

<p style="text-align:center"><b>MISSIONS POLICIES AND PRACTICES OF LAZY MOUNTAIN BIBLE CHURCH</b></p>
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**GENERAL POLICIES:**

**I. Introduction**

**A. Scriptural basis for missions:**

1. We consider the passage of scripture found in Matthew 28:19-20 a paramount command of God's global cause. "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I command you; and lo I am with you always, even to the end of the age".
2. We are empowered by the Holy Spirit to complete our portion of God's global cause. Acts 1:8 "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you and you shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and all Judea, and Samaria, and even to the remotest parts of the earth."

**B. Lazy Mountain Bible Church's plan for Missions:**

1. The entire process of expanding and strengthening Christ's kingdom throughout the entire world by means of evangelism, teaching, and training leaders to establish culturally relevant churches.

**C. Purpose of the Missions Policies and Practices:**

1. To help Lazy Mountain Bible Church achieve a clear sense of purpose and direction in its involvement with missions.
2. To articulate sound guidelines for decision making.

**D. Policy Changes:**

1. Any changes in the Missions Policy must have a unanimous vote by the Missions Committee and the Board of Elders.
2. Any exception to the written policy must be unanimously approved by the Missions Committee and the Board of Elders.

## **II. The Missions Committee**

**A. General Responsibilities:** The general responsibility of the Missions Committee is to provide inspirational leadership to the church relative to the missions program of LMBC. We will fulfill these responsibilities through:

1. **Prayer:** To stimulate intercessory prayer within the congregation for those who are actively serving God on the mission field, as well as for potential missionaries.
2. **Communications:** To maintain regular contact with those agencies, missionaries, individuals, and potential missionaries that relate to our program of missions.
3. **Education:** To create an awareness and understanding within the congregation as to the task of missions and the critical issues involving our missionary personnel.
4. **Recruitment:** To encourage and prepare those who evidence missionary potential to consider career, short term or summer missionary service.
5. **Funding:** Our goal is to ensure the faithful stewardship of the church's giving to missions. We desire to develop missions giving both individually and collectively in order to support approved missionaries, agencies, and projects.
6. **Administration:** To organize so that the work of the Missions Committee is efficient and coordinated with the church staff, the congregation, missionary organizations, and missionary personnel.

### **B. Missions Committee Membership:**

1. The Missions Committee shall consist of at least five approved church members or other Mission Board approved people in addition to the Senior Pastor and a representative from the Board of Elders.
2. New Missions Committee members shall be recommended by the Missions Committee, and approved by the Elder Board, and will serve a minimum of two years. The terms shall be staggered to ensure continuity. Should any member of the Missions Committee be unable to complete their term, the Board of Elders will appoint a replacement to complete the term.
3. Candidates should be growing spiritually, have a deep concern for the lost, and show a concern for missions. They should be willing to accept assignments beyond the monthly meetings. Intern members from among the youth, sixteen and over, should be sought.
4. Membership will be reviewed yearly at the November meeting.

**C. Meetings:** The Missions Committee shall meet monthly and at other times when necessary.

**D. Quorum:** A quorum shall consist of four or more members of the Missions Committee.

#### **E. Officers:**

1. Chairman: The Chairman shall be appointed by the Board of Elders.  
In the absence of the Chairman, the Pastor or the Elder Board representative shall chair the meeting.
2. Secretary: The secretary shall be selected from within the Missions Committee.

#### **F. Missions Committee Responsibilities:**

1. Missions Committee members will read the policies and practices, review the missionaries and agencies that are related to our program, and read to acquaint themselves with the Missions Movement.
2. Additional responsibilities include, but are not limited to:
  - a) coordinating prayer
  - b) planning missions conferences
  - c) informing (or educating) the church regarding missions
  - d) helping to develop missions opportunities

**G. Accountability:** The Missions Committee shall be directly responsible to the Board of Elders.

**III. Budget Funding of the Missions program:** L.M.B.C. considers Missions as a vital ministry of the church, and will support this program through the general budget and designated giving.

#### **IV. GENERAL PRACTICES:**

##### **Support Priorities:**

##### **A. Missions emphasis:**

1. Geographically: Applying Acts 1:8 to our situation we believe that we are to be responsible for:
  - a) Jerusalem (Palmer and the Matanuska Valley),
  - b) Judea (the State of Alaska),
  - c) Samaria (the Americas),
  - d) and the remotest part of the earth (over-seas missions)
2. Strategically: Applying scriptures to our situation we believe that our prayer and support is to be focused towards those individuals who are engaged in:
  - a) Evangelizing of those without Christ and discipling the new believers to follow Christ: Matt. 28:19-20; Luke 24:47
  - b) Training leaders to serve in their churches: Acts 14:23; 20:28; I Timothy 3:1-10; Titus 1:5-9.
  - c) Establishing churches for fellowship, spiritual growth, and outreach:

**B. Priorities For Consideration of Missions Support:**

1. Members of LMBC involved in evangelism, training leaders and establishing churches.
2. Westerners involved in evangelism, training leaders, and establishing churches.
3. Nationals involved in evangelism, training leaders, and establishing churches, including those in Israel.
4. Members of LMBC being trained in evangelism, training leaders and establishing churches.
5. Members of LMBC involved in technical, educational, language, medical, administrative, support ministries or humanitarian efforts.
6. Westerners involved in technical, educational, language, medical, administrative, support ministries or humanitarian efforts.
7. Retired.

**V. Prayer:**

In order to develop a church-wide prayer concern for missions, the Missions Committee shall inform the congregation through:

1. Sunday morning Missions Moments, visiting missionary reports, and bulletin information including prayer requests for each of our missionaries on a rotating basis.
2. Posted prayer letters and missionary displays in the church.
3. Motivation within the organized groups of the church such as Sunday School classes, small groups, Bible studies, youth groups, children's clubs, and prayer chain to include information and prayer for missions.
4. Development of Missionary Encouragement Teams for each missionary.

**VI. Communications:**

**A. With Mission Agencies:**

1. Have on file their doctrinal position, financial policies, mission statement, field goals, and their Board of Reference.
2. Receive their regular publications.
3. Be informed of any potentially significant change in the field assignment or basic nature of the missionary's work. The changes may prompt a review of support allocation.
4. Be informed of any serious problems or personal, financial and project needs regarding the missionaries of LMBC.
5. Inform the agencies of our financial intentions.
6. Communicate with the agency on any other matter as needed.

**B. Supported Missionaries:**

Reciprocal communications between the church and the missionary shall

be the normal practice.

#### **VII. Education:**

- A. We will get information about organizations that provide current mission information for local churches and use whatever is helpful to us.
- B. We will promote an awareness and understanding within the congregation as to the task of world missions through special speakers, conferences, films, and reports, and other practical means..
- C. We will work closely with the C.E. department so that missions becomes a vital part of the entire educational program of the church.

#### **VIII. Recruitment of Prospective Missionaries:**

**The Missions Committee will actively encourage others to be involved in missionary service by:**

- A. Praying to the Lord of the Harvest to send forth workers.
- B. Encouraging all members to be involved in the Missions program of LMBC.
- C. Providing opportunities for involvement in outreach such as VBS, summer or \*short term missions.
- D. Encouraging individuals who evidence missionary potential to pursue further education leading to a career in missionary work.

#### **IX. Funding:**

##### **A. Approval:**

- 1. Annual budget: The Missions Committee is to submit an annual budget to the Board of Elders by December first of each year for membership approval.
- 2. Additional funds: The Missions Committee may also recommend additional funds for mission organizations, missionaries, or projects during the fiscal year for the Board of Elders approval.

##### **B. Criteria for Financial Support:**

- 1. Mission agencies: It is the desire of LMBC to partnership with those agencies who are a member of the I.F.M.A. and/or meet the following criteria:
  - a) We are in agreement with their general doctrinal position.
  - b) We know that they have a commitment to expanding and strengthening Christ's church across cultural or geographical boundaries.
  - c) We know that their primary ministry is in evangelism, the training of leaders, and establishing culturally relevant churches.
- 2. Career, short term, and summer missionaries: It is the desire of LMBC to support those missionaries who demonstrate:
  - a) Their clear testimony of their faith and calling in Jesus Christ.
  - b) Their consistent Christian living.

- c) Their agreement with our doctrinal position as stated in our by-laws.
  - d) Their personal commitment to evangelism, discipleship, and involvement in the ministry of a local church.
  - e) Adequate training for the work that God has called them to do.
3. **National Missionaries:** It is the desire of LMBC to support those national missionaries who demonstrate:
- a) Their clear testimony of their faith and calling in Jesus Christ.
  - b) Their consistent walk with the Lord.
  - c) Their personal commitment to evangelism, training of leaders, and involvement in establishing churches.
  - d) Adequate training for the work to which God has called them.
  - e) Their recommendation by an approved American or national mission agency with who we are in doctrinal agreement.
  - f) Commitment to the goal of being supported by the national organization or the national local church.
4. **Projects:** Project funds may be raised through special offerings and other methods recommended by the Missions Committee and approved by the Board of Elders. We may recommend the funding of projects that:
- a) Are in harmony with our stated purpose.
  - b) Meet the personal needs of our supported missionaries.
5. **Students:** Financial aid may be given towards tuition when a LMBC member or active attendee has been involved in missions on a short term basis and/or is studying for a career in missions.

**C. Procedure for financial support for career and short term missionaries:**

1. The career and/or \*short term missionary shall:
  - a) Request an application, a copy of the Constitution of LMBC and the Missions Policy and Practices from the Missions Committee Chairperson.
  - b) Read the documents and complete the application.
  - c) Provide a written approval from the sending agency (If the individual is going out under a mission organization) before their name is submitted to the Missions Committee for consideration.
2. **The national missionary shall:**
  - a) Have the recommendation of an LMBC supported missionary on the same field, the pastor, an LMBC member, or a partnering agency.
  - b) Provide a description of his/her ministry.
3. **The LMBC mission student shall:**
  - a) Complete a scholarship application.
  - b) Interview with the Missions Committee.
4. **The Missions Committee shall:**
  - a) Upon preliminary review and approval of the applicant (s) schedule an interview or initiate correspondence.
  - b) Upon approval recommend the individual(s) to the Board of Elders and

the proposed amount of funds and the date to begin the recommended support.

**5. The Board of Elders will make the final determination.**

**D. The amount of support per missionary:**

1. **Career missionaries** may be supported to a maximum of 35% of the required support.
2. **Short term and summers missionaries** may be supported on the basis of evaluating each individual situation.
3. **National missionaries** shall be supported according to the guidelines of their national agency.
4. **College students** who have served as short term missionaries and/or are involved in career missionary studies may receive scholarship funds in relation to their continuing education to be determined on an individual basis of need.

**E. Preparation and outgoing expenses:**

The Missions Committee will evaluate and consider the preparation and outgoing expenses of the missionary and make appropriate recommendations to the Board of Elders.

**F. Support review:**

1. The Missions Committee shall review the support needs of each LMBC missionary in accordance with the following considerations:
  - a) The annual report information.
  - b) Demonstrated effectiveness in accomplishing his/her assigned tasks.
  - c) Extension of the normal period at home.
2. When financial support may be increased:
  - a) When additional support is required by the mission agency.
  - b) A missionary has emergency type needs.
3. Support reduced or discontinued: The Missions Committee will evaluate each individual situation and present their findings to the Board of Elders. Some reasons may include:
  - a) The missionary resigning from mission's service.
  - b) The missionary is no longer in agreement with our doctrinal position.
  - c) The missionary has been reassigned to a task that no longer fulfills our outreach objectives.
  - d) When the Missions Committee feels our portion of the task is completed for that particular missionary or project.
  - e) The missionary has been dismissed by his/her mission board.
  - f) The missionary does not communicate on the prescribed basis of at least every three months and an annual report.

4. Administration of the decrease or discontinuance of support:
  - a) The missionary will be informed as to why his/her support being altered and be given an opportunity to respond accordingly.
  - b) Except for cause or other unusual circumstances support will not be terminated during the time that the missionary is on the field.

**G. Insurance for career missionaries:**

The Missions Committee feels each of its missionaries should have health insurance. This is usually arranged by the mission organization. If this is not the case then the Missions Committee will consider appropriate action.

**H. Retirement:**

When a supported missionary retires, the Missions Committee will examine his/her financial needs and consideration will be given toward continued support.

**I. Designated Giving:**

1. Individuals may designate funds to individuals or projects that have been approved by the Board of Elders.
2. Unsolicited money which comes designated to an individual or project may be forwarded upon approval of the Missions Committee and the Board of Elders. The donor will be contacted and encouraged to send future designated gifts directly to the organization under which the missionary serves.

**J. Missions Committee Administrative Expenses:**

The Missions Committee's administrative costs will be entered into the overall proposed annual budget of the church. This will include costs for missions conferences.

**K. Missionary Speaker Honorarium**

1. Honorariums for missionary speakers will be the same for any speaker and paid out of the general fund of the church.
2. The honorarium for conference speakers shall be determined by the Missions Committee on an individual basis.

**X. Relationship between LMBC and the missionary:**

**A. The church to the missionary:**

1. Continual prayer and communications.
2. Re-entry: When an LMBC missionary returns home from his/her work, the Missions Committee will endeavor to help in any way possible. Care may include housing, counseling, cultural orientation, and helping with practical or financial needs associated with re-entry.



3. Field visitation: It is important that missionaries are visited on their field of service. Church members interested in assisting LMBC missionaries may be eligible for a subsidy.
4. Further education: Career missionaries pursuing future education with the approval of their mission board may continue to receive support during a one year period after four years on the field. Extension beyond one year will be reviewed by the Missions Committee and approved by the Board of Elders.

#### **B. The Missionary to the Church:**

1. Reporting from the field:
  - a) Missionary prayer letters are expected at least every three months.
  - b) Each full term missionary supported by LMBC shall provide an annual report which will:
    - 1) Communicate both ministry and personal goals.
    - 2) Evaluate the previous year's accomplishments.
    - 3) Update their support and personal needs.
    - 4) Inform us of any furlough or educational plans.
    - 5) Be submitted one month prior to the beginning of the annual mission's budget proposal. (Normally the report should be submitted by October 1 of each year)
2. Home service or deputation:
  - a) While on home service or deputation the missionary will be expected to spend some time at the church. This should be at least a full Sunday at the church.
  - b) The missionaries are to spend time with the pastor and the Missions Committee concerning their work.

#### **XI. Missions Conferences:**

As part of mission's education and awareness within the church, conferences will be planned by the Missions Committee. These events will be scheduled at a time which best fits the church calendar. Each January the Missions Committee will evaluate, set dates for the following year and make preliminary plans for the coming conferences

\*Short term missionaries: (One week to two years of service)