

# FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF GRIDLEY MISSIONS POLICY

Adopted by the team on 09/17/1996  
Amended by the team on 12/2007; 12/2011; 05/2012

## Purpose of Missions

The purpose of Missions is to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ to all nations in order to bring people into fellowship by faith with God the Father, Jesus the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

## Core Convictions That Drive Our Commitment to Missions

**Beautiful Feet**—the work of global evangelization—is a core value of First United Church, rooted in Romans 10:15: *“How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!”* The following Core Convictions drive our commitment and provide direction for how we do missions.

### Beautiful Feet display God’s character.

- Our God is a missionary God. He sent His Son on a mission to redeem people from every tribe, tongue and nation for the worship of His glory. Psalm 67:3-4; Isaiah 12:4; John 3:16; Revelation 7:9
- God enjoys perfect fellowship in the Trinity. He does not need our praise but has a deep desire to display His glory and bring His redeemed people into fellowship with Him. Isaiah 66:18; John 17:2-23; Revelation 5:9
- God’s character and desire to display His glory is the storyline of Scripture from Genesis through Revelation.

### Beautiful Feet proclaim Jesus in word and deed.

- The local church is God’s primary means for proclaiming Jesus in word and deed. Matthew 28:19-20; 2 Corinthians 8:23-24; Philippians 1:7; 1 Peter 2:9-10
- We send Paul-type and Timothy-type missionaries to all parts of the world.
  - Paul-types go to plant churches in unreached areas of the world.
  - Timothy-types go to existing churches to teach, shepherd, and continue proclaiming the gospel.
- We support missions that proclaim the gospel while showing mercy in the Name of Christ. Micah 6:8; James 2:14-17; Matthew 25:40

### Beautiful Feet call for sacrifice.

- We are called to a simple lifestyle—giving up luxuries—for the sake of going and sending. Philippians 3:8
- Our resources are given to us to be used for the advancement of the kingdom of God—not our comfort. Matthew 6:33; 2 Corinthians 8:3-5
- Suffering, sacrifice, and even death is gain in pursuit of proclaiming the gospel. Mark 8:34-35; 2 Corinthians 4:17
- Laboring in prayer is part of our lifestyle and part of God’s plan to advance the mission. Matthew 9:38; John 14:12-14; Romans 15:30; 2 Thessalonians 3:1

### Beautiful Feet will succeed.

- Not everyone is called to go, but everyone is called to be a part of the mission. Romans 12:4,5; Philippians 4:3; 3 John 7, 8
- God is sovereign and can do all things. No purpose of His can be thwarted. Job 42:2; Isaiah 55:11
- In God’s timing, the work of missions will be done and people from every tribe, tongue and nation will enjoy his glory. Psalm 46:10; . Isaiah 66:1; Revelation 5:9; Revelation 7:9

## **Purposes of Our Missions Policy**

To give us a clear sense of direction.

To avoid making important decisions on an emotional or haphazard basis.

To help us be good stewards of each mission dollar.

To inform new mission team members of our goals, strategies, and responsibilities.

## **Review and Revision of Our Missions Policy**

The Missions Team will review the policy with new members at the first meeting following installation. Any changes must be approved unanimously by the Missions Team after ample review time.

## **Authority Given to Missions Team**

The Missions Team is authorized to act in accordance with the stipulations of the church Mission Policy and the Constitution of First United Church of Gridley. The Team works under the direction of the Church Leadership Council.

## **Responsibilities of the Missions Team**

The Missions Team is expected to fulfill all duties as defined by the Constitution of First United Church of Gridley and as directed by the Church Leadership Council. The team is responsible to care for our missionaries holistically.

## **Missions Team Officers and Duties**

The chairman and secretary, elected by members of the missions team, are responsible for fulfilling all duties as defined by the Constitution of First United Church of Gridley and as directed by the Church Leadership Council.

The Chairman will:

- prepare and distribute the Annual Survey to our Missionaries
- coordinate an annual review of the Missions Policy and update the Policy as agreed upon by the Mission Team
- maintain and update as needed the applications for long-term and short-term missionaries.

## **Doctrinal Requirements**

All supported missionaries, ministries, or agencies must have a doctrinal statement that is true to the Word of God, in agreement with First United Church of Gridley's Statement of Faith, and the Mission Policy Core Convictions.

## **Expectations for Supported Missionaries**

### **Communication**

All missionaries will communicate with First United Church of Gridley through the Missions Team.

### **Correspondence**

All missionaries are requested to correspond regularly with the Missions Team to inform us of their activities and prayer needs. A letter or email providing details of their work is required at least three times each year.

### **Personal witness**

The Missions Team expects all missionaries to work in the power of the Spirit of God, to be men and women of conviction, to show evidence of commitment and dedication to following God's will and meet the standards of I Timothy 3 and Titus 1.

### **Annual Survey**

Each supported missionary is required to complete an annual survey that details their work, goals, prayer and financial support needs. The Annual Survey will be prepared and sent by the Missions Team Chair.

When a non-profit organization is supported, the organization will be asked to submit the most recent year's Form 990.

## **Short Term Mission Trips/Service**

Short-term is defined as those serving on the field for three months or less.

### **Trips Sponsored by First United**

The Missions Team will be responsible for overseeing the planning for short term trips sponsored by First United Church. Responsibilities will include:

- Communicating plans to Church Leadership Council and the congregation
- Coordinating the planning efforts with the organization/missionaries hosting our team
- Preparing the trip budget and overseeing fund-raising efforts
- Preparing and reviewing the applications of those who wish to be part of the team
- Training and preparing the team
- Debriefing of the team upon return

### **Individuals Taking Short-Term Trips**

The Missions Team will be responsible for meeting with applicants interested in short-term service. The applicant must:

- Have a sincere interest in missions.
- Have parental support or approval up through age 18.
- Show desire and ability to lead others to Christ.
- Show evidence of faithfulness in ministry, cooperative spirit, submission to authority, and fruit of the Spirit.
- Complete a First United Short-term mission trip application for review by the Mission Team.

## **Financial Policies**

### **Mission Team Budget**

The Missions Team budget is based upon a minimum of 10% of General Fund giving of the previous year. The amount allocated to each account is based upon missionary support and plans for the upcoming year.

The Missions Team will disburse 10% of total General Fund giving each year. The final distribution will be completed by the end of each fiscal year.

### **Financial Accountability**

We will work only with agencies and organizations who meet the standards of the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability (ECFA) or other accountability groups. All organizations must be a recognized 501(c)3 non-profit organization by the Internal Revenue Service.

### **Strategy for Distribution of Funds**

Our Core Convictions will shape our strategy for distributions. We will seek to balance our support between Paul-type and Timothy-type missionaries.

### **Relationship Between Church and Missions Organizations**

When concerns arise, we expect status and/or financial reports from the sending agency of the missionaries we support.

### **Procedure for Selecting New Candidates to Support**

We will request a personal application from candidates who come to us for support which will include background information, personal goals and testimony. All candidates must meet all convictions, guidelines, and requirements stated within the Missions Policy.

### **Requirements for Considering Support**

All candidates must:

- Show evidence of past commitment and dedication to following God's will;
- Adhere to First United's Statement of Faith and agree with the Core Convictions;
- Be accepted by a sending agency approved by the church.

### **Missionary Support**

Support will begin at the discretion of the Missions Team.

Support will terminate when:

- Budget changes require changes in missionary support;
- The missionary resigns or retires;
- The agency terminates the missionary;
- The missionary fails to abide by the rules and requests of our church;
- The missionary's doctrinal position differs significantly from that of our church;
- The missionary consistently demonstrates inadequate accountability.

## **Funding for Short-Term and Project Missions**

Requests for support from individuals will be reviewed on an individual basis at the discretion of the Missions Team.

When First United plans a short-term mission trip for the congregation, expenses for the trip may be covered by the Missions budget, fundraising event, or solicitation of funds from the congregation.

## **Handling of Designated Giving**

When an individual designates a gift of money to a specific missionary, the following guidelines must be followed.

- The Missions Team must maintain control of the disbursement of the funds. The requested designation should be honored, but can be overturned by the Missions Team.
- The designation must be to missionaries that First United already supports.
- A family member of a missionary may not designate financial support to the missionary relative.
- The disbursement must be made to a church or an organization with a 501(c) (3) designation. Disbursements may not be made to individual missionaries.
- The year-end giving receipts will hold the following statement:  
*“In following IRS guidelines, your donation is to First United Church for the purpose of supporting missionary activities. The Church mission committee retains full discretion over its use, but intends to honor your suggested use as much as possible.”*