

FAIRVIEW BAPTIST CHURCH

MISSIONS STRATEGY AND POLICIES

"Then Jesus came near and said to them, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." – Matthew 28:18-20

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DOCUMENT SUMMARY

This document addresses the strategy and policies for Missions (existing and future) for Fairview Baptist Church. These priorities and support guidelines represent long-term goals which will be carefully and prayerfully applied to our current missionaries, their ministries, and the availability of funds. Missions partnerships will be engaged and evaluated by the Fairview Baptist Church Missions Team and Pastoral Staff.

DEFINING OUR MISSION

We exist to make disciples of Jesus Christ. For the purposes of this Missions Policy, “missions” shall be defined as the sending of active Fairview Baptist members and resourcing strategic partners to/in our city, our nation, and the world for the ultimate purpose of evangelism, discipleship, church planting, and local church strengthening.

Members of Fairview Baptist Church should be involved in the mission of God to make disciples by participating as the Spirit leads in the following ways:

- **Praying** - regularly interceding for those on mission, particularly Fairview’s members and strategic partners.
- **Giving** - contributing financially to strategic partners and teams sent out by Fairview
- **Going** - making an effort to go on a short-term missions trip whether local, national, or international; and/or becoming a career missionary sent from Fairview.

GUIDELINES FOR SUPPORTING PARTNERS

All missions supported by and under the name of Fairview Baptist Church should agree with the below listed guidelines:

1. Aligned theologically (*Baptist Faith and Message 2000*) and with the ministry practices of Fairview Baptist Church.
2. Strategic emphasis on long-term evangelism, discipleship, church planting, local church strengthening, and pastoral training.
3. Will prioritize spiritual needs; not *only* meeting physical needs. When possible, partners should connect the meeting of physical needs with the purpose of long-term evangelism, discipleship, church planting, local church strengthening, and pastoral training.

Questions to ask for assessing potential partners can be found in Appendix 1.

OUR MISSION STRATEGY

Our mission strategy will focus on 1) long-term missions partnerships and 2) outreach ministries. The goal is to make disciples (Matt. 28:18-20) through evangelism, discipleship, church planting, and local church strengthening based on the geographical precedent of Acts 1:8, “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come on you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

1. Long-term missions partnerships will be with churches, missionaries, mission-sending agencies, Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) entities, theological training institutions, and parachurch organizations on the city, state, national, and international level. These partnerships will be prioritized in order to wisely and efficiently accomplish the goal and to prevent misdirection.
2. Fairview Baptist Church will also have strategic outreach ministries from within our church that focus on evangelism to the lost, whether to individuals or to secular organizations, for the purpose of making disciples.

PEOPLE

Fairview will look at the people groups that God has, in His sovereignty, led to us and also the people to whom He has led Fairview members for long-term mission work based on Acts 17:26-27. This will take into account the people who make up the membership of Fairview and the natural connections and opportunities God has given us. This means Fairview members have God-given gifts and resources to meet specific missions needs. These needs will change over time as God’s providence moves people.

Therefore, partnerships, priorities, and ministries will need periodic re-evaluation to determine needed changes. These changes will be determined by the Missions Team and the Pastoral Staff.

PRIORITIES

This guides our resource allotment, leadership focus, and communication posture. Top priority will be given to strategic church-wide endeavors with a higher focus on getting the gospel to people who have less access to it. Priorities are determined by the Missions Team and/or Pastoral Staff. Each partnership can change priority levels as God leads and the church prayerfully sees fit according to gospel accessibility. Priorities will inevitably mean sometimes declining good, viable partnerships and ministries for the sake of wise and effective resource allotment, leadership focus, and communication with current partners.

- **Priority 1: Church Wide:** *High priority efforts resourced as a church body.* Aligned with our Southern Baptist Convention entities and strategic partners, these efforts will be widely communicated, included in our missions budget, and will be led by and resourced with our church members.
- **Priority 2: Church Ministry Teams:** *Life-Group, team, or ministry based efforts.* Aligned with our Southern Baptist Convention entities and strategic partners, these efforts will be communicated, funded by our church members and rarely in the missions budget, and will be resourced by our church life-groups, teams, or specific ministries.
- **Priority 3: Church Members:** *Individual mission efforts.* Aligned with our theological convictions, these efforts will be communicated strategically, funded by individuals and not in the missions budget, and will be resourced by individual church members.

PARTNERS

All strategic mission endeavors will be focused, long-term partnerships for the goal of making disciples, but are subject to change based on the Spirit's leading as mentioned above. The current missions partners are:

- **Churches**
 - All Saints Church, Pastor Eric Hoke - Bronx, NYC (*national*)
 - Redemption Church, Pastor Edwin Pacheco - Brooklyn, NYC (*national*)
 - Dios con Nosotros (God With Us) or 13th Baptist Church of Santiago, Pastor Boris Viamontes Hernandez, Santiago, Cuba (*international*)
- **Missionaries**
 - Alicia Jones in Hungary/Romania (*international*)
 - SE Asia Team (*international*)
- **Southern Baptist Convention Entities and Agencies**
 - International Mission Board (*international*)
 - North American Mission Board (*national*)
 - Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (*state*)
 - Baptists on Mission (*state/national/international*)
 - Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary (*city*)
- **Parachurch and Non-profit Organizations**
 - With Love from Jesus (*city*)
 - Hand of Hope (*city*)
 - Able to Serve (*city*)
 - Christian Library International (*city/state/national*)

OUTREACH MINISTRIES

These are ministries of Fairview that particularly focus on evangelism of the lost, whether to individuals or to secular organizations, for the purpose of making disciples.

- Marketplace Ministry
- International Ministry
- Love Our Locals (annual week long initiative)
- Music & Missions (outreach projects)

Current evangelism focus toward local secular organizations:

- Fairview Fire Departments
- Middle Creek High School
- Yates Mill Elementary School
- Carillon Assisted Living
- Raleigh Flea Market

DISASTER RELIEF

Fairview will participate in disaster relief efforts through our partner Baptists on Mission. This is an effort to show the love of Christ to those who are in desperate physical need in the wake of a disaster. Disaster relief efforts may also provide an avenue to evangelism and discipleship.

Fairview will make every effort to connect those assisted through disaster relief work to ongoing long-term ministries and churches in the local area affected by the disaster.

ALLOCATION AND ADMINISTRATION

Missions Partnerships must provide an opportunity for our church to “give and receive.” There should be opportunity for members to be involved hands-on. Partnerships should have a prayerful and strategic plan developed with input from both parties, Fairview and the missions partner. Fruitfulness will be reviewed by the Missions Team for ongoing support.

Allocation of financial resources for Priority 1 Church-wide efforts will be directed toward the following:

- **International/National Missions:** Fairview will equip, send, and partner with missionaries. Partnerships include sending teams on an annual basis according to partner needs, and provide ongoing financial support through our missions funding avenues, and above those avenues as needed.
- **Church Planting:** Fairview will equip, send, and partner with church planters and churches. Partnerships include sending teams when needed and providing financial support through our missions funding avenues for a defined period of time until they are self-sustaining.

- **Pastoral & Ministry Training Center:** In partnership with Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fairview's pastoral residency program allows students the opportunity to serve at Fairview as interns as part of their degree program to be better equipped and trained for church ministry. This program is funded in the yearly budget.

Each project and partnership will be reviewed and evaluated to consider the effectiveness of their administration, and their appropriateness according to our targeted goals and requirements for missions work.

SHORT-TERM MISSIONS TRIP REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTICIPANTS

Participants will be required to have the following before participating in or gaining support on any level for strategic missions with or through Fairview Baptist Church.

1. The participants must be active members in good standing (Worship and Life Group attendance and serving in the ministries of the church). All non-members must be approved by the Missions Team and/or Pastoral Staff.
2. Participants must take initiative in support raising. Even if Fairview or any third party is donating funds, the individual should show sincere investment in his or her place on the trip, trusting that God will provide according to His will.
3. All participants must have a willingness to receive some basic training in mission work. This may include but not limited to evangelism and discipleship training along with any other training specific to a mission trip (SS Teacher, VBS experience, cultural, language, NCBM certification, etc.).
4. For each level of missions, the participant is preferred to have experience in missions' endeavors, meet the participation requirements of our Southern Baptist Convention entities and strategic partners, and be willing to receive the pertinent training for the specific missions endeavor.
5. Participants must not be involved in ongoing unrepentant sin.
6. If circumstances cause inability for a participant to meet the above requirements, these will be reviewed on a case by case basis by the Missions Team and/or the Pastoral Staff.

FINANCIAL AND FUNDRAISING POSTURE

Fairview Baptist Church will strive to increase the church's Missions budget in proportion to average budget increases of other major ministries of the church. Because of our rich denominational heritage in missions, we intend to financially support our mission's activities at an ever-increasing level. All fundraising activities must comply with Fairview Baptist Church's bylaws and policies.

Funds may be given to Fairview Baptist Church and designated to any mission effort, partner, or specific individual going on a short-term trip. Specific individuals must be noted in the *memo, notes, or comments* section. All gifts sent through Fairview are tax deductible. If any individual on a short-term mission team raises more support than needed, the surplus will be used to offset others on the team, help with ground costs during the trip, or be used to offset future Fairview mission trips.

Fairview encourages mission trip participants to write support letters as the main way to raise financial support. For certain Priority 1 Church-wide trips, the Missions Team and/or Pastoral Staff will also communicate giving opportunities to the entire congregation. Participants then are encouraged to send letters to other Christians outside Fairview's membership (family, friends, etc.). Fairview may occasionally do support raising events *within* its membership, but the primary source will be support letters. All other support raising is left to the discretion of the individual in accordance with godly conduct.

MISSIONS FUND

Fairview's designated funds for short-term missions projects will be used primarily for 1) Active Fairview members going on short-term trips and trip supply costs, and, as occasion may require, 2) to help mission partners with unforeseen emergent needs above and beyond their current financial support. For more information, see Appendix 3 - *Fairview Missions Fund*.

BENEVOLENCE

The benevolence ministry of Fairview Baptist Church will be primarily led by the deacons designated for this ministry. Because Jesus Christ had compassion on others, so too should his followers for the purpose of making disciples. Fairview intends to approach the benevolence ministry as follows:

BENEVOLENCE PRIORITIES

1. Salvation
2. Financial Counseling
3. Meeting immediate needs

BENEVOLENCE PHILOSOPHY

There will be opportunities to assist the needy around us. It may be important to have a framework to work through in order to know the best way to provide them aid. Some people may turn away the assistance as it becomes more relationally involved. This may be an indicator that they needed or wanted relief (step 1 below) and nothing else.

- **Step 1:Relief** - Providing immediate material needs. This will open them up to church relationships.
- **Step 2:Rehabilitation** - Providing pre-determined and short term assistance in problem solving and education in providing for their needs in the future. The goal is to “get them back on their feet”. This will build trust between them and the church family.
- **Step 3:Development** - Long-term relational investment and accountability, with the goal of helping them become self-sustained and able to assist others. By this time, they will hopefully be introduced into the network of church relationships and begin to be acclimated into the church.

REQUIRED INFORMATION

When the time is right based on wise discretion, ask for the following information:

1. Provide Full name, address, phone number or other method of contacting
2. Provide references: One or two non-family members
3. Provide creditor contact info if applicable.
4. Questionnaire (see below)

NATURE OF REQUEST

1. Name and contact information of creditor (if applicable)
2. History of debt (how long owed, how much, payment terms, etc.)

REQUIREMENTS FOR RECEIVING FUNDS

1. References must be checked
2. Never give requestor cash. Funds only given if financial counseling has been completed.
3. Financial and Spiritual counseling
 - Meet with someone on church grounds
 - Crown Recommended Financial counseling (one time or ongoing)
4. Willing to work (1 Thess. 4:11-12)

AREAS OF DEVELOPMENT AND ADMINISTRATION

1. Inter-church references (to determine if people are going from church to church and if they've been helped.
2. Keep detailed records of those who have been helped, those not helped, and reasons for either outcome.
3. Separate church body requests from external requests.
4. Know Church Resources: locate professionals for some types of help, willing to provide free services via limited referrals only.

1. Financial
2. Job training, sources
3. Plumbing, electrical, carpenters, mechanics, etc.
5. Incorporate with the quarterly mission projects

Questions for those requesting assistance can be found in Appendix 2.

APPENDIX 1

Questions to ask for assessing potential missions partners:

1. Does this effort or ministry help our church accomplish our biblical vision of making disciples of Jesus Christ?
2. Does this effort or ministry align with the biblical core values of our church?
3. Does this effort lead to or allow for ongoing ministry opportunities, relationships, and/or partnerships?
4. Does this ministry truly *need* help in their gospel efforts to survive and advance? Can Fairview meet that need?

APPENDIX 2

Questions for those requesting benevolence assistance:

1. Do you attend a church locally? If so, did your church offer you assistance?
2. Where is your church and what is your minister's name?
3. Have you sought assistance from any other churches in this area?
4. *Do you have relatives who can assist you with your needs? (1 Tim. 5:8)
5. How were you referred to us?
6. *What is your immediate need? (Please be specific)
7. *Are you receiving any aid from the government (unemployment, Social Security, food stamps, worker's comp)?
8. *Have you worked a job or looked for work locally? When and where?
9. *Are there any obstacles that hinder you from taking a job (child care, disability)?
10. *Are you willing to work today if we know of an available job?
11. If we are unable to help you, what other options do you have?
12. If we are able to help you, how many people are involved? (Please list family members).
13. Do you have some form of identification?
14. *If you live in the area and your need is ongoing, are you willing to submit to financial and spiritual counseling?

* Questions that can/should be asked of members requesting assistance

APPENDIX 3

FAIRVIEW MISSIONS FUND

The Missions Team proposes a designated fund for missions called the Fairview Missions Fund (FMF). It will remain separate from the yearly budget. The purpose of this designated fund is to help facilitate an ongoing support system for Fairview's short-term missions trips with our long-term mission partners. This fund will help address the challenge of support raising for trip after trip in the life of the church. The goal is to provide a system and framework for the body of Christ to support its members to be on mission in an efficient manner.

OPERATION

Whereas the yearly church budget will be used to send monthly support to specific mission partners, this fund will be used specifically for short-term mission trips from Fairview to help cover team costs, on-the-ground costs, scholarships for team members to go, and other mission endeavors throughout the year. This fund will also help supply additional assistance to mission partners in emergency situations as they arise. The Missions and Stewardship Teams will oversee the FMF budget operations.

DISBURSEMENT

Depending on the available funds and the application of church members to join a mission trip team, the FMF will provide one-third of the trip cost for individuals to each team member. The remaining two-thirds will be left to the individual to raise support or provide themselves. *(Of course, team members are welcome to cover their whole trip if they so choose and not use the FMF funds. If the fund has an over-abundance of offerings, more than a third may be given to individuals' trip costs as determined by the Missions and Stewardship Teams.)*

If a team member is unable to raise support for the remaining two-thirds of the cost, the Missions Team will take each case into consideration for additional scholarship allotment based on an application process.

The FMF fund may also cover additional team trip supplies and costs, disaster relief teams, and other local missions projects as needed (i.e. Love Our Locals).

SUPPORTING THE FMF

Each Fall, Fairview will emphasize "Missions Month" in October. For a full month Fairview will focus attention towards the mission trips in the upcoming calendar year. There will be special offerings towards the FMF to support the next year's mission endeavors. The goal will be to raise a certain amount within the month along with opportunities to pledge ongoing support to the FMF throughout the year. Church members can also give to the FMF throughout the year without specific pledges.

BENEFITS

With the FMF in place, there will be less of a burden of support raising on each individual team member per trip. There is less of a burden on church members to give to every trip because a gift to the FMF can go towards several trips. The FMF provides sustainable, ongoing short-term mission trip support with room to grow. The separation from the yearly budget will help fluidity in the FMF as trip costs fluctuate yearly, and unused funds from a completed trip can easily be repurposed for the next upcoming trip. This simply provides a system and framework for the body of Christ to support its members to be on mission in an efficient manner.