**** Trinity Bible Church of Ottawa

 **Global Missions Policy**

Revised February 2013

(Revised annually, input welcomed, send to tbcoffice@xplornet.com)

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# INTRODUCTION

At TBCO there is a global missions committee whose purpose is to serve our missionaries and support work in the global missions projects God raises up through Trinity.

## Definitions

1. *Global Missions* at TBCO is a ministry that sends out people and supports individuals and organizations as they serve and proclaim the gospel of Christ cross-culturally.
2. *Short-Term Missions* are individual or group endeavors to serve on an organized missions trip for a period of weeks. Education/exposure is often part of the purpose for short term missions.
3. *Intermediate-term Missions* are any missions trips longer than two months and up to two years in length. Career missionaries are individuals or families called by the Holy Spirit to serve as missionaries on a full-time basis for an indeterminate period of time, more than two years.
4. *Sender Teams* are made up of a specific group of people at home committed to supporting the one(s) ‘going’ in various ways, for the entire length of their mission and through their homecoming and settling back into life in Canada.

## Scriptural purpose of missions

1. To fulfill the Great Commission of Christ. (Matt. 28:19-20; Acts 1:8; Romans 10:13-15)
2. To share Christ’s heart for the world. (Matt. 9:36-38; 25:31-46)
3. To build up the body of Christ through discipleship. (Eph. 4:12-16)
4. To minister to human needs. (Matt. 22:37-39; Heb. 13:3, Is. 58:8)

## Purpose of TCBO’s global missions involvement

TBCO’s desire is to reveal the character and nature of God through missions abroad, to clarify the nature of His kingdom, and to serve according to God’s leading. We desire to make disciples of all nations. We are all ministers of the gospel, and we are called to be active in some way in that God-given role. We believe that the gospel of Jesus Christ, once accepted, is transforming, therefore evangelism will lead to social change. However service itself is a missionary calling. Finally, where we sow, we will reap. We are certain that as we commit to serving and sharing the gospel globally, our faithful acts of obedience will bring new life into the body of Christ at Trinity.

## Purpose of TBCO’s missions policy

1. To serve as a guide in matters of missionary support.
2. To give TBCO a clear sense of direction.
3. To encourage a unified outlook and consistent work, in spite of personnel changes within the committee and within the church

# PROCEDURE

## Reviewing a candidate

###  TBCO’s missions committee will review the candidate’s history, call, plan, and references for missions, will discern that this is a call from God and timely, and will gain assurance that the mission is responsibly planned and prepared for.

### The committee will gain assurance that the missionary/organization’s purpose and beliefs are in line with Trinity’s purpose and core beliefs. The committee will also review the candidate’s agency, as well as its history and functionality, and that it is a reputable and accountable agency.

### The committee will ensure that funding is available within the missions’ budget for support. If it is not available, or if the committee does not consider the mission appropriate or timely for TBCO to support for any other reason, but deems it a worthy mission, a request will be made to the elders that the individual/organization might make a presentation to the church in order to gain necessary support from individuals. First consideration will be given to those candidates who are members or adherents of TBCO, Each mission under consideration must not conflict with other missionary efforts or detract from the support needed to fulfill them.

### Any short-term missions trip by the church should be planned from the beginning with input from the missions committee and if possible, prior to the annual budget forecast.

### When assured that any mission is appropriate for TBCO to support, the committee will make a presentation to the elders for approval. Once approved a Mission Support Agreement (see appendix 1) will be signed by both parties.Finally, the committee will present the candidate, and information about their mission, to the church for their involvement.

## Support

1. Financial support will allow the person/family to augment their living expenses in the country of service, but not to live ostentatiously according to that country’s average life style. It will not be more than 25 per cent of the missionary’s annual requirement.
2. Support will be through an accredited international organization.
3. Support normally will begin when the missionary leaves for the field, or earlier. Support will continue through furlough (leave of absence from country of service to reunite with family and church at home, and to rest), as it is needed.
4. TBCO will end support if the missionary/organization fails to correspond with thechurch satisfactorily, or if other responsibilities to TBCO (see Responsibilities 4.b.) are not met.
5. Subject to review every year and at the discretion of TBCO elders, support may cease within 60 days.
6. If furlough is longer than one year, then missionary must re-apply for support.
7. Any change in assignment, mission agency affiliation, or change in focus, will require re-evaluation by the missions committee for support within two months of receiving written notice of the change.
8. Church wide letters for support must be first approved by the missions committee and then the finance committee. This does not prevent the sending of letters to individuals within the church at the elders’ approval.

# SELECTION CRITERIA

Note: None of this policy, and particularly the Criteria, is set in stone. We see this document as a guideline only. There will be exceptions, and God’s leading always takes precedence over our plans.

## Criteria for TBCO’s support of global missions

1. Evangelism with a discipleship component is the primary focus of TBCO’s global missions. Usually evangelism is coupled with service, two wings of the dove.
2. A need for support must be demonstrated.
3. The person, family, organization, or mission agency must be in agreement with the core of Trinity’s statement of faith.
4. Applicants must demonstrate a close walk with God, express a heart and passion for missions, and be assured that it is the Lord who is directing and calling them to the field.
5. Mission committee must also have assurance that the applicant has been called by God to this mission and must assess their plan.
6. Primary consideration will be made for people with a call from our church, who meet the criteria, or for organizations already supported by the membership of the church.
7. For applicants not part of TBCO, the missions committee must receive a letter from the applicant’s home church stating their support for their member’s mission. The missions committee shall subsequently provide a recommendation to the elders for approval. Applicant must agree to responsibilities to TBCO (see Missions Policy: Missionary’s Responsibilities 4.b.) and recognize that financial support could otherwise end.

# RESPONSIBILITIES

## TBCO’s responsibilities to missionaries/missions organizations

1. Faithfully and regularly send funding as agreed in Mission Support Agreement.
2. Pray regularly for each missionary/organization.
3. Form a sender team for each missionary who will commit to a close fellowship with the missionary, keep them in prayer, and bring their news, work and prayer requests before Trinity’s congregation.
4. The committee, through senders teams, will communicate regularly (suggest every three months) any apropos news, sharing, prayer requests from the church and from Canada, and will encourage personal communication to missionaries from within the church body.
5. Through senders teams the missions committee will strive to stay abreast of political/social events happening in the country of service, and also in the missions’ world in order to be effective partners in the mission.
6. The committee will communicate to the missionary/organization any change in policy, Purpose Statement, Statement of Faith, address or any such pertinent information.

## Missionary/missions organization’s responsibilities to TBCO

1. Hold to Christian faith in keeping with TBCO’s Statement of Faith.
2. Hold to objective of mission.
3. Provide a family/staff photo after acceptance for support, and regularly send photos throughout their ministry (suggest every two years).
4. Remain in regular communication with TBCO, including prayer requests, explanations about political/social situations in their country of service, family/organization news, and visuals. These are vital to the on-going involvement and interest of the church body (suggest every three months).
5. Keep TBCO up-to-date with contact information.
6. A financial statement must be submitted at the end of each year.
7. Pray for TBCO regularly. We anticipate visits from the missionary/organization while on furlough, teaching and sharing about missionary life and progress of service and gospel sharing.
8. Send an annual report telling of what God is teaching them, how He has been working and where they see H**i**m leading them.

# MISSIONS COMMITTEE

## Committee administration

1. Selection of members for the missions committee: Members and adherents to TBCO are welcomed to speak with members of the missions committee and to the elders to participate in this ministry.
2. Size of global missions committee: TBCO's missions committee should consist of a minimum of 4 members. This may include an elder.
3. Term of office: Members of the missions committee will serve one year terms. Annually they will be asked if they wish to continue for another year.
4. Frequency of meetings: the committee will strive to meet monthly, with sub-committee work between meetings.
5. Officers: (ideal)
	1. Chairperson - appointed by the elders
	2. Secretary
	3. Prayer coordinator
	4. Communications coordinator
	5. Church involvement coordinator
6. Revision of policy: The missions’ policy will be reviewed every year by the missions committee. All revisions must be approved by the elders.

## Overall duties of TBCO’s global missions committee, through sender teams

We desire to be involved with missions ourselves, where we are, and to likewise encourage the church body. We don’t want the church to leave missions to the missions committee and we don’t want the missions committee to leave missions to the career missionaries. Specifically we will strive to:

1. Approve and recommend new missionaries and missions organisations to the congregation for support (working in cooperation with TBCO’s elders).
2. Ensure the annual budget will cover the agreed mission support.
3. Work with a sender teams for each missionary supported.
4. Develop and maintain accountability of mission initiative.
5. Keep the congregation informed and interested in the work being done in the mission field, through speakers, visitors, literature, film clips, etc.
6. Encourage prayer from the congregation for both mission efforts and missionaries themselves (by relaying prayer petitions and praise from sender teams to prayer groups within TBCO).
7. Correspond with missionaries regularly through sender teams, and directly.
8. Through sender teams act as a liaison between TBCO and our supported missionaries/ organizations, by maintaining regular, vital communication of all prayer requests, news, and pertinent business. Care for our own TBCO missionaries on furlough or retiring from the field and coming to the Osgoode area. We will find out what their needs are and try to help in ways that are above and beyond the regular support (i.e. physical labour, love offering, lending of equipment, etc.)
9. Plan with, and help mentor people as they head off on short or intermediate term trips, or others who desire to serve the Lord long term in missions
10. Administer and evaluate the missions program, and update policy as needed.
11. Reflect on the past missions year, prayerfully consider the future and, prepare submission for TBCO’s annual report.

## Individual duties of members of the missions committee

1. Attend committee meetings and do the work.
2. Maintain a close walk with the Lord, regular prayer life, Bible study, and other aspects of Christian spiritual maturity.
3. Discern God’s call to missionaries (through prayer and discussion).
4. Help with the training and mentoring of people called to missions.
5. Pray for missionaries on a regular basis.
6. Encourage interest in communicating with supported missionaries.
7. Be willing to engage in an active program of study on missions (e.g. reading books, taking missions course *Perspectives*).
8. Be familiar with the missions’ policy of the church.
9. Educate and inform the church at large about the missions’ ministry of TBCO.

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# APPENDIX 1 - Global Mission Support Agreement

The Global Missions Committee, for Trinity Bible Church of Ottawa, agrees to provide support to

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for the monthly amount of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, **OR**, for a specific donation in the amount of

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_,

for the agreed mission of\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Support will begin \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Support will end according to *Support (section 2.b.iv.*)

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_for Trinity Bible Church of Ottawa

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for Trinity Bible Church of Ottawa

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ missionary/mission organization

Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_