

## Attachment C

### **BYLAWS OF GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH**

#### **Biblical Basis of Missions**

- God loves the world: John 3:16, Matthew 9:35-38
- Salvation is for all people: Psalm 67, 1 Timothy 2:4-5, 4:10, John 3:16, Matthew 28:18-20
- Jesus commands us to be witnesses and to make disciples: Matthew 28:18-20, Acts 1:8
- All nations will hear before Jesus comes again: Matthew 24:14

#### **Responsibilities of the Missions Committee**

- To educate and inspire the congregation regarding missions
- To inform the congregation about missionaries and ministries we support
- To stimulate prayer for the missionaries and ministries we support
- To provide hospitality for visiting missionaries
- To evaluate opportunities for missions involvement/support and make recommendations about these opportunities to the congregation
- To recommend changes in financial support of missionaries or ministries
- To encourage members to consider short- or long-term missions involvement and to oversee a short-term missions program
- To evaluate the activities of missionaries we support
- To coordinate church financial support of missions, together with the church treasurer

#### **Priorities in Missions**

##### Doctrine:

- Supported missionaries, missions boards and ministries must be in agreement with the Statement of Faith of Grace Community Church

##### Missions Characteristics We Seek (overseas, nationally, and locally):

- Mission activity that proclaims the gospel of Christ and makes disciples, either directly (such as evangelism or church planting), indirectly (such as theological education of nationals), or through ministry to human need, done in Jesus' name (such as community development, health care, crisis intervention, or disaster relief).
- Bringing the gospel to people and nations who have never heard.
- We favor candidates who are associates of established evangelical missions agencies with a track record of successful and ongoing missions programs (such as members of the Evangelical Fellowship of Mission Agencies (EFMA) or the Interdenominational Foreign Mission Association (IFMA).
- We favor mission boards or agencies that are affiliated with the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability (ECFA) or in similar fashion demonstrate the financial accountability.
- We favor meeting new financial needs of missionaries/ministries we currently support.
- We favor support of missionaries with family or church ties to Connecticut or New England.

#### **Relationships with Missionaries**

Each supported missionary or ministry will be assigned to a Missions Committee member who will serve as liaison.

The liaison will pray for and remain in regular contact with the missionary/ministry, and inform the Missions Committee of prayer and ministry needs, changes in status and new financial needs.

In general, we expect to receive correspondence from supported missionaries/ministries at least quarterly.

Church visits by supported missionaries/ministries are strongly encouraged and should generally occur at least once every four years.

The Missions Committee may request an annual progress report or ministry update from missionaries/ministries we support. An example of such a request is show below:

In January, the Mission Board of Grace Community Church will be developing its 2002 budget. Presently we support your ministry. In an attempt to be faithful stewards of the contributions from our church family, and because we care about your ministry and its part in God's Kingdom, we have prepared a brief questionnaire designed to help us understand your ministry and financial needs. Please complete the questionnaire and return it to me at your earliest convenience. Keep your responses as brief as possible. We do not wish to make this time consuming. Please reply to December 1. Thank you.

1. Are you fully supported? If not, what are your support needs? Does the local inflation rate affect your support needs for the coming year?
2. When will your next furlough be? What special needs and prayer requests do you anticipate as a result of your furlough?
3. What are your special needs (equipment, medicines, materials)?
4. How has the Lord blessed your ministry? Has this been a good year? A struggling year? What are your measures of success? We recognize that, like Jeremiah, your ministry may be in the Lord's will without obvious results.
5. If you have access to a FAX machine, an e-mail address or have changed your mailing address in the past year, please advise us of these numbers. Also if you have a current picture, we would like to update our bulletin board.

May the Lord continue to bless your ministry.

### **Short-Term Missions Policy**

In general, short-term missions are one to sixty days in length.

The aim of our short-term missions program is to see involvement in short-term missions by as many members of the congregation as possible. With this aim in mind, the Missions Committee should stimulate, oversee, and provide counsel for short-term missions involvement by members of the congregation. Proposed short-term missions should be evaluated by the Missions Committee using the same criteria applied to long-term missions as described above in the **Missions Priorities** section.

### **Short-Term Missions Fund**

The church's Short-Term Missions Fund exists as a rotating source of support for short-term missions. Principles governing use of this fund include:

- Church members may draw on the fund to finance the cost of short-term missions trips approved by the Missions Committee and Elder Board.
- Requests to use the fund must be made to the Missions Committee, which will assess the planned short-term mission using the criteria described in the **Missions Priorities** section. The Committee may also assess and interview the candidate. Once approved by the

Missions Committee, the request must be approved by the Elder Board **and** before money is disbursed.

- Recipients of support are, in general, expected to raise support from individuals inside and outside of the church to match the monies disbursed from the fund. Personal checks made out for such support should be payable to Grace Community Church and designated for short-term missions.
- The church is willing to provide (as able) up to one-third of support needs for church members going on their first domestic or international short-term missions trip from the fund, up to one-half of the value of the fund in a year. Disbursements for this purpose may be authorized directly by the Missions Committee without prior congregational approval, even when in excess of \$500.

Pastoral short-term missions trip: Policy per Elder Board

### **Missions Budget**

The Missions Committee will submit a draft Missions budget to the Deacon Board prior to the church's annual meeting.

### **Liaison to Elder Board**

An elder should serve as a member of the Missions Committee; if an elder is not on the committee, the committee chairperson should serve as liaison to the Elder Board