

OUTREACH COMMITTEE MISSIONS POLICY

of the

UNITED EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH

1420 NW 80th St.

Seattle, WA 98117

(206) 783-7224

Revision date: ~~May 14, February 4, 2008~~1990

Comment [CK1]: Do we retitle "missions policy to "Outreach policy"?

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TABLE OF CONTENTS:

I. [Definition of Missions](#)1

II. [Scriptural Basis for Missions](#)1

III. [Purpose, Flexibility and Revision of this Policy](#).....2

IV. [Outreach Committee Structure](#).....3

V. [Responsibilities of the Committee](#)3

VI. [Visitation of Missionaries on the Field](#)5

VII. [Missionary Recruitment](#).....5

VIII. [Organizations, Missions and Missionaries to Support](#).....5

 A. [Budget Distribution: Missions Boards](#)5

 B. [Candidate Sources](#)6

 C. [Organizations and Independents](#)6

 D. [Selection of New Support Candidates](#)6

IX. [Short-Term Missions Service](#)7

 A. [Definition](#)7

 B. [Guidelines](#)7

 C. [Support Arrangements](#)7

X. [Responsibilities to United of those we Support](#).....8

XI. [United's Responsibilities to those we Support](#).....8

XII. [Financial Guidelines](#)9

 A. [Support Policies](#)9

 1. [Initiation](#)9

 2. [Payment](#)9

 3. [Revisions](#)9

 4. [Adjustments](#)9

 B. [Opportunity Fund](#)10

 C. [Designated and One Time Gift Handling](#)11

 D. [Missions Budget Shortage and Surplus](#)11

XIII. [Access to this Policy](#).....11

[Definition of Missions](#) 1

[Scriptural Basis for Missions](#) 1

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[Purpose, Flexibility and Revision of this Policy](#) 2

[Missions Committee Structure](#) 3

[Responsibilities of the Committee](#) 3

[Visitation of Missionaries on the Field](#) 5

[Organizations, Missions and Missionaries to Support](#) 5

[Budget Distribution: Missions Boards](#) 5

[Candidate Sources](#) 6

[Organizations and Independents](#) 6

[Individual Support Principles](#) 6

[Selection of New Support Candidates](#) 6

[Short Term Missions Service](#) 7

[Definition](#) 7

[Guidelines](#) 7

[Support Arrangements](#) 8

[Responsibilities to United of those we Support](#) 8

[United's Responsibilities to those we Support](#) 9

[Financial Guidelines](#) 10

[Support Policies](#) 10

[Initiation](#) 10

[Payment](#) 10

[Revisions](#) 10

[Adjustments](#) 10

[Opportunity Fund](#) 10

[Designated and One Time Gift Handling](#) 11

[Missions Budget Shortage and Surplus](#) 12

[Copies to Church Officers](#) 12

[Appendix A: Revision History](#)..... 12y 13

[Appendix B: Historical relationship of TEAM to EFC](#)14..... 13

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I. Definition of Missions

Any endeavor outside our local congregation, whether local or international, which fulfills the Great Commission of Christ by proclaiming the gospel of Christ, making disciples, and relating to the totality of human needs - spiritual, physical, etc. This will include:

A4. Missionary work and church planting

B2. Educational ministries and institutions

C3. Evangelism, camps, literature, radio and other various ministries

D4. ~~projects~~Projects

E5. EFCA District and National ministries

F6. TEAM ministries

7. ~~all of these both home and foreign~~

II. Scriptural Basis for Missions (all scripture quoted from NASB)

A. To Obey Jesus Christ's Great Commission

Matthew- 28:19-20 "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 commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

See also Mark 16:15, Luke 24:47, John 20:21, Acts 1:8

B. To Share Christ's Heart for the World

Matthew- 9:36-38 "And seeing the multitudes, He felt compassion for them because they were distressed and downcast like sheep without a shepherd. Then He said to His disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest."

See also Matthew- 18:10-14, Luke 10:2, II Peter 3:9

C. To Minister to the Totality of Human Need

Matthew- 4:23 "And Jesus was going about in all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every kind of disease and every kind of sickness among the people."

See also Matthew- 25:31-46, Acts 4:34-35, I Timothy- 6:18-19

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D. To Bring People to a Saving Knowledge of Jesus Christ

Romans 10:13-15 "for 'Whoever will call on the name of the Lord will be saved.' How then shall they call upon Him in whom they have not believed? 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.'"

See also Matthew- 10:32-33, John 1:12, John 3:16, John 4:6

D.E. To Promote the Training of Believers for Christian Service and the Establishing of Local Bible Teaching Churches

Ephesians 4:11-12 "And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ."

II Timothy- 2:2. II Timothy- 2:15

~~-quoted from NAS~~

III. Purpose, Flexibility and Revision of this Policy

A. Purpose for this Policy

1. To provide a clear sense of direction for the ~~Missions Committee~~Outreach Committee-
2. To strive for God-honoring stewardship and fiscal responsibility-
3. To avoid making important decisions on an emotional or haphazard basis-
4. To work in better harmony with church-wide leadership-
5. To more quickly orient new committee members, ~~allowing them to quickly familiarize themselves~~ with the issues to be faced ~~in and~~ the general direction of our Outreach~~missions~~ policy-
6. To maintain continuity and consistency as the Committee's membership changes-

B. Flexibility of Interpretation

Some flexibility in ~~Missions Committee~~Outreach Committee policy is desirable. Exceptions to the policy should be made on recommendation of the ~~Missions Committee~~Outreach Committee and approval of the church ~~Executive~~elder -Board.

C. Revision of Policy

This Policy should be revised when needed and be reviewed at least every two years.

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IV. ~~Missions Committee~~ Outreach Committee Structure
(see By-Laws III-7a and III-8 ~~II-17 and III-9 a~~)

A. The ~~Missions- Outreach~~ Committee will be composed of not less than ~~two-three~~ members, an elder board representative, and a chairman. ~~Pastor, Church Chairman, and WMS Chair Are, ex-officio members.~~

B. The ~~Missions Committee~~ Outreach Committee Chairman will be elected at the annual business meeting of the congregation in even-numbered years. ~~He~~ The Chairman may succeed himself ~~herself~~ once (~~four~~4 years consecutive service).

C. Members are appointed by the Chairman, ~~subject to approval by the Church Board.~~

Comment [CK2]: Do committee members have to be members of the congregation?

V. Responsibilities of the Committee
(see By-Laws ~~H-17 and III-9 b~~ III-7a and III-8)

A. The Chairman shall:

1. Ceall and preside over meetings of the Ceommittee
2. Serve on the ~~Church Board and~~ on the Finance Committee
3. Appoint members and organize the Ceommittee within one month following the annual meeting

B. The members shall:

1. Attend the Committee meetings.
2. Bbe familiar with the ~~missions-Outreach~~ policies of the church.
3. Assume responsibility for portions of the Ceommittee's work.

C. The Ceommittee shall meet quarterly and on a monthly basis or as needed. ~~;~~

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C.D. General responsibilities:

1. Stimulate the congregation to intercessory prayer for world evangelism and for our missionaries, both local and international. ~~(why just world missions?)~~
2. Provide current missions needs information to the congregation to enable knowledgeable and specific prayer and action.
3. Educate ~~and inspire~~ all age levels of the congregation about world missions, home and abroad ~~both local and international.~~ ~~(reword)~~
4. Encourage people from the congregation to volunteer for missionary service and to provide counsel and encouragement for those who volunteer.
5. ~~To a~~ Act as delegates of the church body to screen and recommend candidates for support:

~~6. To s~~ Serve as a liaison between the church and those being supported.

~~7. 6.~~ Administer and evaluate the missions program.

~~8. 7.~~ Develop measurable goals and long-range plans for direction in the future.

~~9. 8.~~ Oversee disbursements of missions money in situations such as budget variations, one time and emergency expenditures, and etc. In the event of significant budget variations, work with the Finance Chair and/or Elder Board for satisfactory resolution and payment of missions commitments (see Section XII.D)

D.E. Specific responsibilities:

1. Revise and develop the mission budget that is submitted to the Finance Committee.
- ~~2.~~ Plan and arrange for a congregation-wide missions emphasis event ~~Conference,~~ usually once a year in March or the early part of the year.
- ~~3.~~ Participate when possible with the district EFCA round robin missionary conferences ~~conferences~~ outreach events.
- ~~2.~~
- ~~3.~~ Arrange for monthly services at the Union Gospel Mission.
- ~~4.~~ Maintain an accurate list of missionary addresses.
- ~~4.~~ Arrange for welcoming and/or farewell receptions for missionaries at furlough time ~~when they return.~~ A
- ~~5.~~ arrange with the Pastor, office, and/or the Elders for their participation in worship ~~the services prior to the reception~~
- ~~6. 5.~~ a Love Gift should be taken at the reception

Comment [CK3]: Action is covered under point 4 and 5.

Comment [CK4]: [inspiration is hereby left up to the Holy Spirit...

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Comment [CK5]: What does this mean, and who has which responsibility?

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6. ~~Maintain the Missionary bulletin boards with~~ Have current correspondence and pictures, ~~etc available to the congregation.~~

7. ~~Arrange for Christmas greetings and/or monetary gifts to be sent to all missionaries~~

7. ~~Make missionaries aware of the Missionary cupboard so they may obtain needed items.~~

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VI. Visitation of Missionaries on the Field

~~A.~~ The ~~Missions Committee~~ Outreach Committee will encourage members of the congregation to visit our missionaries on the field for any the following purposes:

~~1-A.~~ Their own education about the work and area needs

~~2-B.~~ Aiding the missionaries by way of a project (see Short-Term Missions Service ref. IX)

~~3-C.~~ Encouraging the missionaries through Bible teaching and counseling

~~D.~~ To report ~~to on returning being able to inspire and inform~~ the congregation and/or the Outreach Committee concerning missions upon returning.

D. The Committee may take a Love Offering for this purpose to be given as a personal gift.

VII. Missionary Recruitment

A. A long range goal of the Outreach Committee ~~our church~~ is:

- ~~T~~o have members of our church family serving ~~in many fields~~ cross-culturally.
- ~~T~~o establish direct contact with foreign fields through the involvement of our leaders and members ~~laymen~~ in Short Term missions work.

B. Missionary recruitment will include:

- ~~C~~hallenging the leaders and members of our church to pray that God would raise up people from our congregation to enter Christian service.
- ~~E~~ncouraging all members of our congregation to consider ~~long~~ full or short term ~~part-time~~ missionary service
- ~~F~~acilitating communication between congregation members who express desire or interest in missionary service and the appropriate mission agency
4. Offering guidance in the recruitment process ~~counseling~~

VIII. Organizations, Missions and Missionaries to Support

A. Budget Distribution: Missions Boards

We desire to support our denomination's Overseas Missions and Church Ministries international missions (ReachGlobal) and church ministries departments. We also desire to honor our historical ~~al~~ loyalties to The Evangelical Alliance Mission (see Appendix B).

MISSIONS Outreach Committee POLICY Policy Feb. 5/14/902008

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Therefore we intend to maintain at least 60% of our missions budget for the missions outreaches of the EFCA and of TEAM.

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A.

A-B. Candidate Sources

We desire to ~~conserve our budget resources~~, support our denomination and maintain a strong base of missions interest in the congregation through personal friendships. Therefore the following ~~candidate source~~ priorities apply. They may also serve as a guideline for scheduling candidates for participation in church services.

1. Members and those actively involved in our church serving under the EFCA ~~(ReachGlobal)missions board~~.
2. Members and those actively involved in our church serving under an approved missions board-
3. Missionaries or candidates from district EFC churches serving under the EFCA ~~(ReachGlobal)missions board~~
4. Missionaries or candidates from this area serving under TEAM
5. Missionaries or candidates from this area serving under an approved mission board
6. Others

C. Organizations and Independents

1.

We believe missionaries are usually more effective when working with others under a well established mission board. Therefore we will not ordinarily provide support to missionaries who go out independently.

2. ~~We will have studied doctrinal position, financial practices and policies, governing structure and other pertinent aspects of a missions organization before recommending support for a missionary.~~ We will work mainly with organizations affiliated with ~~Evangelical Foreign Missions Association~~The Mission Exchange (formerly Evangelical Foreign Missions Association), ~~Interdenominational Foreign Missions Association~~CrossGlobal Link (formerly International Foreign Missions Association) and the National Association of Evangelicals (NAE).

~~—Before recommending support for candidates with other organizations, we will research the doctrinal position, financial practices and policies, governing structure and other pertinent aspects of a missions organization before recommending support for a missionary.~~

B. Individual Support Principles

~~Missionaries to be supported should receive not less than 5% or more than 25% of their required support from our church. This guideline comes from two principles:~~

1. ~~If a missionary has too many small supporters it makes communication with them a burden. Having a small number of substantial supporters is better.~~

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~~2.3. A missionary can have too few supporting churches. A broader base of prayer and financial support is better and offers more security.~~

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~~C.D.~~ Selection of New Support Candidates

Candidates should be given exposure in the church prior to selection. This will include participation in church services and meetings. Individuals that attend regularly may be able to hold continuing responsibilities. Candidate organizations (where a ministry, not an individual is to be supported) should send a representative to present their work to the congregation. Selection will be by the following procedure:

1. Interview with candidate or ministry representative to include.
 - a. Personal testimony.
 - b. Discussion of spiritual expectations of mission.
 - c. Discussion of financial needs and possibilities.

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2. Acceptance ~~of the candidate for support and determination of support level~~ by the ~~Missions Committee~~Outreach Committee using the following criteria:

- a. Agreement with doctrinal position of the church
- b. Evidence of past commitment and dedication to God's will
- c. Personal references or knowledge of candidate
- d. Appropriate training or education
- e. The degree of need for ministry in the targeted area
- f. Information or recommendation from the denominational source
- g. Marital status and dependants
- h. Any other pertinent aspects

3. Approval by church elder board

4. Approval by church congregation

IX. Short-Term Missions Service

A. Definition

The ~~Missions-Outreach~~ Committee will encourage members of the congregation to be directly involved in missions through short-term missions service. ~~This is defined as non-permanent missionary commitment.~~

B. Guidelines

1. The committee welcomes individuals to approach the committee members concerning their interest in short-term work. We want to support increased short-term involvement and are available for encouragement, ~~counseling~~guidance, organization liaison and help in raising support.
2. Individuals must be believers and show evidence of spiritual growth. They should be sincerely interested in missions and have a record of training and service in the local church.
3. Parental approval is required for those under 18 years of age.
4. Individuals should meet with the ~~Missions Committee~~Outreach Committee about two months before assignment. Discussion should include:
 - a. ~~P~~ersonal testimony-
 - b. ~~E~~xpectation for service and growth from the assignment-
 - c. ~~O~~ur involvement as a congregation in loving and prayerful support-
 - d. ~~O~~ur expectations of reports to the congregation before and after the mission-
 - e. ~~F~~inancial costs and needs-

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C. Support Arrangements

1. Support applicants should be church members or regular attendees of at least one year.
2. Individuals are encouraged to work with the ~~Missions Committee~~Outreach Committee to raise their support.
3. Support candidates are expected to supply as much of their own support as possible, in order to enhance the value of the experience.
4. Some monies may be available from the Opportunity Fund for candidates that need assistance. They will also be given opportunity to approach individuals in the congregation with the endorsement of the ~~Missions Committee~~Outreach Committee to request financial support.
5. Church funds will be held in reserve for the candidate and will be dispensed at the appropriate time prior to assignment departure.

X. Responsibilities to United of those we Support

A. Participation

We desire missionaries to participate in our church as they are able. This is for the purpose of renewed friendships, encouragement, fellowship, and mutual strengthening.

A.B. Reporting

The ~~Outreach Committee~~church should be kept informed of the activities, status and needs of each missionary and organization. We expect:

1. ~~This will include~~ Regular correspondence (i.e. newsletters, e-mail).
2. ~~Missionaries should~~ Visit the church when they are in the area during each furlough after a full term on the field.
3. ~~Short term missionaries shall~~ report to the ~~church~~ Outreach Committee at the conclusion of their assignments
4. ~~Visits by representatives of organizations should be scheduled at least once every four years.~~

5.3. Participation

We request missionaries to participate in our church in proportion to the level of their support. This is for the purpose of renewed friendships, encouragement, fellowship, and mutual strengthening.

XI. United's Responsibilities to those we Support

MISSIONS Outreach Committee POLICY Policy Feb. 5/14/902008

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A. Prayer

United commits to regular prayer for each missionary we support.

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B. Communication

United commits to regular communication with those we support by such means as newsletters, Christmas greetings, etc. We also encourage the development of individual correspondence by the congregation.

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A.C. Budget

The people and groups we support depend on us. When we as a church approve a missions budget we are committing ourselves to it.

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B.D. Missionaries in our area

The ~~Missions Committee~~ Outreach Committee will assist missionaries ~~that are furloughing or visiting to find~~ with housing and transportation needs.

C.E. Continuing Education

We will continue to provide support for our missionaries during periods of education or training approved by their missions organization. ~~This will ordinarily be limited to one year beyond normal furlough.~~

D.F. Exclusions

It is expected that the missionary or missions organization will assume certain responsibilities.

1. Sufficient insurance coverage
2. Education for their missionary children
3. An adequate retirement program

XII. Financial Guidelines

A. Support Policies

1. Initiation

Support begins after budgetary approval. ~~Missionaries must also have entered full-time service under their missions board or organization.~~

2. Payment

Regular budgeted missions support that has been approved by the congregation may be paid by the treasurer without additional authorization vouchers from the Missions

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~~Committee~~Outreach Committee.

3. Revisions

The ~~Missions Committee~~Outreach Committee shall review levels of support annually at the time of preparation of the budget. Information should be obtained ~~from the missions agencies~~ to determine if ~~individual support~~ needs are being met. Support may also be reviewed, ~~in consultation with an individual's sending organization, if deemed at any other time~~ necessary.

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3.4. Adjustments

- a. Support increases may occur at any time.
- b. Decreases or withdrawals for ~~overseas personnel~~ missionaries will not occur should occur only when they have returned from the field, as during furlough while they are out of the country. An exception may be made for a moral or doctrinal problem (d.2).
- c. We will give three months notice prior to support withdrawal. This withdrawal would be ordinarily accomplished by a plan of diminishing support over time.
- e. —
- d. Support may be discontinued when:
 - i. Any change in affiliation of mission agencies is made, pending new approval
 - ii. A moral or doctrinal problem arises
 - iii. A personal problem arises which brings about a return home; subject to review of the circumstances by the Missions Committee Outreach Committee
 - iv. A home assignment ~~furlough~~ has been extended beyond normal length
 - v. There has not been correspondence at least yearly
 - vi. Retirement occurs

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B. Opportunity Fund

1. There will be a fund designated "Opportunity Fund" in savings. Its purpose will be to support Short-Term mission involvements of up to three months duration.
2. Fund Sources
 - a. Any offerings taken at ~~the Missions Emphasis event~~ outreach events ~~Conference~~, over and above ~~conference~~ expenses, will become part of the Opportunity Fund.
 - b. If the Opportunity Fund ~~is reduced to where there are not funds available to meet the needs presented~~ insufficient, the Outreach Committee may request the elder board to approve a special appeals may be requested to the congregation. ~~after proper approval.~~
3. Fund Usage
 - a. Requests for a grant from the fund should be made, preferably in writing, by the candidate at least three months before assignment.

Comment [CK6]: This sounds like a designated fund. Have elders discuss how this is supposed to be set up. Example: \$500 unspent last year is added to an additional \$500 totaling \$1,000.

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b. Grant amounts will be decided by the ~~Missions Committee~~Outreach Committee based on financial need and the availability of funds.

~~e.~~ Grants may be made up to a maximum of \$500 per adult (\$250 per child in the case of a family);

~~d.c.~~ ~~Recommendations from the Missions Committee for usage of the fund must be approved by the congregation.~~

~~d.~~ Items will be paid with a properly authorized voucher from the ~~Missions Committee~~Outreach Committee.

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C. Designated and One-Time Gift Handling

~~When an individual or organization is the designated recipient of a one-time gift, the Outreach Committee will enter into discussion with the person or organization to determine the best way of applying the gift. We desire to use all one-time gifts as designated, but the Outreach Committee will retain the right to discuss other options with the donor or estate executor.~~

1. Designated support will be applied toward budgeted commitments, ~~unless inapplicable.~~

~~2.~~ When an item is designated for an individual or team for short-term work, it should be treated as a pass-through item and should not become part of the Opportunity fund.

~~2.3.~~ ~~If a gift cannot be honored or there is good cause not to forward it, the Outreach Committee will discuss other options with the donor or return the gift with a tactful explanation.~~

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~~3.4.~~ Personal gifts to individuals should not be forwarded through the church as they cannot be tax deductible.

~~4.~~ Items will be paid with a properly authorized voucher from the ~~Missions Committee~~Outreach Committee

~~5.~~ ~~If a gift cannot be honored or there is good cause not to forward it, the Missions Committee will discuss other options with the donor or return the gift with a tactful explanation.~~

~~6.5.~~ One time gifts

~~When an individual or organization is the designated recipient of a one time gift, the Missions Committee will enter into discussion with the person or organization to determine the best way of applying the gift. We desire to use all one time gifts as designated, but the Missions Committee will retain the right to discuss other options with the donor or estate executor.~~

D. ~~Missions Outreach Committee~~ Budget Shortage and Surplus

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1. In the event of budget short-fall new commitments should not be approved. The congregation must be informed about and challenged with the need.

2. Existing commitments should be paid in the following priority:

~~a. non-salaried missionaries~~

b. ~~salaried missionaries~~ Individual missionaries

c. ~~O~~rganizations (Ex: Missionary Construction Team, Union Gospel Mission)

d. ~~PP~~rojects (Welcome bags, Wanderland)

3. In the case of a surplus, funds will be transferred to the ~~O~~ppportunity ~~F~~und.

~~E. XIII. Copies to Church Officers~~ Access to this policy

Access to this policy will be available to the entire congregation through the church website.

To promote policy consistency, copies of the Financial section of this policy will be given to the Church Treasurer, and Financial Secretary and the Finance Chairman.

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Appendix A: Revision History

Feb. 1988

Final proposed policy draft from Missions ~~co-~~committee for Church board review.

Apr. 19, 1988 .

Accepted as policy at church annual business meeting.

Jun. 5, 1988

Revision history implemented. References to TEAM, explanation of historical ties and statement of continued alliance added. Expansion of the Contingency Fund section.

Mar 4, 1990

Changes in the Short Term policy area. We wanted to express our willingness to help short-term workers. Contingency Fund changed to Opportunity Fund - operation of the fund changed slightly. Financial guidelines expanded to be more specific.

May 14, 1990

Some wording changes to the Mar. 4 draft.

[September 2007-February 2008](#)

[Extensive line-by-line review and revision. Posted for comment before church annual business meeting.](#)

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[MISSIONS Outreach Committee POLICY Policy Feb. 5/14/902008](#)

Appendix B: Historical relationship of TEAM to EFC

The United Evangelical Free Church was formed in 1951 from the merger of a Swedish Free Church and a Norwegian Free Church. This Norwegian origin is of particular significance because of its ties with The Evangelical Alliance Mission (TEAM). Vernon Mortenson, President Emeritus of TEAM, describes this in the following letter.

9104 Fortuna Dr. Apt 42
Mercer Island, WA 98040

March 24, 1988

Miss Dorothy Boe
10332 9th Avenue, N.W.
Seattle, WA 98177

Dear Dorothy:

This is in response to your question about the relationship existing between the EFCA and TEAM. As you know, the Norwegian Danish Free Church had no foreign mission board of its own. TEAM was its official channel for missions. The Swedish Free Church had its own foreign mission board.

At the merger talks between the two groups in the late 1940's one major point was the foreign mission work of both. The leaders of the Norwegian Danish group referred to TEAM as "our mission" - the official channel for its mission work.

Quite a few TEAM missionaries were members of the Swedish Free Churches, but there was no organizational link with the Swedish Free Church.

The merger decision was that TEAM should continue to be an authorized foreign missions channel along with the Free Church Board of Missions. The agreement recognized the right of each individual church to determine what channel it would use for missionary support. There was no provision for the EFCA to have proportionate control of TEAM except as its contributing churches had the right to vote in the annual meeting of TEAM.

As a result of that agreement the TEAM general director is invited to give a report at each annual conference of the EFCA and that is done each year.

Furthermore, it is the general practice of the Free Churches to ordain qualifying TEAM men of Free Church membership. Their purpose to serve in TEAM meets the requirement that ordination is to be for ministry in the Free Church.

The EFCA and TEAM are not linked corporately but there are historical links in that the EFCA was greatly influenced by the church principles set forth by Fredrik Franson and TEAM was founded by Franson.

It is safe to say that for those local churches that have backgrounds in both the Swedish and the Norwegian Danish groups, the clear intention was to not change or disrupt the foreign mission relationship with TEAM.

Sincerely,

Vernon Mortenson

Because of these ties and the heritage of our own church, we should maintain loyalties to TEAM.

[MISSIONS-Outreach Committee POLICY Policy Feb. 5/14/902008](#)

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