

## **AEMC MISSIONS POLICY**

### **PURPOSE:**

This document provides a comprehensive summary of the policy and process used by AEMC inclusive of the Missions Committee, Board of Directors, Elders, Members and Adherents, related to Missions.

Any individual or organization potentially seeking a mission connection to AEMC and those currently connected are informed about and will be provided with access to this document.

Missions, broadly defined, refers to individuals and/or organizations serving with the core purpose of inviting people to discover the Way of Jesus\*, either locally, nationally or overseas and whether cross-cultural or within our culture.

In addition to the Purpose above it documents the:

- a. Commitment to share in ministry by AEMC and with our denomination through EMCC and EMCC World Partners (WP)\* to consider and provide support, both financially and in other means, to Missions,
- b. Organization, responsibility and functioning of the Missions Committee,
- c. Application requirements, approval and funding process and support criterial considerations.

This Policy document was approved by the Board of Directors on 2020 02 20. Subsequent modification is expected from time to time and requires approval of the Board of Directors.

### **COMMITMENT TO MISSIONS:**

AEMC's commitment to missions is to:

- a. Allocate through the budget process and disburse from actual income, as a guideline, approximately 20% of AEMC's "Offerings, General", portion of Total Income, estimated and actual,
- b. Work in collaboration with EMCC WPs as they facilitate the EMCC missional task,
- c. Ensure the functioning of a Standing Committee, the Missions Committee, with responsibilities as described in this document, and,
- d. Integrate mission organizations and individual missionaries into the everyday fulfilment of AEMC's Mission or Purpose statements.

\*Way of Jesus - see [www.emcc.ca/can-we-help/individuals/following-jesus/seven-markers/](http://www.emcc.ca/can-we-help/individuals/following-jesus/seven-markers/)

\*EMCC and EMCC World Partners - see [www.emcc/world-partners/wp-profile/](http://www.emcc/world-partners/wp-profile/)

## **ORGANIZATION, RESPONSIBILITY AND FUNCTIONING:**

The Missions Committee is a Standing Committee established in accordance with AEMC's By-Law\*. It is preferred that the Committee Chair be the Mission Coordinator, a member of the Board of Directors who is elected or appointed as a Director in accordance with AEMC's By-Law.

Ideally the Missions Committee will include at least 4 Members and/or Adherents, including the Chair, who are appointed by the Board of Directors. Terms for committee members ideally will be for 2 or 3 years.

Committee members are expected to actively participate in fulfilling the Responsibilities of the Missions Committee as defined below; to plan for, attend and participate in committee meetings; to continually learn and share knowledge and insights about evangelism and to coordinate a missions focus by sharing and engaging with the congregation as part of a Sunday service or other event, once per month.

The committee, or individual members when requested and acting on behalf of the Missions Committee, will typically interface with the Finance Committee, Treasurer, Elders, Board, EMCC WPs, other missionary organizations and missionaries. The Missions Committee Chair will report verbally and/or in writing from time to time to the Board and congregation.

### **The Missions Committee will also be responsible to:**

**Prayer:** Mobilize the congregation to pray for missionaries and related organizations support by AEMC, and for world evangelism in general, encouraging prayer as a regular part of worship services, study/small groups, programs for all ages etc.

**Education:** Create opportunities to promote and engage the congregation to educate and build awareness of missions, missionaries and their needs. To welcome and host missionaries who are available to speak to our congregation. Access resources available through EMCC and WP\*.

**Mentoring:** Members and Adherents of AEMC may be mentored prior to and during the Application process or while serving. Typically, this could include matching an individual to a mission organization, financial planning, and/or specific training needed in preparation for service.

**Due Diligence:** Exercise reasonable due diligence to research individuals and mission organizations and cooperating with organizations needing AEMC input prior to and as part of the Application Consideration process.

\*AEMC's By-Law - see By-Law No.1.1, Article 10.

\*EMCC and EMCC World Partners - see [www.emcc/world-partners/wp-profile/](http://www.emcc/world-partners/wp-profile/)

**Encouragement:** to communicate regularly with missionaries and their organizations acting as a liaison to discern and assist to resolve matters such as physical, mental, spiritual, social and financial needs.

**Finances:** To prepare the Missions budget, allocating funds and recommending and discussion of same with the Finance Committee, Board of Directors and at congregational meetings; receive input for consideration; evaluate available funding support and overseeing timely disbursements and related communications.

**Evaluation:** Debriefing during and after mission service and reviewing the effectiveness of this policy, programs and missionaries. This will include liaison to obtain evaluation input from related organizations.

**Listening:** To receive and consider input from church leaders, Members, Adherents, etc. related to the responsibilities and functioning of this Policy. To work in collaboration with appropriate resources and leaders.

#### **APPLICATION CONSIDERATION, APPROVAL AND FUNDING PROCESS:**

The application process will be facilitated by the Missions Committee and while every attempt is made to keep the process comprehensive, the process will be circulatory as all application requests are considered, prioritized and worked in collaboration with an annual budget, etc. As the process is open and transparent, it is expected that the Board of Directors, Members and Adherents of AEMC be enabled to provide input for consideration to the Mission Committee.

The process will allow opportunity for both informality and formality. Above all our process will be God honouring and needs to be fair to Members and Adherents of AEMC, all individuals and associated organizations while it serves to prepare and protect applicants and AEMC.

The Missions Committee is the communications link with all Individuals and organizations, whether under consideration or having been approved.

The application process may be initiated by an informal discussion or by an AEMC leader in recognition and encouragement of a person's gifting.

Typically the Missions Committee would like to receive a formal and concise plan which includes: dates, term, place, and the focus of the proposed missionary work; if appropriate, information on and relationship with any related mission organizations/ partners; testimony of the Lord's leading to this ministry and total estimated cost with a plan to raise the required funds.

For individuals not associated with EMCC WPs and/or AEMC, the plan should include how that mission organizations purpose, objectives, faith practices, etc., are compatible or align with AEMC's, so that organization can be affirmed, or not, as a recognized evangelical organization as outlined below in this Policy.

Meetings and other forms of communication will be conducted with the Missions Committee. Normally the Missions Committee will consult with AEMC and other church Elders and with other individuals or organizations in seeking confirmation, or not, of God's calling of the individual to the proposed mission.

The Missions Committee will be responsible to confirm decisions directly and promptly to individuals and organizations and will be AEMC's communications link for all other needs.

Approved support to individuals and organizations is normally disbursed by AEMC quarterly following disbursement requirements set out in AEMC's By-Law. The Treasurer, Mission Coordinator and Board of Directors shall collaborate if previously approved support amounts need modification or are to be delayed abnormally. Other disbursement approved, (eg. less frequent and one-time payments), are made to assist the individual or organization as appropriate.

Support to missionaries and organizations is made in faith. AEMC reserves the right to revoke financial and other supports for beliefs, conduct, statements and or events incompatible and at variance with criteria set out in this Policy. AEMC is not responsible for any damages or loss which may occur as a result of support decisions. Related decisions and disciplinary action shall be conducted using biblical principles, documented and retained securely for reference and historical purposes.

While for the most part financial support for all Missions budgeted is to be provided from AEMC's global budget process and 'Offerings, General' (and actual disbursements only from general funds), there are other means AEMC may use to provide funding support to individuals, organizations or projects as outlined below.

**Designated/special offerings:** The Board of Directors may authorize and inform the congregation of plans for a designated or specific offering to meet a missions funding requirement (eg. a mission to Burnt Church, a project to support street missions, etc.). These designated offerings to AEMC are totaled and are identified as a line item in 'Offering Income' and are not netted or used to reduce a Missions expense/expenditure line.

**Visiting individuals and/or organizations:** Individuals and/or organizations may request or be invited as AEMC's guests. Typically, when authorized, they join our congregation and share in whole or in part during a morning service (eg. Fresh Start's baby bottle appeal, Teen Challenge Farm, Compassion Canada), and/or in fellowship outside the sanctuary. (eg. during a luncheon, sale of materials from a display in the vestibule area, etc.). AEMC may also host such individuals with luncheon, home hospitality, etc., as practical and appropriate.

In planning such opportunities, the Missions Committee will enquire and authorizes the approach to be undertake, if any, for an offering, appeal and/or solicitations. These shall be directly under the control and receipted by that individual/organization. For an offering, AEMC Ushers may assist however no record keeping is required of AEMC.

**Rental and use of building /property:** AEMC's building/property may be utilized following the Facility Use Policy\* by individuals or organizations raising financial and other support for their mission. (eg. Promise Keepers, Barnabas Corporation, Jabez Therapy Ranch). The Mission Committee may recommend when it is appropriate to waive facility use fees and other charges. Appeals or fundraising activities are under the control of the renting individual/organization and no record keeping for this purpose is required of AEMC.

**AEMC hosted fundraising events:** Such events when approved, are held by AEMC on behalf of an individual or group/project within AEMC (eg. Youth Group spaghetti or food with fun events) or outside organization or individual (eg. Youth for Christ, men's ministry such as Promise Keepers). Guidelines set out by CRA apply as to what can and does not qualify for charitable receipting by AEMC.

### **SUPPORT CRITERIA CONSIDERATIONS:**

The criteria use by the Missions Committee to prioritize and evaluate individuals and organizations for funding support are as follows:

**A) Related Ministry:** Guidelines for funding EMCC and Emmanuel Bible College (EBC) are made available to AEMC from leadership in those organizations and shall be considered by AEMC in the context of all mission needs, AEMC's ability, etc. Special appeals from either EMCC or EBC (eg. relief efforts or building programs) may be considered by AEMC from time to time.

AEMC itemises commitments to funding for EMCC and EBC as 'Related Ministry'.

\*Facility Use Policy-see AEMC Facility Use Policy

**B) Cross-Cultural Ministry:** Next, consideration will be given to missionaries and organizations, identified and grouped as 'Cross- Cultural Missions' using the following priority sequence:

1. Career or long-term missionaries who are Members of AEMC serving with EMCC World Partners.
2. Career or long-term missionaries who are Members of AEMC serving with other recognized evangelical organizations (defined herein after as where the Missions Committee are satisfied that their purpose, objectives, faith\*, practice\* and testimony are reasonably compatible or aligned with those of AEMC's).
3. World Partner missionaries who are not Members of AEMC.
4. Missionaries serving with other recognized evangelical organizations.

Further and other considerations for this grouping include:

- a) priority will be to career or long-term over short-term ministry, and
- b) seeking a balance in a variety of ministries including cross-cultural and geographic locations, and
- c) AEMC Adherents\* with or without a signed Ministry Covenant\* serving with other recognized evangelical organizations.

**C) Local/Short-Term Ministry:** In addition, this policy provision relates to and includes individuals and/or organizations involved with local and/or short-term community outreach, service/project, relief and discipleship ministry. The Application and Support Criteria Considerations outlined above provide guidance to aid the Missions Committee in decision-making related to if AEMC can or can not consider support to an individual or organization.

\*AEMC's Faith and Practice - see EMCC's Articles of Faith and Practice

\*Adherent - see By-Law No. 1.1, Article 4.

\*Ministry Covenant - see AEMC Policy for Adherent with a Ministry Covenant