

OUTREACH COMMITTEE POLICY

of

UNITED EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH

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Revision date: February 4, 2008

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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:

- A. Missionary work and church planting
- B. Educational ministries and institutions
- C. Evangelism, camps, literature, radio and other various ministries
- D. Projects
- E. EFCA District and National ministries
- F. TEAM ministries

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

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

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

III. Purpose, Flexibility and Revision of this Policy

A. Purpose for this Policy

1. To provide a clear sense of direction for the 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, with the issues to be faced and the general direction of our Outreach policy
6. To maintain continuity and consistency as the Committee's membership changes

B. Flexibility of Interpretation

Some flexibility in Outreach Committee policy is desirable. Exceptions to the policy should be made on recommendation of the Outreach Committee and approval of the church Elder Board.

C. Revision of Policy

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

IV. Outreach Committee Structure
(see By-Laws III-7a and III-8)

- A. The Outreach Committee will be composed of not less than three members, an elder board representative, and a chairman.
- B. The Outreach Committee Chairman will be elected at the annual business meeting of the congregation in even-numbered years. The Chairman may succeed himself/herself once (four years consecutive service).
- C. Members are appointed by the Chairman.

V. Responsibilities of the Committee
(see By-Laws III-7a and III-8)

- A. The Chairman shall:
 - 1. Call and preside over meetings of the Committee
 - 2. Serve on the on the Finance Committee
 - 3. Appoint members and organize the Committee within one month following the annual meeting
- B. The members shall:
 - 1. Attend the Committee meeting
 - 2. Be familiar with the Outreach policies of the church
 - 3. Assume responsibility for portions of the Committee's work
- C. The Committee shall meet quarterly and as needed.

D. General responsibilities:

1. Stimulate the congregation to intercessory prayer for evangelism and for our missionaries, both local and international
2. Provide current missions needs information to the congregation to enable knowledgeable and specific prayer
3. Educate all age levels of the congregation about missions, both local and international
4. Encourage people from the congregation to volunteer for missionary service and to provide counsel and encouragement for those who volunteer
5. Act as delegates of the church body to screen and recommend candidates for support
6. Serve as a liaison between the church and those being supported
7. Develop measurable goals and long-range plans for direction in the future
8. 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)

E. Specific responsibilities:

1. Revise and develop the mission budget that is submitted to the Finance Committee
2. Plan and arrange for a missions emphasis event, usually once a year
3. Participate when possible with the district EFCA outreach events
4. Maintain an accurate list of missionary addresses
5. Arrange for welcoming missionaries when they return. Arrange with the Pastor, office, and/or the Elders for their participation in worship services
6. Have current correspondence and pictures available to the congregation
7. Arrange for Christmas greetings and/or monetary gifts to be sent to all missionaries

VI. Visitation of Missionaries on the Field

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

- A. Their own education about the work and area needs
- B. Aiding the missionaries by way of a project (see Short-Term Missions Service ref. IX)
- C. Encouraging the missionaries through Bible teaching and counseling
- D. To report to the congregation and/or the Outreach Committee upon returning

VII. Missionary Recruitment

A. A long range goal of the Outreach Committee is:

- 1. To have members of our church family serving cross-culturally
- 2. To establish direct contact with foreign fields through the involvement of our leaders and members in Short Term missions work

B. Missionary recruitment will include:

- 1. Challenging the leaders and members of our church to pray that God would raise up people from our congregation to enter Christian service
- 2. Encouraging all members of our congregation to consider long or short term missionary service
- 3. Facilitating communication between congregation members who express desire or interest in missionary service and the appropriate mission agency
- 4. Offering guidance in the recruitment process

VIII. Organizations, Missions and Missionaries to Support

A. Budget Distribution: Missions Boards

We desire to support our denomination's international missions (ReachGlobal) and church ministries departments. We also desire to honor our historic loyalties to The Evangelical Alliance Mission (see Appendix B).

B. Candidate Sources

We desire to support our denomination and maintain a strong base of missions interest in the congregation through personal friendships. Therefore the following 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)
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)
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 work mainly with organizations affiliated with The Mission Exchange (formerly Evangelical Foreign Missions Association), CrossGlobal Link (formerly International Foreign Missions Association) and the National Association of Evangelicals (NAE).
3. 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.

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.
2. Acceptance of the candidate for support by the 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 Outreach Committee will encourage members of the congregation to be directly involved in missions through short-term missions service.

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, 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 Outreach Committee about two months before assignment. Discussion should include:
 - a. Personal testimony
 - b. Expectation for service and growth from the assignment
 - c. Our involvement as a congregation in loving and prayerful support
 - d. Our expectations of reports to the congregation before and after the mission
 - e. Financial costs and needs

C. Support Arrangements

1. Support applicants should be church members or regular attenders of at least one year.
2. Individuals are encouraged to work with the 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 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.

B. Reporting

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

1. Regular correspondence (i.e. newsletters, e-mail).
2. Visiting the church when they are in the area.
3. Short term missionaries report to the Outreach Committee at the conclusion of their assignments.

XI. United's Responsibilities to those we Support

A. Prayer

United commits to regular prayer for each missionary we support.

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.

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.

D. Missionaries in our area

The Outreach Committee will assist missionaries with housing and transportation needs.

E. Continuing Education

We will continue to provide support for our missionaries during periods of education or training approved by their missions organization.

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.

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 Outreach Committee.

3. Revisions

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

4. Adjustments

- a. Support increases may occur at any time
- b. Decreases or withdrawals for missionaries will not occur 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.
- 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 Outreach Committee
 - iv. A home assignment has been extended beyond normal length
 - v. There has not been correspondence at least yearly
 - vi. Retirement occurs

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 outreach events, over and above expenses, will become part of the Opportunity Fund.
 - b. If the Opportunity Fund is insufficient, the Outreach Committee may request the elder board to approve a special appeal to the congregation.
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.
 - b. Grant amounts will be decided by the Outreach Committee based on financial need and the availability of funds.
 - c. Grants may be made up to a maximum of \$500 per adult (\$250 per child in the case of a family)
 - d. Items will be paid with a properly authorized voucher from the Outreach Committee.

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.
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.
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.
4. Personal gifts to individuals should not be forwarded through the church as they cannot be tax deductible.
5. Items will be paid with a properly authorized voucher from the Outreach Committee

D. Outreach Committee Budget Shortage and Surplus

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. Individual missionaries
 - b. Organizations (Ex: Missionary Construction Team, Union Gospel Mission)
 - c. Projects (Welcome bags, Wanderland)
3. In the case of a surplus, funds will be transferred to the Opportunity Fund.

XIII. Access to this policy

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

Appendix A: Revision History

Feb. 1988

Final proposed policy draft from Missions 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.

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.