

FOREIGN MISSIONS POLICY

St. George the Martyr Anglican Church

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FOREIGN MISSIONS POLICY

The Anglican Church of St. George the Martyr

I. MISSIONS

A. Definition

Any endeavor outside the auspices of The Anglican Church of St. George the Martyr (St. George) to fulfill the great commission of Christ by proclaiming the Gospel of Christ, making disciples and relating to the whole need of mankind – spiritual and physical. This involves: evangelizing, discipling, planting churches, and aiding in their growth and development throughout the world.

B. Scriptural Basis

To fulfill the great commission of Christ (Matthew 28:19-20, Mark 16:15, Luke 10:2, John 20:21, Acts 1:8) and to minister to the totality of human need (Matthew 25:41-46).

II. MISSIONS POLICY

A. Purpose

1. To help us achieve a clear sense of direction.
2. To guide in making important decisions according to approved procedures.
3. To ensure that each missions dollar is spent as we believe God would have it spent.
4. To bring new Foreign Missions Team (Team) members up to date, allowing them to quickly familiarize themselves with the issues and the general direction of our missions policy. All Team members and prospective members should be familiar with the conditions of this policy.
5. To maintain consistency as the Team changes membership.
6. To develop a loving accountability in our missions program.
7. To work in harmony with the church-wide leadership.

B. Flexibility of Interpretation

1. Exceptions can be made with the recommendation of the Team and approval by the Vestry.

- C. Revisions
 - 1. This policy may be revised as often as needed. The revision should be written by the majority of the Team and approved by the Vestry.

III. FOREIGN MISSIONS TEAM

- A. Purpose
 - 1. To educate the people of St. George about missions.
 - 2. To encourage the people of St. George to be involved in missions.
 - 3. To manage the missions program of St. George.
- B. Responsibilities
 - 1. To set goals which are measurable but which involve a step of faith and the conviction that the world can be changed by the Gospel. These goals shall be established each year by the Team.
 - 2. To stimulate the intercessory prayer of the congregation for world evangelization and for our missionaries. To accomplish this the Team shall endeavor to:
 - a. Stimulate the church to take a prayerful interest in missions and missionaries.
 - b. Encourage the church to interact with missionaries.
 - c. Have a prayer coordinator who will:
 - 1. Give to the clergy missionary highlights from letters, to be shared with the congregation.
 - 2. Present news and needs of the missionaries to Sunday School classes and other groups.
 - 3. Present news and needs in the weekly bulletin and in the church newsletter.
 - 3. To educate the congregation in the field of world missions. To accomplish this the Team shall endeavor to:
 - a. Identify and develop specific programs for every sector of the church:
 - 1. Elementary grades
 - 2. Junior and Senior High School
 - 3. College and Career
 - 4. Adults
 - b. Work closely with the church school to implement a missions education program.
 - c. Identify programs and methods that could be developed to promote missions, such as:
 - 1. Missions Conference
 - 2. Missions Retreat

3. Missions emphasis times or mini-conferences
 4. Bulletin inserts
 5. Unreached peoples surveys and maps
 6. Capsule missionary biographies
 7. Reports on new books available on significant developments around the world
 8. Missions library or book-sharing program
 9. Bulletin board displays
 10. Maps with locations of missionaries in the foyer, classrooms, or other places
 11. Files of location of missionary speakers and films, missions organizations, and missionaries' personal data and correspondence
 12. Missions emphasis Sundays
 13. Special missions dinners
 14. Missions conventions
 15. Missions open house in various homes
4. To encourage and recruit volunteers for missions involvement. To accomplish this the Team shall endeavor to:
 - a. Encourage the entire church to pray that God will raise up people for participation in missions endeavors.
 - b. Specifically be on the lookout for people with potential for participation in missions endeavors.
 - c. Publicize short-term programs and projects to identify and develop interest in missions.
 - d. Make appropriate literature available to help people to discern their involvement in missions.
 - e. Encourage participation in and provide support for attendance at regional, national, and international missions conferences
 5. To yearly prepare and manage a missionary support budget and an operating budget.
 6. To manage special offerings for one-time needs that are not included in the general missions budget, and to obtain Vestry approval for any collection.
 7. To disburse the funds allocated to missions. This shall be done following these guidelines:
 - a. We support individual missionaries and certain approved organizations. Priority shall be given to members of St. George. Emphasis shall be placed upon planting of churches, evangelism, training of nationals, and Bible translation and support personnel in those ministries.

- b. Funds shall be disbursed according to the decision of the Team, based on 7(a) and on need.
 - c. The Team will encourage giving to the general missions fund over and above the member's tithe to the church. If designated funds are received for any of our missionaries or mission organizations or for other missionary endeavors, these funds will be forwarded to the designee. Gifts, which we feel we should not handle, will be returned to the donor. Designated gifts will be encouraged only for specific, one-time projects.
 - d. If a shortage of funds should occur, the following steps will be taken in the order listed.
 - 1. Maintain an adequate discretionary fund to handle the problem.
 - 2. Unite the congregation in prayer and ask them to consider giving to offset the shortage.
 - 3. Eliminate further funding of special projects.
 - 4. Reduce all remaining commitments proportionately.
 - e. Surplus funds will be disbursed as the Team sees fit after retaining a certain amount as a hedge against future shortages.
8. To serve as a liaison between the church (and its related organizations) and its missionaries and missionary organizations.
 9. To care for missionaries on furlough. To accomplish this the Team shall endeavor to:
 - a. Maintain accurate records to know when the missionaries are going to be visiting us.
 - b. Provide housing, transportation as needed, and meals as necessary to visiting missionaries.
 - c. Provide a missionary closet to help supply and equip missionaries.
 10. To administer and evaluate the missions program of St. George.
 11. To update the missions policy as needed.
 12. To review and process applications for support from missionary candidates and organizations.
 - a. A copy of the application form is included in this policy manual (Appendix A).
 13. To sponsor an annual missions conference at approximately the same time each year. This may be augmented by a missions emphasis periodically throughout the year, keeping alive the theme of the conference and using missionaries and missions films as available.

14. To maintain the missions bulletin board and other means of communication and publicity.
15. To give leadership for all missions projects of the church (Sunday school class projects, youth projects, Vacation Bible School projects, etc.)

C. Membership

1. Criteria for becoming members of the Foreign Missions Team:
 - a. A deep interest and heart for missions.
 - b. A commitment to missions as being a high priority in the church.
 - c. A willingness to work hard and be held accountable.
 - d. A vision for reaching the world for Christ.
2. Membership
 - a. The Team shall consist of a minimum of five people. Any prospective member must be approved by a majority of the existing Team.
 - b. Members will agree to serve for at least two years.
3. Responsibilities of Team members:
 - a. Attend the meetings.
 - b. Maintain a regular prayer life, Bible study, and other aspects of Christian spiritual maturity.
 - c. Pray on a regular basis for the missionaries who are supported by the church.
 - d. Endeavor to give financially to the support of St. George missionaries and missions projects, as God provides the resources.
 - e. Maintain an interest in communication with the missionaries supported.
 - f. Be familiar with the missions policy.
 - g. Be alert for persons who qualify and are willing to serve on the Team and recommend them for selection at the proper time.
4. Frequency of meetings:
 - a. The Team shall meet quarterly (minimum) at a time and place as called by the chairman. Additional meetings shall be called as needed.
 - b. An annual debriefing meeting shall be held within 60 days after the missions conference.
5. Officers and manner of appointment:
 - a. The Team shall choose from among themselves the following officers at their annual evaluation meeting. The chairman and the treasurer must be approved by the Vestry.
 1. Chairman

2. Secretary
 3. Treasurer
 4. Prayer Coordinator
- b. Key team personnel (i.e. chairman and treasurer) shall ensure continuity of office with their successors.

IV. MISSIONARIES: SUPPORT

- A. Criteria for selecting candidates for support
1. To be considered for support a candidate must be involved in a cross-cultural ministry and be affiliated with a mission board whose statement of faith concurs with the two ecumenical creeds and The Thirty-Nine Articles. Preference will be given to candidates who have been members of St. George for at least two years and/or those who plan to be involved in one of the following ministries:
 - a. Evangelism and/or church planting
 - b. Training of nationals
 - c. Bible translation and/or Bible distribution
 - d. Support personnel in the above ministries
- B. Procedure for selecting candidates for support
1. Missionary individuals must complete an application form, a copy of which is included as a part of this policy manual (Appendix A).
 2. The candidate will submit a resume, a statement of faith of his mission board, and a financial statement of his mission board.
 3. The application will then be evaluated by the Team.
 4. An interview may be scheduled with the candidate if possible or deemed necessary.
 5. The applicant may then be recommended to the Vestry for approval.
- C. When support begins
1. We will endeavor to begin supporting a missionary as soon as our application procedure is completed and he has been officially accepted by his mission board, provided that he is scheduled to begin his ministry within one year. Extensions will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
- D. When support ends
1. The following will be considered grounds for termination of support.
 - a. Termination by the mission board.
 - b. Failure to visit our church at least once every furlough if possible.
 - c. Failure to correspond with the church as least once every two months.

- d. Any change in assignment or affiliation will require re-evaluation of support.
- e. Lack of ministry results.
- 2. We will consider supporting a missionary during a full year of advanced study provided this study is approved by his mission board and the Foreign Missions Team of this church. Any further studies will be considered on a case-by-case basis, and may be grounds for termination of support.

E. Benefits

- 1. Insurance, furlough expenses, education of missionary children, and missionary retirement benefits are areas of responsibility of the sponsoring mission board.

F. Relocation Expenses

- 1. The Team will endeavor to build up a fund for such expenses.
- 2. The congregation might also be challenged to give additional funds for this purpose.

V. MISSIONARIES: RESPONSIBILITIES

A. It is felt that each missionary has a certain responsibility to the church that provides a portion of his support. Failure to be accountable in the following areas will result in re-evaluation of support.

- 1. Correspond with the church at least once every two months.
- 2. Visit the church at least once every furlough or equivalent period. If at all possible, attend the annual missions conference or send display materials for the annual conference.
- 3. Complete an annual report to the church on a form provided by the church and included as a part of this policy manual. (Appendix B). The annual report will be sent to missionaries in June, asking for return by September 1.
- 4. Notify the church of any change in assignment or affiliation.

B. All solicitation of funds from our church shall be directed through the Team.

VI. MISSIONARY ORGANIZATIONS: SUPPORT

A. Criteria for selecting organizations for support.

- 1. To be considered for support an organization must be evangelical in nature, with a statement of faith that concurs with the two ecumenical creeds and The Thirty-Nine Articles. Preference will be given to organizations involved in one of the following ministries:

- a. Evangelism and/or church planting
 - b. Training of nationals
 - c. Bible translation and/or Bible distribution
 - d. Support personnel in the above ministries
2. Organizations, which do not fall under the above criteria, will be considered on an individual basis.
- B. Procedure for selecting organizations for support.
- 1. Organizations must write a letter requesting support and must include their statement of faith and a financial statement.
 - 2. If the organization is considered for support on the basis of an individual missionary in that organization, then that individual must complete an application form. A copy of the application is included as part of this policy manual. (Appendix A).
 - 3. The letter of application or application form will then be processed in the same way described above for individual missionaries. (Missionaries: Support, Procedure IV B.)
- C. Responsibilities
- 1. It is felt that each organization has a certain responsibility to the church that provides a portion of its support. Failure to be accountable in the following areas will result in re-evaluation of support.
 - a. Correspond with the church at least once every three months.
 - b. Visit the church periodically, especially if the support is directed to an individual in the organization, and/or send materials about the ministry from time to time, especially at conference time.
 - c. Send a copy of each annual report printed by the organization.
 - d. Notify the church of any change in ministry.

VII. MISSIONARIES: SHORT-TERM

- A. Encourage members of St. George to participate in short-term projects of one year or less.
- 1. The Team shall endeavor to:
 - a. Develop a program within the church for screening and encouraging candidates and matching them with selected projects.
 - b. Allow particular mission agencies to recruit people in the church.
 - c. Help applicants get in touch with mission agencies and encourage them to work directly with those agencies.
- B. Criteria for screening candidates for short-term service.
- 1. In addition to or in conjunction with any application forms required by the sponsoring organization, the Team shall use the following criteria.
 - a. Evidence of salvation and a consistent Christian walk.

- b. Agreement with the two ecumenical creeds and The Thirty-Nine Articles.
 - c. A sincere interest in world missions as a possible career or a sincere interest in supporting missions as a layperson.
 - d. Parental support or approval for minors.
 - e. Membership in the church is encouraged but not mandatory.
 - f. Completion of adequate educational requirements for the project.
- C. Approval procedure for short-term workers
- 1. Completion of an application required by the sponsoring organization or the application included as a part of this policy manual. (Appendix C).
 - 2. Review by the Team and the Vestry.
- D. Support
- 1. Funds permitting, St. George through the Foreign Missions Team will endeavor to contribute a minimum of 10% of the total needed, through offerings, fund-raisers, or other means approved by the Vestry.
 - 2. The balance of the financial support is to be raised by the candidates.

VIII. STUDENTS PREPARING FOR MISSIONARY SERVICE: SUPPORT

- A. A scholarship fund may be established and will be administered by the Team, with approval of the Vestry.
- B. The congregation will be encouraged to give memorial gifts to the scholarship fund.
- C. Aid will be available to students using the following criteria:
 - 1. Do they have a clear, valid call from God to be in missions?
 - 2. Have they been involved in a short-term project?
 - 3. Have they attended a national missions conference (such as Urbana)?
 - 4. What is their personal, spiritual walk with the Lord like?
 - 5. Who are their personal references and what do they say about them?
 - 6. What is their anticipated full-time commitment?
 - 7. What other forms of financial aid are they receiving?
 - 8. What is the current degree of their needs?

9. Have they been an active church member? How long?
10. Do they have Vestry approval?

IX. ADMINISTRATION OF MISSIONS FUNDS

A. Operating Budget

1. Administrative costs will be covered by the Foreign Missions Team operating budget within the general budget of the church.
2. No funds designated for missions will be used for administration of the missions program.
3. Administrative costs include such items as missions conference expenses, postage, memberships, honorariums, and miscellaneous expenses.

B. Criteria for honorariums

1. Honorariums are handled through the church budget for speakers during regularly scheduled services.
2. Special offerings can be taken at the time of a missionary's speaking, but must be cleared through the Team and the Vestry.
3. It is the intent of the Team to pay all expenses for the annual missions conference speaker(s) and to pay travel expenses for visiting missionaries during the conference as funds allow. We will provide housing and meals for missionaries who need them during any visit to the church.

X. NON-FINANCIAL MISSIONARY COMMITMENTS

A. We are committed to pray for tent-maker missionaries (not associated with a specific mission board). They should be involved in a cross-cultural ministry that targets one of the following.

1. Evangelism and/or church planting
2. Training of nationals
3. Bible translation and/or Bible distribution
4. Support personnel in the above ministries

B. The tent maker shall provide the Team with a written description, prior to departure, of his objectives, goals, location, time frame, means of ministry and other pertinent information.

C. The tent maker shall be responsible for the following.

1. Correspond with the Team at least every two months. Correspondence should include, but not be limited to the following.
 - a. Successes and problems encountered on the field

- b. Details of the ministry
- c. Personal and spiritual updates

2. Notify the church of any change in ministry.

- D. The Team will put the information that is supplied before the congregation as opportunities become available. This is with the understanding that missionaries financially supported by St. George will receive priority.

St. George Missions Policy
Appendix A

APPLICATION FOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT

(Please have spouse complete a separate form.)

Return to: Foreign Missions Team
The Anglican Church of St. George the Martyr
427 Batesville Rd.
Simpsonville, SC 29681

e-mail : stgeorgeapa@bellsouth.net

To be returned with completed form(s):

1. Resume(s)
2. Mission board statement of faith
3. Mission board financial statement
4. Prayer card, if available

Name _____

Address _____ Date of Birth _____

Spouse's name _____ Date Married _____

Names of dependent children _____

Member of What Church _____

Church Address _____

_____ Date joined _____

Briefly describe your walk with the Lord.

When did you first dedicate your life for missions service? _____

Circumstances of dedication _____

EDUCATION – Type of school; Name and location; Major(s)/Degree(s)

College or University _____

Bible School or Seminary _____

Other _____

Do you plan any further training before leaving for the field? _____

If so, give details: _____

CHRISTIAN SERVICE EXPERIENCE – What experience have you had as a Sunday School or Bible Study Teacher, leader in youth activities in church, etc.? Give details.

Give details regarding any other practical Christian service, stating whether full-time, part-time voluntary, or part-time paid work _____

MISSION FIELD – Location of mission field you plan to enter _____

Specific type of work you expect to do on that field _____

Why did you choose this particular field and work? _____

MISSION BOARD – Name of mission board under which you plan to serve _____

Mailing address of mission board _____

Website of mission board _____

Have you been accepted as a candidate by that board? _____

If not, what is the present status of your application? _____

Why did you choose this particular mission board? _____

Who will be your supervisor? _____

To whom will you be accountable for your ministry? _____

_____ for expenditure of funds? _____

SUPPORT – What total monthly support does your mission board require for your ministry? \$ _____ per month. Does this amount include allowances for furlough? _____ For medical needs? _____
For insurance? _____ For education of children? _____
For retirement? _____ (Note: Our missions policy states that these areas are the responsibility of the mission board.)

Date support should begin _____ Do you have any support pledged at this time? _____ If so, how much? _____

Do you have any definite plans for raising additional support required? If so, give details

GENERAL – Do you or any of your family living with you have any special physical needs? _____ If so, give details

Name and relationship of any other dependents (in addition to spouse or children listed)

Are you familiar with and in full agreement with the beliefs of this church? (the two ecumenical creeds and the Thirty-Nine Articles) _____ If not, give details

Are you familiar with and in full agreement with the missions policy of this church? (attached) _____ If not, give details _____

By what date do you expect to be ready to leave for the field? _____ What is the length of your term on the field? _____

Birthdays of Spouse and Children: _____

St. George Missions Policy
Appendix B

ANNUAL MISSIONARY REPORT

Return to: Foreign Missions Team
The Anglican Church of St. George the Martyr
427 Batesville Rd.
Simpsonville, SC 29681
e-mail stgeorgeapa@bellsouth.net

It is the desire of the Foreign Missions Team of St. George to keep our church family informed concerning you for more intelligent prayer. Therefore, kindly help us to aid you by taking a few minutes to fill out this report. Please return this report by September 1st. Thank you.

Date _____

PHYSICAL

How is your general health? _____

How is the family's health? _____

Do you anticipate any medical or surgical care? _____

Can we help in any way? _____

When do you plan your next furlough? _____

SPIRITUAL

How is your work progressing? _____

Are you planning any tours or campaigns? _____

What are your problems in the work? _____

How have you been encouraged? _____

PRAYER REQUESTS

Many of us pray for you daily. Please list prayer requests. _____

PRAYER ANSWERS

FINANCIAL

Do you have a financial need? Please describe:

Personal _____

Family _____

Ministry _____

OBJECTIVES

Could you share any mission or personal goals for a given period? _____

CHILDREN

Could you share items regarding the welfare of your children, such as schooling, etc.? _____

GENERAL INFORMATION

Thank you for taking the time to complete this report. May God bless you richly as you labor for Him.

St. George Missions Policy
Appendix C

**APPLICATION FOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT
FOR SHORT TERM MISSIONS**

(Please have spouse complete a separate form)

Return to: Foreign Missions Team
The Anglican Church of St. George the Martyr
427 Batesville Rd.
Simpsonville, SC 29681
e-mail stgeorgeapa@bellsouth.net

Submit a prayer card with this form if available.

Name _____
Address _____ Date of Birth _____

Name of mission board/organization? _____

Will family members be on your mission team () Yes () No

Spouse's name _____

Children's names _____

Member of what church _____

Church address _____

Date joined _____

Briefly describe your walk with the Lord.

Why are you participating in a short-term missions project? _____

EDUCATION--Type of school; Name and location; Major(s)/Degree(s)

College or University _____

Bible School or Seminary _____

Other _____

Will you receive special training before leaving for the field? _____

If so, give details: _____

CHRISTIAN SERVICE EXPERIENCE—What experience have you had as a Sunday School or Bible Study Teacher, leader in youth activities in your church, etc.? Give details _____

Give details regarding any other practical Christian service, stating whether full-time, part-time voluntary, or part-time paid work _____

MISSION BOARD – Name and address of mission board under which you plan to serve: _____

Mission board website _____

Have you been accepted as a candidate by that board? _____

MISSION FIELD – Have you been accepted as a member of a particular mission team/project at this time? () Yes () No

If yes, please identify and explain the nature of the project _____

Specific type of work you expect to do on that field _____

Do you speak any foreign language that would be helpful on this trip? _____

Why did you choose this particular field and work? _____

When will you serve? How long? _____

Who will be your supervisor/team leader? _____

To whom will you be accountable for your ministry? _____

SUPPORT – What total support does your mission board/team require for your ministry?
\$ _____ If you are going for a year, what is the total monthly support required?
_____ Deadline for raising your support _____
Do you have any definite plans for raising additional support required? If so, give details

To whom should support checks be written? (List account or I.D. numbers)

GENERAL

Are you familiar with and in full agreement with the beliefs of this church? (the two ecumenical creeds and The Thirty-Nine Articles) () Yes () No

If not, give details _____

THREE REFERENCES – Names, addresses, and phone numbers

Other comments for our consideration:

Signature _____ Date _____