



Vancouver Chinese Evangelical Free Church SHORT-TERM Missions Policy

Date of first approval: February 14th, 1999

Date of last review: June 20th, 2005

Date of recent review: February 24th, 2008

Reference:

Background: Revised old policy

I. Purpose:

VCEFC seeks to encourage its members to participate in short-term missionary work, which may affirm God's calling for some participants to full time career ministry. The VCEFC Missions Department will provide information, guidance and financial assistance to members who plan to go on a short-term missionary trip. It is envisaged that through prayer supports and from reports of individual members out in the field, the whole church community will benefit greatly on understanding the needs and challenges of the mission field.

II. Definition of Short-Term Missions

- (1) Ministry Goal: A short-term mission shall serve at least one of the following ministry objectives:
 - a) evangelism (sharing the gospel with a target group);
 - b) relief work (providing basic human needs such as shelter, food, medicine, etc. to those who are in need via an approved Christian organization).
- (2) Terms of Mission: At least one week long but no longer than two years, including field training.
- (3) Salary: Non-salary term¹

III. Qualifications

A. Applicants

- (1) The applicant must be a member in good standing with VCEFC and/ or regularly attending worship service at VCEFC for a minimum of one year and has been active in church ministries.

¹ This clause serves only as a general guideline. The individual and special circumstances shall be taken into consideration in determining the appropriate monetary support for the missionary. The decision concerning this support shall be made in the discretion of the Missions Committee and subject to the final approval by the Deacon Board.

- (2) The applicant should demonstrate to the Missions Committee that he or she possesses the following:
 - a) a good understanding of the Bible, and
 - b) a biblical understanding of missions.
- (3) The applicant must have a letter of recommendation describing areas identified in “(2)” above from his or her counsellor or from a pastor.
- (4) The applicant who is involved in a trip of three-month duration or longer must prepare a prayer letter and have a prayer support group of no less than five Christians.
- (5) Age of applicant: in the case of an applicant who is a minor, (i.e., under the age of nineteen), the application must include a parental consent form together with a VCEFC waiver of liability form signed by the parent(s) or guardian(s) of the applicant.

Note: Applicants under 16 years old will not be considered unless one or both of the parents or guardians are full-time participants of the trip.

- (6) Participants must have individual personal travel insurance, a copy of which has to be submitted to and filed with the Missions Committee.
- (7) Applicants who are not members of VCEFC or regularly worship at VCEFC must meet requirements 2 – 6 above, and must be members in good standing with their respective church.

Note: i. Acceptance of such applicants is subject to the discretion and the final approval of the Missions Committee.
ii. Applicants who are accepted may not qualify for financial subsidy from VCEFC.

B. Mission Organization

- (1) VCEFC endorses short-term missionary trips organized by mission entities of Evangelical Free Church such as Evangelical Free Church of Canada Mission and Evangelical Free Church of America International Mission. The following non-EFC agencies are also endorsed:

- Breakthrough
- Campus Crusade for Christ (CCC)
- Child Evangelism Fellowship (CEF)
- Chinese Christian Mission (CCM)
- Chinese Gospel Broadcasting Centre (CGBC)
- Chinese Overseas Christian Missions (COCM)
- Evangelical Medical Aid Society (EMAS)
- Go International
- Intersity Christian Fellowship (IVCF)
- Medicare Resources
- Overseas Missions Fellowship (OMF)

- Serving in Mission (SIM)
- Wycliffe Bible Translators (WBT)

2) If the mission organization is not on the endorsed list, its statement of faith must be compatible with that of VCEFC's.

(3) The destination for the missions trip must be approved by the missions committee and covered by the VCEFC's insurance policy.

IV. Missions Committee's Responsibilities

The Mission committee shall:

1. Propose an annual budget for short-term missions;
2. Encourage all members to participate in short-term missions;
3. Establish and maintain a list of approved missionary organizations and a list of current year opportunities;
4. Review and approve all short-term mission applications;
5. Interview applicants and recommend the approved short-term mission applications, via the Deacon-responsible, to the Deacon Board for final approval;
6. Keep in touch with the short-term missionary while he or she is on the field;
7. Host meeting(s) to facilitate reporting back and sharing of experiences for the returned short-term missionaries;
8. Review and keep a record of all the returned missionaries' written report.

V. Application Procedures

- A. The applicant shall apply to the Missions Committee at least three months before the proposed activity date. The application package must include:
 - (1) A completed short-term mission application form;
 - (2) Reference letters from counsellor and/or pastor;
 - (3) Statement of faith of the mission organization (if it is not on the endorsed list);
 - (4) A personal testimony;
 - (5) For trips that are of 3-month duration or longer: A prayer letter and a list of prayer partner's name (minimum five).
 - (6) For minors (under 19 years of age): a parental consent form and a waiver of liability form.
- B. The Missions Committee shall interview the applicant and approve both the applicant and the missionary organization on the basis of the guidelines listed on this policy.
- C. The missions Committee shall submit the approved application to the Deacon Board via the Deacon-responsible.
- D. Upon acceptance and prior to departing for missionary work, the participant shall attend all training sessions organized by the missions committee.
- E. Upon acceptance and prior to departure, participants must purchase personal travel insurance, and additional out-of-province/ out-of-country medical insurance for trips outside British Columbia. It is recommended that a copy of the insurance be filed with the Missions

Department, in case the Missions Department is called upon to act in circumstances that warrant actions.

VI. **Report**

Upon return, the VCEFC short-term missionary needs to submit a written report within four weeks, or in the time frame jointly determined between the short-term missionary and the Missions Committee. Refer to the "My Report on a Short-Term Missionary Trip" form for guidelines in writing the report.

VII. **Funding**

- A. An applicant may receive financial support of up to a maximum of one-third of the total cost of the trip. Financial support, prayer support, and endorsement are an integral approach to encourage individuals in the church family to seek short-term mission experiences. Approval of funds is not subject to means test or proof of needs.
- B. The Missions Committee reserves the right to recommend an appropriate amount of support for each short-term mission applicant to the Deacon Board for final approval.
- C. If needs exceed the Short-Term Missions Fund, at the recommendation of the Missions Committee, the Deacon Board may re-allocate unused funds within the Missions budget to support the approved applicants.