



SMCC Missions Policy and Philosophy of Sending Out

I. Scope

a. *Mission Statement for Sending Out:*

- SMCC desires to partner and support those that have a call to obey Jesus Christ to go and make disciples as exemplified by the Apostles and focus on planting churches by going ourselves and engaging in partnerships wherever our Lord opens the door.

b. *Purpose Statement*

- The purpose of this SMCC Policy and Philosophy of Sending Out (Missions) is to be a guideline for the SMCC church body in executing the Great Commission of Christ. We begin with the basis for focusing on those **going out** to ***Evangelize*** and ***Disciple*** leading to ***Church Planting***.
- Beginning in the book of Acts chapter 11, we see the process of local church planting taking place when the converted Jews of the church in Jerusalem were persecuted as a result of Stephen's death; they were scattered outside of Judea. Next, in Acts 11:22, we see the church in Jerusalem sent Barnabas to the church in Antioch to address the incorrect doctrine of "salvation is for Jews only." Barnabas quickly seeks out Saul (Paul) and the two of them spend a year with the local church in Antioch discipling. This is the first account of The Church executing Christ's command to "go and make disciples of all nations...".
- We see the pattern of evangelism and discipleship leading to the planting of churches continued as Paul and Barnabas, leaders in the local Antioch church, set apart by the Holy Spirit are sent out for the work He called them for. This is the first of three journeys in which Paul "goes". Before the first journey is complete, Paul and Barnabas return through the same towns where they evangelized and discipled in order to strengthen the souls of the disciples, encourage them in their faith and appoint elders for them in every church. After reporting back to their home church and working through some theological issues, Paul goes on a second and third journey. He returns to some of the same churches and plants seed in new locations. We see in Acts 20:18-38 the importance Paul places on the local church with his charge to the elders of the Ephesian church, stamped with verse 28: "Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood."

- The term “missions” is never mentioned in the Bible. But the term “go,” and “journey” are used many times throughout the New Testament; beginning with the great commission in Matthew 28:19-20. For this reason, SMCC has adopted a “Philosophy of Sending Out.” We believe all followers of Christ are called to share the Gospel of Christ (1 Peter 3:14-16) and to disciple those coming up in the faith of Christ. But there are those among the believers that are called to “go” (implying leaving the current body of believers and going out, living among). The late Rev. Harry Reeder used to say to missionaries, “We don’t support you because we love you; we love you no matter what. We support you because of the work you go and do.” In Acts 13:2 we see the Holy Spirit specifically call (set apart) Barnabas and Saul for the work of the Holy Spirit.
- We believe it is the act of “going” that is a key differentiator between the terms “ministry” and “missions.” Further, it is the going, sharing (evangelizing), discipling (growing), and establishing a local church that Christ intended when He spoke Matthew 28:19-20.
- Finally, as the apostle Paul was nearing the end of his ministry, Paul specifically set out to improve the strength and health of the local church by providing more clarity on the offices of deacons and elders in 1 Timothy, Titus, and 2 Timothy. And Paul’s warning at the end of 2 Timothy (4:1-5) spells out the critical need for sound teaching and doctrine, which is done through the local church. It is because of this warning that we believe the planting of local churches is the end result of SMCC sending out. It is the responsibility of the local church to ensure right theology and right doctrine is being maintained within the local body of believers.
- It has been through careful study of scripture that SMCC has adopted a focus on **Evangelism and Discipleship leading to Church Planting**. The continual heartbeat of the book of Acts is to evangelize, disciple and see those believers become part of a local church plant. The continual heartbeat of Paul’s Epistles is to see those church plants reach the finish line and Glorify God.

II. Roles and Responsibilities

a. The role and responsibility of Faith Promise

- Faith Promise was adopted in the early years of SMCC as the way to fund those called to be sent out into all the nations. We believe God is our provider (Phil. 4:19). And, as our provider, He will direct resources of the brethren to those being sent out. Faith Promise is above and beyond SMCC’s general tithe and offerings.

- Faith Promise funds will be distributed via two methods:
 - 1.) Fixed monthly distributions for the fiscal year. These distributions take priority over the second group of distributions. These distributions are for those individuals that SMCC has selected because they align with the SMCC Mission Statement of Sending Out.
 - 2.) The second method is one-time distributions. These distributions are variable and based on the availability of resources after the fixed monthly distributions are made.

*** *Examples of these are:***

- For SMCC individuals and families going on short term SMCC-sponsored trips to work with full time missionaries in the field.
- Projects (e.g. building, medical services) or needs (e.g. transportation) that full-time missionaries may need on the field.
- SMCC church members discerning the call of the Holy Spirit, by pursuing two-month to two-year short term mission assignments under the direction of an SMCC approved mission board or a current SMCC supported missionary.
- Project and one-time support for Sent Out Missionaries and Member Missionaries that do not align with the SMCC Mission Statement for Sending Out.
- Ministries that SMCC members work with outside of the SMCC umbrella (e.g. Gideons, Christian Service Mission, etc.)
- SMCC church members pursuing post-graduate education specifically in preparation for full time missions.

i. Fiscal time frame

- March – February

ii. Who decides the distributions

- Funds collected via Faith Promise are distributed via unanimous agreement among the SMCC Missions Team.

b. The role and responsibility of the Home and Sending Church

- SMCC understands that Satan is an ever-present enemy to the work of the Church, those being sent out by the local church, and to those that do ministry out of the local church. Therefore, while financial resources are primarily being allocated to those being sent out, the most important resources that SMCC and the Missions Team can allocate are time and talents. These resources can be allocated to those being sent out as well as to those SMCC members not receiving Faith Promise funds.

- These resources take the form of:
 - Accountability
 - Prayer
 - Counseling
 - Meeting individual needs via Care Teams

c. The role and responsibility of the Missions Team

- i. Missionary Selection
 1. Alignment with the SMCC Statement of Faith
 2. Alignment with SMCC Mission Statement for Sending Out
 3. Available funding
 4. Connection with SMCC and its ministries
- ii. Increase overall SMCC missions awareness
- iii. Recruit Missionary Care Team members
- iv. Missionary Evaluation
 1. Retirement
 2. Change of theology or doctrine
 3. Deviation from SMCC mission statement
 4. Change of circumstances (catch all)
 - Remote work
 - Marriage status
 - Geography
 - Cover organization
- v. Periodic updates to SMCC elders
- vi. Financial stewardship (allocation and distribution)

d. The role and responsibility of the missionary

- Attending SMCC conference
- Reporting at a minimum of once per quarter to missions@smcc.church
- Notifying SMCC Missions Team of any change in status
- Keep on keeping on

III. Definitions

- **Go/Journey** - Strong's defines Go and Journey (used by Christ and Paul) as: πορεύομαι poreúomai, por-yoo'-om-ahee; middle voice from a derivative of the same as [G3984](#); to traverse, i.e. travel (literally or figuratively; especially to remove (figuratively, die), live, etc.); --depart, go (away, forth, one's way, up), (make a, take a) journey, walk.
- **Missions** - there is no official definition of mission from a Biblical perspective. It has become a very wide encompassing term. For the purposes of this document, we are using the term to focus on Evangelism, Discipleship, and Church Planting.
- **Call of a Missionary** - the moment when the Holy Spirit has moved upon an individual's spirit for the specific purpose of being set apart and sent out; having been affirmed by the Elders of the individual's local church and made known to the Missions Team.
- **Ministry** - acts of believers that results in engaging others (believers / non-believers) for the purpose of glorifying God.
- **Sent Out Missionary** - A missionary or ministry partner originally sent out from SMCC locally, nationally or internationally.
- **Member Missionary** - A missionary or ministry partner that was not sent out from SMCC but is currently a member of SMCC.
- **Home church** - this is the local body of believers that an individual believer has enjoined themselves to for the purposes of working out their own salvation (sanctification). The home church provides individual believers with sound theology and doctrine that is derived from God's Word. Additionally, the home church walks with an individual believer in times of joy and suffering.
- **Sending church** - this is the local body of believers that aid in sending out a believer that has the call of the Holy Spirit on their life to go and make disciples.
- **Financial stewardship** - the responsibility of financial oversight for the purposes of distributing funds as the bylaws or rules prescribe for an organization.
- **Short term missions** - these are trips whereby a believer can go for a short period of time (usually less than a year). These trips are usually in support of full-time missionaries living in the field.