

Mission Funds Giving Criteria

Rationale and Purpose for the collection and Giving of Missions Funds

1.) Why

Christ's "Great Commission" – Disciples making disciples and spreading the Gospel, Matthew 28:19-20

¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Fulfillment of the Great Commandment:

Love thy neighbor as thyself

To act as instruments of God's grace and compassion in the world

Generosity – Out of thanks to God for His generosity to us

The impact of Missions giving for our congregation and individual Christians

Involvement in missions is spiritually encouraging and promotes better fellowship throughout the whole of Christ's Church

Opportunity to meet potential members

Growing & dynamic church

External focus and perspective to internal programs, and ministries

Satisfaction of sharing

Opportunity for evangelism=salvation

Opportunity to educate us on the needs of others locally and around the world.

2.) Importance of Giving Criteria

That our congregation may understand and relate to the Mission's Program for greater giving

Simplify planning & budgeting process

Give greater confidence to Missions Committee and Congregation in treatment of periodic new requests and maintenance of existing missions.

Encourage congregants to make separate gifts to missions

Opportunity for hands-on involvement provided

3.) Designation and Description of Giving Criteria

Giving Criteria: (including the attached document) describe a number of criteria relevant to applicants for and recipients of Missions funds. By recommendation of the Missions committee and approval of the Session, they may be modified from time to time as warranted. Interpretation and a more complete definition of each criterion shall be at the discretion of the Missions Committee.

Criteria Weighting: Periodically, and at least annually, the Committee shall establish relative importance and weighting of each criterion. A scale of 0 to 3 is suggested, (0 for no importance and 3 for key importance).

Recipient Ranking: Each applicant to be considered shall be ranked or compared to others. Ranking separately across international, national, and local areas is suggested, but at the discretion of the committee. A range of 0 to 5 is suggested (0 suggested for those with the least conformance to the giving criterion and 5 suggested for those with the highest conformance).

Evaluation: Each applicant will be awarded a relative number that is the product of weight and ranking across all criteria. It is the discretion of the Missions Committee to recommend the acceptable numbers and to award appropriate funding.

4.) Application and Timing of Mission Giving Criteria

4.1) Timing: There are at least two occasions where use of Giving Criteria is relevant: During the annual budgeting and planning process, and special or new requests which come in during the year.

4.2) Budgeting and Planning: At this time, all existing and new missions projects foreseen should be compared with the aid of the Giving Criteria. Other factors such as communications and outstanding accomplishments (or deficiencies) could also be considered at this time.

4.3) New Requests: Where possible and appropriate, these should also be screened using the Giving Criteria during the year.

5.) Communications

Importance: Communications with recipients are crucial to Missions Funding. Without good two-way communications and contact, it will be difficult to properly judge giving criteria and performance of the recipient.

Communications Expectations & Reviews:

6.) Criteria

- 6.1) Is this group effectively doing the work of Christ?
- 6.2) Significance of need. (Difference between providing Trick or Treat candy and saving someone from starving.)
- 6.3) Will our gift significantly impact the need?
- 6.4) How many people are impacted by ministry?
- 6.5) Communication, visits, financial reports, recipient talk to group
- 6.6) Prayer guidance (After prayer, what is our inclination?)

The following form letter may be used to highlight communications responsibilities and expectations of the recipient. A letter should also go out yearly to inform the ministries that we support 'how much' and 'when' they can expect to receive that support.

Dear _____

The Missions Committee of First Presbyterian Church of Anderson, Indiana is glad to be a part of your ministry for Christ. We want to share financially and also in prayer with you. To make this possible, there needs to be regular communication.

Please give us the following information:

Why have you contacted us for help?

What is your primary purpose for this ministry?

What is your usual work in this ministry?

How are you supported?

What proportion of your yearly budget is met?

Give two major long-term goals (5 years) for your ministry and two short-term (1 year) goals.

Share some of your prayer requests for the ministry and also some personal or family requests.

Do you send a regular prayer and/or information letter to supporters? We would like to receive such a letter and would be writing you also.

May God bless and guide you as you serve Him.

Sincerely,