

*DEVON PARK
BAPTIST CHURCH*

MISSION POLICY

January 28, 2008

*[Approved by the membership of Devon Park Baptist Church
at the Annual Business Meeting, January 28, 2008]*

DEVON PARK BAPTIST CHURCH MISSION POLICY

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I. GENERAL STATEMENTS

A. Purpose of Involvement in Missions

The scriptural purpose for Devon Park Baptist Church's involvement in missions is to fulfill the Great Commission. Matthew 28:19-20, Mark 16:15, Acts 1:8

B. Purpose of Policy

1. To help Devon Park Baptist Church achieve a clear sense of direction in the area of missions
2. To enable decisions to be made on an objective basis
3. To ensure good stewardship of mission funds
4. To permit thoughtful evaluation of crucial mission related issues
5. To define the specific responsibilities of the church, missionary and mission organization
6. To outline the Mission Committee program for the care of our mission family

C. Revision of Policy

1. This policy may be reviewed by the Mission Committee, Board of Deacons or church membership.
2. When revision is necessary, it will be presented by the Mission Committee to the pastor, Board of Deacons and the church membership for approval.
3. This policy manual should be reviewed every two years or more frequently as deemed necessary.

II. MISSION COMMITTEE

A. Purpose

To work with the pastoral staff, Board of Deacons and church members on the administration of this policy

B. Structure

1. The Mission Committee shall consist of
 - (a) the pastor
 - (b) one deacon and
 - (c) at least five members who shall be elected annually at the meeting of the active members of the church; the maximum term any one member shall serve on the Mission Committee before sitting out one year is five consecutive years.
2. The Mission Committee shall appoint from their number an executive chair, recording secretary and correspondence secretary (*See Appendix B - Duties of the Chair and Secretaries - pages 19 - 21*).

C. Responsibilities

The Mission Committee shall

1. be responsible for the promotion and arrangement of a vital missionary program in and for the church
2. interview any person or persons seeking financial support from the church and make its recommendation(s) to the Board of Deacons. Such person or persons and their mission board(s) must conform in their personal and religious beliefs to the doctrinal position of the church as set out in the Statement of Faith (*See Appendix A - Statement of Faith - pages 11 - 17, incl..*)
3. contact and present names of prospective members to the Nominating Committee to be put forward for approval at the annual church business meeting
4. prepare the mission budget for the Finance Committee after contacting each missionary to determine their required annual level of support as recommended by their mission board and their current percentage level of support
5. arrange an annual Mission Conference or additional meetings designed to inform and challenge the church in the area of missions
6. encourage missionary candidates and recommend them to the church for missionary service
7. maintain contact with all missionaries supported by the church on a semi-annual basis

8. notify the church of any additional assistance required by missionaries
9. contact, as necessary, the supported mission agencies requesting information on their Statement of Faith, Financial Policies with respect to the distribution of mission funds and audited financial reports
10. meet missionaries on furlough for a time of sharing and mutual encouragement
11. endeavour to stimulate intercessory prayer by the congregation for world evangelism and for our missionaries
12. seek to educate and inspire the congregation in the field of world missions
13. help to encourage, prepare and send out individuals for mission service
14. serve as liaison between the church and related mission organizations, agencies and missionaries
15. assist in caring for the needs of the missionary in areas not covered by their mission such as personal or furlough needs
16. review and recommend changes as needed to the mission policy
17. promote mission opportunities
18. arrange a debriefing meeting with missionaries returning home for furlough to ascertain their achievements, blessings and experiences

III. FULL-TIME MISSION SERVICE

A. Determining Eligibility for Support

1. Mission Agency

In order for a mission agency to be approved it may be required to supply

- (a) a brief history and origin of the agency
- (b) the agency's Statement of Faith
- (c) an audited financial statement of their last fiscal year
- (d) a detailed explanation of the agency's health and retirement package and coverage

2. **Candidate(s)**

- (a) A person(s) seeking financial support must be an accepted candidate of a Canadian mission agency, having a Statement of Faith that concurs with that of Devon Park Baptist Church.
- (b) Preferences will be given to those candidates who are active members of Devon Park Baptist Church. New candidates from Devon Park Baptist Church who are called to missions should have at least two years of active participation in the ministry of the church.
- (c) A candidate (and spouse, if applicable) may be asked to give a written testimony stating evidence of a positive conviction of a personal salvation experience and a call to missions. A candidate must also be in agreement with the Mission Policy and Statement of Faith of Devon Park Baptist Church (*see Appendix A - pages 11 - 18*).
- (d) A candidate must be interviewed by the senior pastor and the Mission Committee to determine spiritual, physical and financial needs.
- (e) The committee shall recommend the new candidate(s) to the Board of Deacons and the congregation.

B. **Financial Support**

1. **Candidate Funding**

- (a) An active member of Devon Park Baptist Church **may receive up to \$15,000** of their required support.
- (b) Non-members **may receive up to \$7,500** of their required support.
- (c) Missionaries supported by Devon Park Baptist Church should exercise discretion before seeking support from individual church members.
- (d) The Mission Committee, before deciding on a final support figure for the candidate(s) will also review the following areas:
 - (i) church economic conditions
 - (ii) active church service
 - (iii) actual total support required
 - (iv) alternative sources of support
 - (v) number of family members
 - (vi) type of ministry
 - (vii) location of service

- (e) Missionaries must advise the Mission Committee no later than September 30th each year of their need for support setting forth the reason(s) for their need. If no request is received, no increase in support will be considered. Missionaries not fulfilling their responsibilities as set forth in Section III C to follow may have their support decreased or cancelled.

2. **Onset of Support**

Missionary candidates approved by Devon Park Baptist Church for financial support will begin to receive support when **one** of the following conditions is met:

- (a) the missionary candidate(s) leaves to begin their missionary assignment
- (b) the missionary candidate(s) begins full term pre-field training (i.e. language, linguistics or cultural but not theological training)
- (c) the missionary candidate(s) begins full-time deputation and in this case support will be reviewed after two years or more frequently if deemed necessary

3. **Evaluation/Termination of Support**

Support will be reconsidered when one of the following occurs:

or

- (a) the missionary leaves the mission agency
- (b) the mission agency or missionary changes doctrine and/or practice merges with another mission
- (c) upon any change in the missionary's family structure
- (d) upon being placed on inactive service by their mission
- (e) when the missionary reaches the age at which he/she is eligible for senior retirement benefits
- (f) when Appendix C applies (*pages 23 - 25 - Appendix C - Support for Missionaries on Extended Health Leave*)
- (g) upon the missionary changing his/her location of service
- (h) if furlough lasts for more than one year

4. **Outgoing Expenses**

In order to assist with the outgoing expenses a special offering **may** be received prior to departure. This will be for the **first term only** and apply to both active members and non-members of Devon Park Baptist Church.

C. Responsibilities of Supported Missionaries

1. Correspondence

Missionaries are expected to keep the church posted of news from the field on a semi-annual basis. Missionaries who do not keep the church updated on a regular basis may have their support cancelled.

2. Furlough (Home Assignment)

While on furlough a missionary is expected to visit and update Devon Park Baptist Church if at all possible.

3. Annual Report

Each missionary is **required** to give a brief annual report in writing to the church no later than September 30th. The following points should be included:

- (a) description of their major ministry
- (b) any changes of status or position within the mission
- (c) involvement in the local church on their field
- (d) outline of short and long-term goals
- (e) state of health of the missionary (spouse and children if applicable)
- (f) support and prayer needs

IV. SHORT-TERM MISSION SERVICE (minimum three months)

Devon Park Baptist Church encourages short-term mission service. (*See Appendix D - pages 27 - 30 for details.*)

V. MISSION TRIPS

Devon Park Baptist Church encourages mission trips. (*See Appendix E - pages 31 - 33 for details.*)

VI. SUMMER MINISTRY (maximum ten weeks)

Devon Park Baptist Church encourages young people to become involved in summer ministries. (*See Appendix F - pages 35 - 37 for details.*)

APPENDIX A

STATEMENT OF FAITH

STATEMENT OF FAITH

It is hereby declared that the Statement of Faith of the Church is expressed to be as follows as set out in headings (a) through (q) inclusive of this paragraph:

(a) **Concerning the Scriptures**

We believe that the Bible in both the Old and New Testament is the very Word of God, verbally inspired in all parts, and therefore, wholly without error as originally given by God, and altogether sufficient in itself as our only infallible and authoritative rule of faith and practice. (Matthew 5:18, John 17:17, II Timothy 3:16-17, II Peter 1:19-21)

(b) **Concerning the True God**

We believe in one God, the creator of heaven and earth, manifesting Himself in three persons, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, equal in power and glory and great work of redemption. (Exodus 20:2-3; 1 Corinthians 8:6)

(c) **Concerning the Lord Jesus Christ**

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary in a supernatural manner; He is very God of very God, being “God manifest in the flesh”. He lived a life of absolute sinlessness, and in His death He made a full and vicarious atonement for our sins, dying not a martyr’s death, but a voluntary substitute in the sinner’s place. He rose again bodily from the dead the third day and ascended bodily to the right hand of God in Heaven where He now sits as our great High Priest “ever living to make intercession for us”. We believe in the rapture of the Church and the return of Christ. (John 14:3; Acts 1:11; Jude 14; I Thessalonians 4:13-18; Revelation 1:7; Revelation 22:20).

STATEMENT OF FAITH (Continued)

(d) **Concerning the Holy Spirit**

We believe in the absolute essential deity and personality of the Holy Spirit, who convinces the unbeliever of sin, unrighteousness and of judgment, who regenerates, sanctifies, illuminates, seals, guides, comforts, indwells and fills for service those who believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. (John 14:16-17; John 16:8-11; Romans 8:14; II Thessalonians 2:13, Ephesians 4:30).

(e) **Concerning Man**

We believe that man was divinely created in the image of God; that he sinned, becoming guilty before God, resulting in his total depravity, thereby incurring physical and spiritual death. (Genesis 1:27; Romans 3:10-18; Romans 3:23; Romans 5:12-19; Isaiah 53:6).

(f) **Concerning Salvation**

We believe the Scriptures teach that the salvation of sinners is wholly of God's grace through the mediatorial work of the Lord Jesus Christ; it is wholly apart from man's works, and is upon the sole condition of repentance toward God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ; that in order to be saved the sinners must be born again, being regenerated by the power of the Holy Spirit and thus becoming a recipient of a new nature called the Divine nature. We believe that the great Gospel blessing which Christ secures to such as believe in Him is justification which includes pardon of sin and the imputing of divine righteousness and sanctification solely through faith in the Redeemer's shed blood; that having exercised personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ the believer is completely justified and is in possession of salvation which is eternally secure. (Ephesians 2:8-9; Titus 3:5-7; II Peter 1:4; John 3:3-6; Acts 13:38-39; John 10:28-29).

STATEMENT OF FAITH (Continued)

(g) **Concerning Satan**

We believe the Scriptures teach that there is a personal devil who is “the god of this age; the prince of power of the air” who is full of all subtlety and mischief; who seeks continually to frustrate the purposes of God and to ensnare the sons of man and who will ultimately be confined to the Lake of Fire. (Ephesians 2:2; Revelation 12:9; II Corinthians 4:4; II Corinthians 11:13-15; Revelation 20:10).

(h) **Concerning the Eternal State**

We believe that the Scriptures teach that all who through faith are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ will spend eternity in full enjoyment of God’s presence in a place called Heaven, and that those who through impenitence and rejection of Jesus Christ as Saviour refuse to accept God’s offer of mercy and salvation will spend eternity in everlasting punishment in the place the Bible calls Hell. (John 14:2, II Corinthians 5:6-8; Matthew 25:41-46; Revelation 20:12-15; Revelation 21:8).

(i) **Concerning the Local Church**

We believe that a church is a company of born-again, immersed believers called out from the world separated unto the Lord Jesus Christ, voluntarily associated for the ministry of the Word, the mutual edification of its members, the propagation of the faith and the observance of the ordinances. We believe the local church is a sovereign independent body, exercising its own divinely awarded gifts, precepts and privileges under the Lordship of Jesus Christ, the Great Head of the Church. (Acts 2:41, 42, 47; I Corinthians 11:2).

(j) **Concerning the Ordinances**

We believe that there are only two ordinances for the Church regularly observed in the New Testament in the following order:

STATEMENT OF FAITH (Continued)

- (i) Baptism is the immersion of believers in water in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Ghost, signifying their obedience to Christ's command and setting forth their identification with Christ in His death, burial and resurrection. (Matthew 28:19-20; John 3:23; Acts 8:36-39; Romans 6:3-5).
- (ii) The Lord's Supper is the memorial wherein believers partake of the elements, bread and grape juice, symbolizing the Lord's broken body and shed blood, proclaiming His death until He comes. (Matthew 26:26-29; I Corinthians 11:23-28).

- (k) **Concerning Separation**
We believe in Ecclesiastical separation of the Church from combined meetings with any and all organizations or groups who deny the inspiration of the Scriptures, the Deity of Jesus Christ, and who repudiate or deny the general principals and practices expressed in this statement of doctrinal basis. (Romans 16:17-18; II Corinthians 6:1-8; II Thessalonians 3:6; Ephesians 5:11; Titus 3:11; II John 9-11). We believe the Scriptures clearly teach non-conformity to the world to every believer, that it is clearly commanded of God to all believers to live lives of separation from worldly, sinful and doubtful practices and associations. (Romans 12:1-2, I John 2: 15-17; Colossians 3:17; I Corinthians 10:31; Colossians 3:1-3).

- (l) **Concerning Church and State**
We believe in the separation of Church and State. (Matthew 22:21)

- (m) **Concerning Religious Liberty**
We believe in religious liberty, that every man has the right to practice and propagate his beliefs.

STATEMENT OF FAITH (Continued)

(n) **Concerning the Lord's Day**

We believe that the first day of the week is the Lord's Day and that, in a special sense, it is the divinely appointed day for worship and spiritual exercise. (Acts 20:7; Mark 16:9; John 20:7; I Corinthians 16:2; Revelation 1:10).

(o) **Concerning Christian Stewardship**

We believe that the stewardship of the believer consists of time, talents, and treasures. We believe in personal voluntary, regular, systematic, and proportionate giving to the support of the local church and the spreading of the gospel to the regions beyond. This best accomplished as the Scriptures teach by tithing of our income and the presenting of an offering unto the Lord. (Genesis 14:20; Malachi 3:8-10; Matthew 6:3; 23:23; I Corinthians 16:2; II Corinthians 9:6-15; Hebrews 7:1, 2: 6,9).

(p) **Concerning the Return of Christ**

We believe in the imminent and pre-millennial return of Jesus Christ at which time the living saints will be translated and the dead in Christ will be raised. The church which is the body of Christ will be raptured before the period of the Great Tribulation. (Acts 1:11; I Thessalonians 4:14-18; I Corinthians 15:50-52; I Thessalonians 5:9).

(q) **Concerning Civil Government**

We believe that civil government is of divine appointment for the interest and good order of society, that all in authority are to be prayed for, conscientiously honoured and obeyed, except only in the things opposed to the Will of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the only Lord of the conscience and Prince of Kings of the earth. (Matthew 22:21; Romans 13:1-5; Titus 3:1; I Peter 2:13-17; Acts 5:29).

APPENDIX B

DUTIES OF THE CHAIR AND SECRETARIES

DUTIES OF THE CHAIR AND SECRETARIES

A. Mission Committee CHAIR

1. shall call the regular meetings
2. shall provide an agenda for the meeting
3. shall chair the meeting or designate another to do so
4. shall arrange meetings with new mission candidates and those on home assignment
5. shall submit or cause to be submitted an annual report to the Annual Meeting of the congregation

B. Mission Committee RECORDING SECRETARY

1. shall keep or cause to be kept a record of the proceedings and decisions of all meetings
2. shall distribute to all committee members a copy of the minutes as soon after the meeting as possible
3. shall, at the direction of the Mission Committee, prepare and deliver or cause to be delivered any information or decisions to Boards, Committees or the Congregation

C. Mission Committee CORRESPONDENCE SECRETARY

1. shall carry out all correspondence required by the Mission Committee with Mission Boards, missionaries, etc.
2. shall maintain an up-to-date list of missionaries, field of service, field address, including e-mail address
3. shall maintain an up-to-date list of Mission Boards that Devon Park Baptist Church is involved with, addresses and any additional contact information considered necessary
4. shall mail to missionaries or cause to be mailed all policies or changes to policies that apply to them

APPENDIX C

SUPPORT FOR MISSIONARIES ON EXTENDED HEALTH LEAVE

POLICY NO. M-08-001

NOTE: Policy No. M 08-001, approved by the membership of Devon Park Baptist Church at the Annual Business Meeting, January 2008, rescinds Policy No. M-04-001.

**SUPPORT FOR MISSIONARIES
ON
EXTENDED HEALTH LEAVE**

When a missionary is required to leave their field of appointment for health reasons, it shall be the policy of Devon Park Baptist Church to extend full support of the said missionary for three (3) full calendar months from date of departure from the field.

Beginning with the fourth calendar month, the missionary's support shall be reduced in equal amounts for the next six (6) calendar months.

This gives the missionary nine (9) full calendar months to apply for any eligible long-term disability or make other arrangements for financial support. If the missionary is able to return to the field within the 9-month period, their support will be reinstated at the previous level. If the missionary is able to return to the field at some time after the 9-month period has ended, the missionary must re-apply for financial support from Devon Park Baptist Church.

NOTE: Policy No. M-08-001, approved by the membership of Devon Park Baptist Church at the Annual Business Meeting, January 2008, rescinds Policy No. M-04-001.

APPENDIX D

SHORT-TERM MISSION SERVICE

(minimum of three months)

POLICY NO. M-08-002

NOTE: Policy No. M-08-002 and Policy No. M-08-003, approved by the membership of Devon Park Baptist Church at the Annual Business Meeting, January 2008, rescind Policy No. 05-001

SHORT-TERM MISSION SERVICE
(minimum of three months)

A. GENERAL STATEMENT

Devon Park Baptist Church, in obedience to the Great Commission of our Lord as recorded in Matthew 28:19 and 20, encourages short-term mission service. Individuals considering such are encouraged to approach the Mission Committee for prayer, encouragement and dialogue.

B. GUIDELINES FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

1. The guidelines for full-time career missionaries will apply unless stated otherwise below. *(See Section III of Devon Park Baptist Church Mission Policy - pages 7 - 10)*
2. To be eligible for financial assistance candidates must
 - (a) be an active member of Devon Park Baptist Church or another church of like faith and practice
 - (b) be actively involved in one or more ministries of his/her church
 - (c) demonstrate in their daily lives a Christ-like lifestyle
 - (d) have a genuine interest in missions
 - (e) indicate the level to which they are prepared to finance this short-term mission service.

Non-members of Devon Park Baptist Church must provide a letter of recommendation from their home church or the mission agency with whom they will be going.

3. Candidates must apply in writing to the Mission Committee in advance stating why they want to go, where they want to go, what they will be doing and the level of support they need.

SHORT-TERM MISSION SERVICE (Continued)

4. Candidates being considered will be interviewed by the Mission Committee and given an opportunity to share their salvation testimony and expand on the details of their written submission.
5. The Mission Committee, before deciding on a final support figure, will review the following:
 - (a) church economic conditions
 - (b) active church service
 - (c) actual total support required
 - (d) alternative sources of support
 - (e) candidate's contribution
 - (f) type of ministry
 - (g) location of service.
6. Priority will be given in the following order until the budgeted funds are exhausted:
 - (a) first-time applicants who are active members of Devon Park Baptist Church
 - (b) repeat applicants who are active members of Devon Park Baptist Church
 - (c) first-time applicants who are active members of another church of like faith and practice
 - (d) repeat applicants who are active members of another church of like faith and practice
7. Financial support is to be terminated upon completion of the short-term mission service. Any extra funds received by the church will remain the property of the church to be utilized in the church's mission program.
8. Upon return from the short-term mission service, individuals will be required to submit a written report to the Mission Committee and/or a verbal report to the church.

NOTE: Policy No. M-08-002 and Policy No. M-08-003, approved by the membership of Devon Park Baptist Church at the Annual Business Meeting, January 2008, rescind Policy No. 05-001.

APPENDIX E

MISSION TRIPS

POLICY NO. M-08-003

NOTE: Policy No. M 08-002 and Policy No. M 08-003, approved by the membership of Devon Park Baptist Church at the Annual Business Meeting, January 2008, rescind Policy No. 05-001.

MISSION TRIPS

A. GENERAL STATEMENT

Devon Park Baptist Church encourages members of its congregation to participate in mission trips. Individuals interested in this type of service may wish to meet with the Mission Committee for encouragement as well as for information regarding prayer support and financial assistance.

B. GUIDELINES FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

1. Individuals seeking financial assistance must apply in writing to the Mission Committee in advance stating why they want to go, where they want to go, what they will be doing and the level of support they need.
2. The Mission Committee, before deciding on a final support figure, will review the following:
 - (a) church economic conditions
 - (b) active church service
 - (c) actual total support required
 - (d) alternative sources of support
 - (e) candidate's contribution
 - (f) type of ministry
 - (g) location of service
3. Priority will be given in the following order until the budgeted funds are exhausted:
 - (a) first-time applicants who are **active members** of Devon Park Baptist Church
 - (b) repeat applicants who are **active members** of Devon Park Baptist Church
 - (c) applicants who attend Devon Park Baptist Church but are **not members**
 - (d) applicants who are active members of another church of like faith and practice
4. Approved participants will be supported from the mission budget as follows:
 - (a) **up to \$500** per adult (18 years and over)
 - (b) **up to \$250** per teen (15 – 17 years of age).

Note: Parental approval is required for participants under the age of 18.

MISSION TRIPS (Continued)

5. Financial support will be terminated upon completion of the mission trip. Any extra funds received by the church will remain the property of the church to be utilized in the church's mission program.

6. Upon return from the mission trip, individuals will be required to submit a written report to the Mission Committee and/or a verbal report to the church.

NOTE: Policy No. M-08-002 and Policy No. M-08-003, approved by the membership of Devon Park Baptist Church at the Annual Business Meeting, January 2008, rescind Policy No. 05-001.

APPENDIX F

SUMMER MINISTRY

(maximum ten weeks)

POLICY NO. M-08-004

NOTE: Policy No. M 08-004 was approved by the membership of Devon Park Baptist Church at the Annual Business Meeting, January 2008.

SUMMER MINISTRY
(maximum ten weeks)

A. GENERAL STATEMENT

Devon Park Baptist Church encourages young people to become involved as summer workers in Christian ministries that are in harmony with the doctrinal position and practice of Devon Park Baptist Church. Individuals considering a summer ministry are welcome to meet with the Mission Committee to discuss this type of service as well as prayer, financial or other needs they may have.

B. GUIDELINES FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

1. A candidate requesting financial assistance under this program must be a born-again Christian regularly attending Devon Park Baptist Church. Candidates from a church of like faith and practice may also be considered provided they submit a letter of reference from their Pastor or Church Board. Candidates may be asked to provide a letter of acceptance from the mission they are going to be working with.
2. Parental approval of the summer ministry is necessary if the candidate is under the age of sixteen (16).
3. Candidates considering a summer ministry should make their intention known to the Mission Committee by May 31st if possible.
4. The Mission Committee **will budget funds** to help support summer workers who require financial assistance. These funds will be distributed according to the length of service to a maximum of \$200 per week. In accordance with Canada Revenue Agency regulations, funds will be forwarded to the appropriate mission.
5. A written or verbal report should be given to the church upon completion of the term of service.

NOTE: This policy was approved by the membership of Devon Park Baptist Church at the Annual Business Meeting, January 2008.