

Missionary Support Guidelines: Level Two

(6 months to 2 year service)

Hope Community Church

Minneapolis, Minnesota

Criteria

Missionary Criteria for Support

The following list is the criteria that the Hope Community Church Global Church Planting and Expansion Team (Global Missions Team: GMT) will use for support selection of Level Two Missionaries (6 months to 2 year service). The GMT will look for evidence of these characteristics in the answers given in an application, references, and a Global Missions personal interview.

- Must be a regular attender of Hope for at least 6 months
- A clear indication of conversion
- A sincere interest in global evangelization, church planting and missions
- A desire to lead others to Christ
- A commitment and dedication to following God's will
- Faithfulness in ministry
- Cooperative spirit
- Evidence of the Fruit of the Spirit
- Intended mission trip fits GMT purpose and strategy for world evangelization (See General Mission Policy)
- A strong relationship with a local church through ministry involvement of at least 1 year
- Previous overseas and cross-cultural experience
- Gifting and training related to intended ministry
- Affiliation with an accepted agency
- Agreement with Missionary Statement of Faith (Level 2)

Selection Procedure

1. The Complete Application must be turned in. Included in the application:
 - Personal Contact Information.
 - Information about support needs.
 - Several Questions regarding testimony, calling and contribution.
 - Agency Information (including their doctrinal statement)
 - References: Provide at least one name with contact information of a member or regular attender of HCC that is or has been in leadership at HCC.
 - Missionary Care Information
 - Agreement to the Missionary Covenant
 - Agreement to the Missionary Statement of Faith (Level 2)
2. A Pre-selection interview.
3. Review for decision by GMT.

The GMT reserves the right to request more information or other references to help us in the selection process. During the decision process, the GMT also takes into consideration other aspects including church/team goals, strategy, priorities and other commitments.

Financial

Financial support will be decided on a case-by-case basis.

Priorities of Support:

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|---|--|-------------------------|
| 1 | Member | Unreached/Least Reached |
| 2 | Member | Reached |
| 3 | Regular Attender including Associate Memberships | Unreached/Least Reached |
| 4 | Former Member/Former Regular Attender | Unreached/Least Reached |
| 5 | Regular Attender including Associate Memberships | Reached |
| 6 | Former member/Former Regular Attender | Reached |

A **People Group** is "a significantly large group of individuals who perceive themselves to have a common affinity for one another because of their shared language, religion, ethnicity, residence, occupation, class or

caste, situation, etc., or combinations of these.” For evangelistic purposes it is “the largest group within which the Gospel can spread as a church planting movement without encountering barriers of understanding or acceptance.”

An **Unreached People Group** is “a people group within which there is no indigenous community of believing Christians able to evangelize this people group” (Perspectives on the World Christian Movement Reader, 514). An unreached/least reached people group’s status is determined by the most recent Joshua Project research.

Fund-Raising

Our supported missionaries may request support from personal friends and acquaintances within Hope. We may provide opportunity to let people know about the mission work to be done. Under normal circumstances there will be no mass mailings or Sunday/designated/special offerings.

Inadequate Support

Financial support is the individual’s responsibility to work out with their sending agency.

Payment of Support

Financial support is generally given in a one-time gift for Level Two. This may vary as the GMT determines necessary.

Possible Reasons for Termination of Financial Support

It would never be our desire to be forced to terminate financial support of a missionary but the following are possible instances that may require us to do so:

1. Failure to maintain the standards used to originally qualify for support
2. The missionary’s doctrinal position differs from the Missionary Statement of Faith that was signed. This could be due to a change on their part or it becomes apparent that they didn’t clearly communicate their position to the GMT.
3. The missionary consistently demonstrates inadequate accountability
4. Gross negligence, misconduct or ineptness.
5. Circumstances where HCC is unable to continue financial support.
6. Resignation by the missionary.

The GMT, with assistance from the Overseer Team and/or Leadership Team, will decide when numbers 1-5 above apply to the missionary and will decide when termination of support is required.

Agencies and Sending Organizations

Recognizing that agencies are contractors who agree to facilitate and manage the work of the missionary on the church’s behalf, we look carefully at each partnership.

Financial Accountability/Expectations for the Sending Agency

- Agency must meet the standards of the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability (ECFA), or
- Be part of some other accountability group such as a denomination

Doctrinal Expectations for the Sending Agency

- The GMT will review the agency’s Doctrinal Statement. If something is questionable then the Overseers of Hope will review it before a decision is made regarding support.

Responsibilities of our Missionaries

Correspondence: The missionary must correspond with the HCC Mission Team quarterly. More frequent communication is encouraged.

Contact person: The missionary must provide contact information of a contact person with their agency.

Reporting: Upon returning from their mission trip, the missionary agrees to share with the GMT about their experience on the mission field. If possible the missionary should attend an event where they can share with the church body.

Missionary Care

The first place for the missionary's care is from God himself. The second avenue of care should be through their team and agency. The GMT aims to assist by helping with the care of our missionaries.

Commissioning: The GMT will strive to provide an opportunity for the missionary to be commissioned and sent out by the church in coordination with the pastoral staff.

Prayer: The GMT prays for missionaries at monthly meetings. If requested and coordinated, the GMT may be able to prayer updates from individuals and teams.

MISSIONARY COVENANT

As a missionary sent out by the people of Hope Community Church, do you...

1. Agree to be under the oversight of the Overseers of Hope Community Church for the purposes of encouragement, accountability (including church discipline), and the building up of your faith?
 2. Agree to abide by the missions policies set forth in the Missions Policy Handbook?
 3. Agree to express your dependence on God by maintaining a regular prayer life, specifically praying for the people to whom you minister?
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Statement of Faith for Missionaries supported by Hope Community Church

1. The Word of God

I believe that the Bible is the Word of God, fully inspired and without error in the original manuscripts, written under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, and that it has supreme authority in all matters of faith and conduct. 2 Tim. 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20,21; Mark 13:31; John 8:31,32; John 20:31; Acts 20:32

2. The Trinity

I believe that there is one living and true God, eternally existing in three persons, that these are equal in every divine perfection, and that they execute distinct but harmonious offices in the work of creation, providence and redemption. Gen. 1:1,26; Isa 44:6-8; John 1:1,3; Matt. 28:19; John 4:24; Rom. 1:19,20; Eph. 4:5-6

3. God the Father

I believe in God the Father, an infinite, personal spirit, perfect in holiness, knowledge, wisdom, power and love. I believe that He concerns Himself mercifully in the affairs of each person, that He hears and answers prayer, and He saves from sin and death all who come to Him through Jesus Christ. Luke 10:21,22; Matt. 23:9; John 3:16; 6:27; Rom. 1:7; 1 Tim. 1:1,2; 2:5,6; 1 Peter 1:3; Rev. 1:6

4. Jesus Christ

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only begotten Son, conceived by the Holy Spirit. I believe in His virgin birth, sinless life, miracles and teachings. I believe in His substitutionary atoning death, bodily resurrection, ascension into heaven, perpetual intercession for His people, and personal visible return to earth. Matt. 1:18-25; Luke 1:26-38; John 1:1, 20:28; Rom. 9:5; 8:3-4; 2 Cor. 5:21; 1 Peter 2:21-23; John 20:30,31; Matt. 20:28; Eph. 1:4; Acts 1:11; Rom. 5:6-8; 6:9,10; Heb. 7:25; 9:28; 1 Tim. 3:16

5. The Holy Spirit

I believe in the Holy Spirit who came forth from the Father and Son to convict the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment, and to regenerate, sanctify, empower, and gift all who believe in Jesus Christ. I believe that the Holy Spirit indwells all who believe in Christ, and that He is an abiding helper, teacher and guide. John 14:16-17, 26; 15:26,27; 16:9-14; Rom. 8:9; 1 Cor. 3:16; 6:19; Gal. 5:22-26

6. Regeneration

I believe that all people are sinners by nature and by choice and are, therefore, under condemnation. I believe that those who repent of their sins and trust in Jesus Christ as Savior are regenerated by the Holy Spirit. Gen. 1:26; 5:2; Gen. 3; 2:17; 3:19; Eccl. 2:11; John 3:14; 5:24; 5:30; 7:13; 8:12; 10:26; Rom. 9:22; 2 Thes. 1:9; Rev. 19:3, 20; 20:10; 14:15; 21:18; Psa 51:7; Jer. 17:9; James 1:14; Rom. 3:19; 5:19; Prov. 28:13; 1 John 1:9; 3:16; John 1:13; 2 Cor. 5:17; Rom. 8:1

7. The Church

I believe in the universal church, a living spiritual body of which Christ is the head and all regenerated persons are members. I believe in the local church, consisting of a company of believers in Jesus Christ, and associated for worship, work and fellowship. I believe that God has laid upon the members of the local church the primary tasks of living a life of worship, nurturing the body of believers and giving the gospel of Jesus Christ to a lost world. Eph. 2:19-22; Acts 1:8; Eph. 5:19-21; Acts 2:42; Heb. 10:23-25

8. Christian Conduct

I believe that Christians should live for the glory of God and the well-being of others; that their conduct should be blameless before the world; that they should be faithful stewards of their possessions; and that they should seek to realize for themselves and others the full stature of maturity. 1 Cor. 10:31; Rom. 12:1-3; Heb. 12:1-2; John 14:15, 23-24; I John 2:3-6; 2 Cor. 9:6-9; 1 Cor. 4:2; Col. 1:9-10

9. The Last Things

I believe in the personal and visible return of the Lord Jesus Christ to earth and the establishment of His kingdom. I believe in the resurrection of the body, the final judgment, the eternal felicity of the righteous, and the endless suffering of the wicked. Matt. 16:27; Mark 14:62; John 14:3; Acts. 1:11; Phil. 3:20; 1 Thes. 4:15; 2 Tim. 4:1; Titus 2:13; 1 Cor. 4:5; 1 Cor. 15; 2 Thes. 1:7-10; Rev. 20:4-6, 11-15