parents or legal guardians written permission to participate unless a parent or legal guardian are also part of the team.
4. If a minor will be participating on a team without their parents or legal guardian, another responsible adult team member must agree to sign to take responsibility for the minor for the duration of the trip. The responsible adult will be approved by the minor's parents or legal guardians and the Team Leader.
5. All team members agree to participate in a church service where they may be called on to share their spiritual or personal experiences from the trip.

## **LEVELS OF LONG TERM SUPPORT**

A missionary or organization that is approved for support by CHC will begin to receive support at the beginning of the next budget year. All requests for support will be made to the CHC Missions Team in writing from the missionary or organization. The request should outline their call to full time missions work, where ministry work will take place and the type of ministry work they will be involved in. The missions committee will prayerfully examine the request and evaluate the need for support.

If approved, the request will be included in the next years Missions Budget proposal that is presented to the Stewardship Committee. The Stewardship Committee will make the final determination regarding if the request will be included in the annual church budget that is presented to the CHC membership for approval.

All new requests will be approved for \$250 per month, unless the missionary or organization requests a lower amount, and will remain at that amount until such time as the Mission Team determines changes are warranted and approves an update to this policy. All missionaries receiving support as of the date of this policy will continue to receive their current level of support.

## Group Mission Trip Registration Form

All Mission Leaders planning a mission trip for Community Heights Church members are required to register their trip with the Community Heights Church Missions Committee. In order for your mission to get proper support from Community Heights Church, it is required that you turn in your trip registration prior to October 1 (the year before your trip). You must also schedule the sharing of a testimony during an upcoming church service after returning from the trip.

### Why Register?

Registration is important for a number of reasons:

- It allows us to pray for you and your team.
- It allows us to keep record of where our CHC members are ministering around the world.
- It allows us to better answer questions when CHC members ask us about your trip.
- It allows us to answer questions if parents or supporters call us about your trip or during your trip.
- It allows us to provide financial support for you and your team.

### Registration:

Team Leader # 1

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Team Leader #2

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

### Mission Trip Information

Team Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Destination: \_\_\_\_\_

Expected date of trip: \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred number of participants: \_\_\_\_\_

Estimated cost per person: \_\_\_\_\_

Trip Description: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Remember as a team leader it is necessary for you to ensure that your team is properly trained and ready to participate in their mission. This ensures that both the team members and those you are ministering to receive the best experience possible.

Do you plan on having team mission meetings? \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, when are your scheduled meeting dates? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Do you plan on having team mission training activities? \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, when are your scheduled training dates and how and in what areas to you plan to train? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**I have read and understand the terms and requirements of the Community Heights Church Missions Strategy.**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Team Leader**

## Individual Mission Trip Registration Form

All persons planning on participating in a mission trip and requesting support from Community Heights Church are required to register their trip with the Community Heights Church Missions Committee. In order for your mission to get proper support from Community Heights Church, it is required that you turn in your trip registration at least 90 days prior to your funding deadline. You must also schedule the sharing of a testimony at an upcoming church service following your return from the trip.

### Why Register?

Registration is important for a number of reasons:

- It allows us to pray for you and your team.
- It allows us to keep record of where our CHC members are ministering around the world.
- It allows us to better answer questions when CHC members ask us about your trip.
- It allows us to answer questions if parents or supporters call us about your trip or during your trip.
- It allows us to provide financial support for you and your team.

### Registration:

Individual Making Request:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Is CHC your church home?

How often do you attend church services at CHC?

Do you serve with a specific ministry?

Do you tithe regularly at CHC?

Mission Trip Information

Team Name (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Destination: \_\_\_\_\_

Expected date of trip: \_\_\_\_\_

Estimated cost: \_\_\_\_\_

Trip Description: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Remember, when participating in a mission trip, it is necessary for you to ensure that you are properly trained and ready to participate in the mission. This ensures that both you and those you are ministering to receive the best experience possible.

Do you plan on attending any mission team meetings (if applicable)? \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, when are your scheduled meeting dates? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What is your previous experience with missions? Please expand on those experiences.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Do you plan on preparing both emotionally and spiritually for your mission trip? \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, how do you plan to prepare? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_