

Missionary Financial Support Policy

The following policy contains the guidelines which Redeemer Church Rockford uses in its deliberations in deciding whether to support a missionary who has requested financial support from Redeemer. This document is intended to be a guide, and not intended to dictate all financial support decisions. For good and sufficient reasons, Redeemer may make exceptions in deviating from this policy manual.

1. **Redeemer Missions Purpose Statement:** The mission of Redeemer Church is to glorify God through the fulfillment of the Great Commission. Our obedience to this mission is the foundation of every Redeemer ministry.

2. **Redeemer Missional Priorities** [From Redeemer's "Philosophy of Missions" Statement]
 - 2.1 Glory of God (Isa. 47:3; Hab. 2:14)
 - 2.2 Every Nation, Tribe, Peoples, & Tongue (Revelation 7:9)
 - 2.3 Training Up and Sending Out (Eph. 4:11-12; Acts 13) Missions starts within the local church, praying for, identifying, investing in, and sending out the next generation of missionaries.
 - 2.4 Qualified Workers (2 Tim 2:2; Acts 13) The missions enterprise is to be carried out by those whom the Holy Spirit has marked by their proven character and giftedness.
 - 2.4 Plant and Equip Churches (Matt 28:18-20; Acts 13-14) The priority of missions is to make and strengthen disciples in the context establishing of local churches.

3. **Missionary Requirements.** All missionaries supported by Redeemer must fulfill the following requirements:
 - 3.1 Doctrinal Requirements. All missionaries must affirm and support Redeemer's doctrinal statement, "Redeemer Distinctives" as well as Redeemer's "Philosophy of Missions" statement.
 - 3.2 Character requirements. Redeemer missionaries are an extension of the local church leadership. Accordingly, all Redeemer missionaries must exhibit the character qualities required for elders and deacons as set forth in 1 Tim. 3:1-13 and Titus 1:6-9.
 - 3.3 Involvement with Redeemer. All missionaries must be involved in Redeemer as follows:
 - 3.3.1 Membership (If sent by Redeemer). All Redeemer missionaries must be Members of Redeemer for a minimum of two (2) years prior to their approval as Redeemer missionaries.
 - 3.3.2 Ministry requirement. All Redeemer missionaries must be actively involved in a Life Group at Redeemer, as well as serving in various church ministries.
 - 3.4 Approved mission's agency. Missionaries must work through an established mission's agency. It is our policy not to support missionaries who are independent of such sponsorship and direction. An established missions agency shall be have a doctrinal statement that is in agreement with Redeemer's doctrinal statement.

- 3.5 Elder Approval. All Redeemer missionaries receiving financial support from Redeemer must obtain formal approval by the Redeemer elder board.
4. **Criteria for Determining Amount of Financial Support.** The amount of financial support that Redeemer provides to any given missionary will vary depending upon a variety of factors as indicated below:
- 4.1 Type of Ministry. Redeemer’s purpose in missions is to glorify God through the fulfillment of the Great Commission. To that end, Redeemer will support missionaries whose desire is to preach the gospel where Christ has not already been named (Romans 15:20). The Bible teaches that the Great Commission will only be fulfilled when the gospel has been proclaimed to all nations (Matt. 24:14), and therefore a strategic focus on planting biblically fruitful churches amongst unreached people groups is necessary to fulfill our purpose in missions. This is not to downplay the need or importance of missionaries who focus on support ministries, or relief / development work, or who work amongst “reached” peoples. This is simply to say that is not Redeemer’s top missional priority.
 - 4.2. A non-exhaustive list of Redeemer’s missional priorities is as follows:
 - Target every concentric circle in our Lord’s command in Acts 1:8 (see Missions Philosophy)
 - Planting churches
 - Supporting missions by developing relationships in “Judea and Samaria, and the ends of the world” (i.e. amongst unreached peoples)
 - Supporting missionaries who are in a lead / senior pastor role
 - Mercy/compassion ministries
 - 4.3 Length of Service. The length of time the missionary plans to be in active missionary service will affect the amount of support Redeemer will provide. Redeemer prioritizes both long-term mission service and shorter term trips *with long-term partners*.
 - 4.4 Ministry Location. Redeemer will provide greater levels of financial support to missionaries desiring to minister to an unreached people group and/or to missionaries who will be ministering in the 10/40 window.
 - 4.5 Ministry Experience and Training. Redeemer will consider the missionary’s level of education (biblical and higher education) when considering the level of financial support. *Exceptions to this are possible pending elder approval. *
5. **Redeemer Members Going on Non-Redeemer Related Short-Term Trips.** Redeemer will financially support missionaries going on a non-Redeemer related short-term trip, subject to the following:
- 5.1 Missionary Requirements. The missionary must (i) affirm and support Redeemer’s doctrinal statement, (ii) be a member of Redeemer and (iii) be actively participating in a Life Group.
 - 5.2 Nature of Trip. The short-term trip must be gospel-centered in nature, and preferably is focused on the Redeemer missional priorities outlined in Article 2 above. The trip must be approved by the Redeemer elders.

6. **Raising Support from Redeemer Members.** Once a missionary (either long-term or short-term) has received approval from Redeemer for financial support, the missionary is free to approach individuals within Redeemer with whom they already have a personal relationship and invite them to prayerfully consider financially partnering with them in their ministry. The missionary is not permitted to make any mass appeal to the larger church body for funds.
7. **Information Access.** Redeemer missionaries (either long-term or short-term) will not be granted access to the Redeemer online membership directory, address list, or other similar information.
8. **Redeemer Website.** For long-term missionaries receiving financial support, Redeemer may provide a webpage for the missionary under the Redeemer website's "Missions" tab. The webpage can include information such as (i) biographical information, (ii) ministry information, (iii) a link to the sending agency's webpage and (iv) a link allowing an individual to financially support the missionary.
9. **Review of Support.** All long-term Redeemer missionaries will undergo an annual review of the missionary's work and ministry to ensure the missionary is maintaining the character required of a Redeemer missionary and that the missionary is remaining fruitful and productive. Redeemer reserves the right to modify the missionary's support based on the results of the review. Adopted by the Elders on February 5, 2013.

9.1 Bi annual?