

# **Church of the Apostles Missions Policy**

SEEK THE LOST

BUILD UP THE FOUND

TRANSFORM THE CITY THROUGH JESUS CHRIST

## **Philosophy of Missions at Church of the Apostles**

At Church of the Apostles our leadership acknowledges the biblical mission mandate from Jesus to “go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.” (Matthew 28:19-20) We actively promote missions as a recognizable aspect of each believer’s life, wherever God leads them. We believe that every believer has gifts and is able to participate, no matter the age, in missions. We believe that every endeavor must begin with prayer, result in listening to God’s call, and culminate with joyful service wherever he calls.

Missions happens in community; therefore where possible we will integrate missions into communities of believers (community groups, youth, men, women, and children.)

Prayer will be central to our involvement in missions. We will pray regularly for all of our Mission Partners and Missionaries of Apostles (MPs and MOAs). We desire a deep relationship with those we support.

We desire to equip and send people out on mission, whether it is vocationally in the work place and in their neighborhoods where they live, or on mission trips, short term, or long term, whether it is locally or globally. We will communicate opportunities, stories, successes, and prayer requests through all available avenues. We will use events and activities to start the congregation along the path to deeper involvement in mission. We will encourage our mission partners, where they overlap in ministry with other ministries, to deepen their interactions.

## **Church of the Apostles Missions Statement**

Our mission is to apply our church’s vision statement to our lives so that we become believers who:

- Obey the command to witness as part of their everyday lives to the extent that it becomes as natural and repetitive and necessary as breathing, and;
- Engage in a lifelong pursuit of becoming more like Jesus Christ through corporate and individual praise, prayer, confession and worship, and;
- Desire to utilize their God-given talents and gifts to positively impact their families, neighbors, city and world for Jesus Christ.

## **Organization (where the Missions Team fits) in Church of the Apostles**

**Leadership Council**– Church of the Apostles Leadership Council has oversight responsibility over the Missions Budget and allocations to Missions Partners. The Missions Team provides recommendations to the Leadership Council as part of the budgeting process.

**Pastoral staff** – The senior pastor has final authority, with advisory input from the Leadership Council, over the Missions Team activities, direction and implementation of budgeted funds. The senior pastor also designates a member of the pastoral staff to provide oversight to the Missions Team.

**The Missions Team for Church of the Apostles** is comprised of seven sub-teams (the number of sub-teams and their responsibilities can be increased or decreased as needed).

The current sub-teams are Communications, Partner Adoption, Missions Events, Missionaries of Apostles (MOA) Care, Sunday School and Worship, International Focus and Policy/Finance.

The Missions Team is responsible for evaluating first-time and ongoing requests for support, both annually for on-going support and initially as requested during the year. The team prayerfully decides which ministries and missionaries will receive support and makes recommendations accordingly to the Leadership Council each spring.

The Missions Team is also responsible, through the various sub-teams, to keep missions visible to the congregation by providing opportunities and information that will enable families and individuals to incorporate into their lives a “missions perspective” as they seek to serve Jesus Christ.

### **Roles and Responsibilities**

#### **Missions Team Leader**

The Missions Team Leader is a church member who is the lay leader responsible for the overall functioning of the Missions Team and its established sub-teams. A member of the Pastoral Staff will also be appointed to work with the Missions Team and team leader. The leader is the primary interface with the Pastoral Staff and Leadership Council as well as other church teams. The leader establishes the frequency of team meetings (usually quarterly for the full team) to distribute information and receive status reports from each sub-team. The leader is responsible to ensure that the missions philosophy of the church is consistently followed. The leader is permitted to call special meetings as needed throughout the year. The leader will coordinate, at least twice per year, Missions Team meetings for extended times of prayer and discernment. The leader determines the agenda for full Missions Team meetings, with input from the various functioning sub-teams. The leader reports to the Leadership Council, when requested, or at least annually, to provide an updated status on missions-related activities of the church.

#### **Missions Sub-teams**

Sub-teams will meet on a regular basis as determined by need, or level of activity, or at the request of the Missions Team Leader. Each sub-team will be represented at the quarterly Missions Team meetings and provide status report of current and future planned activities. Each sub-team will develop a short-term

(current year), mid-term (next 2-3 years), and long-term (5 year) plan to be presented at the annual Missions Team meeting.

## **Definition of Terms**

### **Missionaries of Apostles (MOAs)**

MOAs are individuals or couples who are: Members of COTA who are engaged in ministry (whether local, regional, or international) which includes an evangelistic component or aspect and is closely aligned with COTA theologically. They will be undergirded with prayer and will receive financial support. Requests from individuals or couples desiring to be considered for new or ongoing support should utilize the Missionary of Apostles Application Form.

### **Mission Partners (MPs)**

MPs are ministries which are engaged in ministry (whether local, regional, or international) which includes evangelistic component or aspect is closely aligned with COTA theologically. They will be undergirded with prayer and may receive financial support, either one-time or ongoing, also. Requests for new or ongoing support should be submitted for consideration the Mission Partnership Application Form.

### **Financial and Non-Financial Support Process (Tier 1, Tier 2, Tier 3, One-Time) Initial and Ongoing**

Requests for financial support from Mission Partners and Missionaries of Apostles should be submitted as noted on the respective application. Both new and ongoing requests for support will be evaluated using Evaluation Process found in Appendix 1. This form is not to be shared with our applicants.

## Evaluation Process

### Evaluation of Requests

Church of the Apostles has developed a formal process for evaluating financial Support Requests which includes, but is not limited to the following subject areas:

- Description of the ministry theologically
  - Overview of the ministry
    - Theological alignment with COTA Vision Statement
    - Global or local impact and focus
- Relationship to existing ministries currently supported by COTA
  - Relationship with other currently supported ministries
    - COTA membership that would be considered “champions”
    - Opportunities for involvement by church membership
- Relationship of individual to COTA
  - What is the current relationship with COTA
    - Current church member/regular attender/former member/no relationship
- Intangibles

COTA utilizes a three-tier process to designate our level of involvement with each MOA and MP. Current and former members of COTA who are requesting to be supported in currently supported ministries or seeking to be supported in ministries which closely theologically align with COTA and do not duplicate existing ministries already supported will receive preference over other requests.

- **Tier 1** – Primary Partners – Missionaries of Apostles and Mission Partners with high congregational involvement and high correlation to the church vision. These ministries will be highlighted more regularly in church communications, Sunday morning announcements, and have more staff interaction
- **Tier 2** – Secondary Partners – Missions Partners with moderate involvement and correlation to church vision. They will receive some visibility and staff interaction but less than a Primary partner.
- **Tier 3** – Tertiary Partners - Missions Partners that are new or have low congregational involvement. It is expected that these partners will grow through grass roots efforts and communication. As they become more engaged and integral to the church body, they will move up in the tiering system.

Available funds will be dispersed to all approved requests for new or ongoing support as recommended by the Missions Team and approved by the Leadership Council. Funds will be dispersed based on Missions Team deliberations.

COTA, desiring to go “deep” with a few MPs and MOAs, versus “wide” with many, will utilize the prayerful deliberations of the Missions Team to determine within each tier grouping what each individual or ministry will receive.

Ministries and individuals within each tier will not necessarily receive the same level of funding each year.

Ongoing relationships with currently supported MOAs and MPs will be evaluated separately from requests for new support. Any undesignated funds remaining once all MOA and MP requests are considered will be allocated on a case-by-case basis throughout the fiscal year by the Missions Team.

### **Accountability**

As part of the yearly application process, every organization or individual receiving funds from the Missions budget will be required to submit to COTA financial accountability documents. Organizations will be required to submit either a reviewed or audited financial statement or an IRS Form 990. Individuals will be required to submit an annual income and expense statement.

The Finance Committee will provide support to the Missions Team for the review of all the financial accountability documents and will provide a report each year with the results.

## APPENDIX 1 - Church of the Apostles Missions Evaluation Form

Name of Individual or Ministry Requesting Support: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Evaluation of Request: \_\_\_\_\_

Criteria	Seek the Lost Build up the Found Transform the City Through Jesus Christ	Global mission (score this column or Local- not both)	Local mission (score this column or Global- not both)	Involvement or Champions	Path to involvement by COTA members	Intangibles
Ranking:						
Meets our Objectives to a High degree Score = 4	High Match to Vision	Ministry to Rwanda or unreached people groups or nations	Ministries in Raleigh that strategically reach the needs of our city with evangelical mission	Many members are "champions" of ministry or closely affiliated with Anglicanism	Significant path to involvement for members of COTA And Existing & ongoing involvement by members of COTA	Existing relationship with multiple ministries or individuals current supported by COTA
Meets our Objectives to a Medium degree Score = 3	Medium Match to Vision	Ministry among reached people groups with emphasis among poor	Local campus or para-church ministries with evangelical mission	Few members are "champions" of ministry	Possible path to involvement for members of COTA BUT Low existing involvement by members of COTA	Existing relationship with one multiple ministries or individuals current supported by COTA
Meets our Objectives to a Low degree Score = 2	Low Match to Vision	Ministry among reached people groups	Ministries in Raleigh that strategically reach the needs of our city (not clearly evangelical)	One member is "champion" of ministry	Possible path to involvement for members of COTA BUT No existing COTA involvement	No relationship currently with other ministries or individuals currently supported by COTA but potential exists
Does not match our specific objectives Score = 1	No clear match to Vision	n/a	Local campus or para-church ministries (not clearly evangelical)	No champions	No obvious path to involvement for members of COTA AND No current COTA involvement	No relationship currently with other ministries or individuals currently supported by COTA and no potential
Score (1 <sup>st</sup> three columns doubled)						
Total Score						