**Grace Baptist Church, White Salmon WA**

**Missions Policy**

(Updated 7/22/21)

**Mission Statement:** To support the mission of our church by promoting among all age groups in our congregation an ever-expanding vision of and involvement in, the worldwide work of God’s Kingdom.

**Vision Statement:** Promote missions among our children and youth; continue to support our current missionaries and outreach programs; and increase the vision of our adults towards missions.

**Church sponsored short-term missions project**

1. A short-term mission project has clearly defined objectives and normally lasts one to two weeks.
2. The project must be approved by the elders.
3. The short-term project must serve under the direction of a long-term field ministry that is compatible with the Grace Baptist doctrinal beliefs and practices.
4. The church will receive donations designated for the project, but not for individuals.
5. If the team leaders desire to hold a fundraiser(s), the church will promote and host the event(s).
6. After the completion of the project, any excess funds received, either through donations or fundraisers, will be held in the mission fund to be used at a future date at the discretion of the elders.
7. For more details about church sponsored short term missions project, see the Grace Baptist Church Short-Term Missions Policy (November 2011).

**Individual short-term missions project**

1. A short-term mission project has clearly defined objectives and normally does not extend beyond 3 months.
2. Support of the project must be approved by the elders. The individual desiring to be sent must evidence a growing maturity in Christ and a sincere desire to serve.
3. The short-term project must be with an organization compatible with the Grace Baptist doctrinal beliefs and practices, and under the direction of a long-term ministry on the field.
4. The church will support the individual going by prayer and by a one-time donation for a portion of the cost of the experience.
5. The participant will be expected to share with the congregation both before and after the project.
6. Individual donations for the project should be sent directly to the sponsoring organization rather than through the church.
7. The church will not sponsor fund raisers or allow them to take place on church property.
8. For more details about church sponsored individual short-term missions project, see the Grace Baptist Church Short-Term Missions Policy (November 2011)

**Long-term missions**

1. An important part of the ministry of Grace Baptist is the support of long-term missions, both individuals and organizations. This includes prayer and open ended monthly financial support.
2. Grace Baptist is open to consider sending others who desire to serve in missions long-term. These may be from our own church or another likeminded church.
3. Anyone sent out by the church must be approved by the elders.
4. Those desiring to serve long-term must plan to serve under an organization that is compatible with the Grace Baptist’s doctrinal beliefs and practices. This organization must have an accountability structure adequate to ensure everyone in the organization is living and serving in line with the beliefs, practices, and goals of the organization. The organization must provide adequate pre-field training for its missionaries including the ability to communicate in the local language.
5. The ministry the missionary candidate proposes to do must be something that has significant value for the Kingdom of God. The candidate must have education, skills, and experience appropriate for the proposed ministry.
6. The candidate must show evidence of a high level of spiritual maturity and a history of service in the church and community.
7. Individual donations for long-term missionaries supported by the church should be sent directly to the sponsoring organization rather than through the church. The church will not sponsor fund raisers or allow them to take place on church property.
8. The church expects both individuals and organizations to personally give a report to the congregation at least every 5 years.
9. While the church’s support of long-term missionaries and organizations, once approved, is open ended, it may be reevaluated by the elders at any point.
10. The church’s sending and financially supporting qualified candidates will depend up the priorities of the church and the availability of funds.
11. Grace church missions committee has evaluated, or will evaluate certain mission’s opportunities and deem if it is in line with Grace’s doctrinal beliefs and practices.

\*The missions committee will evaluate mission organization for their long-term or short-term viability. See position papers on organizations for those previously evaluated.