

Missions Program Guidelines and Policy

Bear Creek Community Church

Revised September 2009

I. BC3 Missions Purpose

God's Plan

Bear Creek Community Church (BC3) affirms that God's love and offer of redemption extends to all the peoples of the earth. It is His supreme desire to make disciples of His son Jesus Christ among all peoples of the world, and to see His church established and growing among every tribe, tongue, and race. This is the great commandment and God commands this of us.

God intends to use His people as His ambassadors in calling all humanity to Himself (2 Cor 5:18-20). His followers have been charged to go (Matt 28:18-20) and to be sent (Rom 10:13-15) so that the world may be redeemed. God's heart for the world is clearly seen in John 3:16, Isaiah 49:6, Acts 1:8 and Romans 5:8.

BC3's Response to God's Plan

Traditional thinking involves the church commissioning people to go forth and participate in mission work; thus positioning missions as an instrument of the church. Rather we at BC3 understand and believe that the church is *the* instrument of God's mission in the world, and that our calling and life-work is to fulfill the great commission.

We believe each Christian has been called to be missional by Jesus Christ and charged to carry God's plan. Missions are not a special interest for a select group in our church; it is for all believers.

We recognize the responsibility that we (Bear Creek Community Church) has to corporately be involved in God's mission to the community about us, the nation, and globally to all people groups. We therefore commit ourselves to work together in a missions' program to be involved in the great commission.

II. Terms

1. **Missional** is adopting the posture, thinking, behavior, and practices of a missionary in order to engage others with the Gospel message.
2. **Long-term** or career missionaries are individuals or families whose full time effort is in the mission field. They generally work through a formal mission agency and must find financial support from individual families, churches, or other organizations.
3. **Short-term** missionaries are individuals, families or groups who have been called to the mission field for a year or less. They will generally work through a formal mission agency or program, and need to raise financial support. An example would be the youth summer mission projects.
4. **Special Needs Projects:** are for the "one-time" needs identified by our church family, supported long/short term missionaries, or supported agencies. These may involve special requests for funding from the congregation or the disbursements of funds in the mission budget and are at the discretion of the missions' committee. Examples of special projects include: special travel needs, a specific building project, supplies, or an encouragement to people in the field.

5. **Outreach Projects:** Outreach projects are activities conducted by the church for the local community (which is the Woodinville, Redmond, Bothell, & Seattle areas). These projects are to have at their center, the purpose of sharing the gospel through good works and conducted with a spirit of love and genuineness. Examples of Outreach projects would be activities through Love Inc & Operations Nightwatch or Take it to the Streets and church activates in public places that could involve the general public. In general this is reaching others outside the church walls.

III. The BC3 Missions Committee (MC)

Membership / Organization

1. **Membership:** The Missions Committee members will be recruited from BC3 membership and regular attendees. We encourage there to be a representative from the Elder Board, staff, and that the Pastor participate at meetings and share information about upcoming activities.
2. **Chairperson:** The MC will select a chairperson from its membership as necessary. The Chairperson is recommended to be a member of BC3. This individual will be responsible for the proper functioning of the committee, providing committee leadership, communicate with other elements of church life, and schedule MC meetings.
3. **Functional Organization:**
 - a. Global Missions (including full time missionaries in the field supported by BC3.)
 - b. Outreach (encouraging the body of BC3 to be involved missionally in local projects and activities)
 - c. Short term Missions – encouraging the BC3 body (including students, adults, and families) to go out on short term missions’ opportunities in support of a global or local missional effort.
 - d. Admin – Keeping the bulletin boards up to date, update BC3’s web page (the mission portion), and thumbnails of Missionaries for the weekly bulletin.
4. **Meetings:** Meetings will be held monthly and as required to accomplish the business of the committee. Meeting will be open to BC3 members and regular attendees and to those invited by the committee. Special subcommittees may be setup to accomplish tasks.
5. **Communications:** A member of the MC will be asked to take notes and provide minutes of the meetings and provide these to committee members, the Elder with oversight, the senior pastor, and other BC3 staff who may request this information. Individual will keep the Committee updated on ongoing activities.

Expectations of Committee Members

1. Attend the meetings and be active in helping to make decisions.
2. Serve on subcommittees.
3. Participate in promoting the mission activities and program of BC3.
4. Read the letters and communications that our missionaries send BC3 in order to be aware of their circumstances and prayer needs.
5. Pray regularly for the missionaries and mission efforts of the specific mission supported by the BC3.
6. Be prepared to occasionally host missionaries when they return to visit / provide an update at Church.

Committee Objectives

The Missions’ committee is charged with the following:

1. Prayer. Pray for and mobilize the congregation to pray for the Global & local missionaries, (with an emphasis on those missionaries that have crossed BC3’s path), short term mission efforts, and for BC3’s missional outreach to the community around us.

2. Education. Provide information to the congregation relating to missionary activities & prayer needs, provide information and encourage individuals to be involved in supporting global missionaries, local outreach or short term mission events, and make information available on the web about the BC3 mission program. The Committee will act as a liaison between the church, its missionaries and mission agencies. Support missionaries – spiritually, emotionally and financially.
3. Encouragement. Encourage Missionaries (be ready to help when they are visiting or on home leave). The Pastor(s) and staff will be encouraged to participate on a short-term mission trip or project at least once every two years. Keep an updated Missions Program bulletin board with pictures, nature of mission efforts, and letters. Publish mission activities and prayer needs in Sunday Bulletin.
4. Identify and develop opportunities. The MC will identify or develop opportunities where the congregation can grow in their missional response to God's plan. Find ways, other than financial, that BC3 can become involved in supporting a missional attitude both globally and locally.
5. Finances. Prepare a missions budget and oversee its timely implementation throughout the year. The budget for the next calendar year is due in September.
6. Listen. Receive and consider input from church members and regular attendees relating to all areas outlined above.
7. Evaluate. Review project proposals submitted to the MC by the Missions Outreach staff person or other BC3 proponent. Review the MC's effectiveness in meeting its objectives.

IV Budget.

1. The MC will annually review its ongoing commitments in light of the budget provided by the elders and approved by the congregation.
2. BC3 will make every effort to provide some financial support its own short-term missionaries. The level of support will be decided on a case by case basis.
3. BC3 financial support will be reviewed when a missionary or organization when a missionary changes their mission focus, or resign from active service; when the missional focus of BC3 changes: or when there is question about the ethics of the recipient or organization.
4. If there is a shortfall of income that will impact the scheduled monthly commitments, the MC will make necessary adjustments and inform the church accountant and supported mission efforts.
5. BC3 monetary support of missionary personnel will be sent to their sponsoring agency on a monthly basis.
6. All approved funding requests will go through the BC3 accounting process using the required forms in a timely manner.

V Introducing or promoting Mission initiatives at BC3

1. All mission efforts (global, short term, long term, organizational, or local outreach) promoted at BC3 will be reviewed by the MC prior to being presented to the congregation. This would include flyers, power point information, announcements in the bulletin or from the pulpit. (Point people will be available to coordinate requests that cannot be accomplished at a regularly scheduled MC meeting. The point people will coordinate with the committee as necessary.)
2. A Sponsor will bring the request before the BC3 MC. Any member or regular attendee at BC3 may submit a request to the committee.
3. Mission Criteria:

- a. A connection to BC3 – Is there a member or regular attendee (M/RA) (including children) directly involved, participating, or supporting the mission effort or organization. Weather this is a long term global, short term event or local outreach activity connected to an organization.
 - b. Is this something the Committee feels the BC3 congregation should be encouraged to participate in?
 - c. Who is the sending agent? (BC3, Baptist General Conference, or another known acceptable evangelical agency?)
 - d. Is the focus of the mission effort making Christ known? This cannot be a solely humanitarian effort. (there must be truth with love)
 - e. BC3 Opportunity: Will the missionary/origination engage the congregation giving members & regular attendees an opportunity to be involved personally in the mission effort? If this is a long term global mission effort, is there a local connection so they will be likely to return to the area for a visit.
 - f. Are there any conflicts in the mission with BC3's statement of faith (see section below or purpose (i.e. the organization openly supports gay rights or abortion)?
 - g. For one time requests, is this in support of an existing BC3 supported missionary or organization? – Or are we starting something new at BC3?
4. Financial Support if requested
- a. If funds are available in the Mission budget, consider allocations; or.
 - b. If a mission opportunity is approved and there are no funds available to commit, the request may be presented to the BC3 congregation as an encouragement for individuals or families to give directly to this opportunity or for short term mission plans a special account setup within the BC3 accounting system to cover this need.
 - c. No missionary or organization should be largely dependent on BC3 funds (with exceptions for special BC3 mission projects.
 - d. Ensure that requests for special financial support are not in conflict with other BC3 requests.
5. Information provided to the BC3 Committee by the sponsor will include
- a. Identify the mission agency through which the mission is supported. (To help insure this is a reputable agency, see the note below)
 - b. Description of the nature of the mission work plan and how it involves spreading God's Word
 - c. Location of where the mission effort will take place.
 - d. A personal testimony including why they have been called to this mission field (for an individual or family)
 - e. A description of what support is being requested from BC3.
 - f. Dates and duration of the mission.
 - g. Home church if it is not BC3 and are they receiving support for this mission effort.
 - h. Financial request for consideration by the MC (optional.) Information will include total need, purpose of financial requirement, and a plan to meet their financial need.
6. The Missionaries and or sponsor will meet with the MC or a subcommittee and be available to meet with the BC3 elders if required. They may be asked to speak to the congregation

Note: One way to check on the creditability of a servicing agency is if they belong to one of the following: Evangelical Fellowship of Mission Agencies (EFMA) (www.efma.gospelcom.net) or Interdenominational Foreign Missions Association (IFMA) (www.ifmamissions.org) and be part of the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability (EFCA) (www.efca.org)

VI BC3's Statement of Faith

1. **We believe** that the Bible is the Word of God, fully inspired and without error in the original manuscripts.
2. **We believe** that there is one living and true God who is eternally existing in three persons and that these are equal in every divine perfection.
3. **We believe** in God the Father, an infinite and personal spirit who is perfect in holiness, wisdom, power and love.
4. **We believe** in Jesus Christ, God's only begotten Son, conceived by the Holy Spirit.
5. **We believe** in the Holy Spirit who came forth from the Father and Son to convict the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment, and to regenerate, sanctify and empower all who believe in Jesus Christ.
6. **We believe** that all men are sinners by nature and by choice and are, therefore under condemnation.
7. **We believe** that those who repent of their sins and trust in Jesus Christ as Savior are regenerated by the Holy Spirit.
8. **We believe** in the universal church, a living spiritual body of which Christ is the head and all regenerated persons are members.
9. **We believe** that a Christian should live for the glory of God and the well-being of his fellowmen.
10. **We believe** that the Lord Jesus Christ has committed two ordinances to the local church: Baptism and the Lord's Supper.
11. **We believe** that every human being has direct relations with God, and is responsible to go alone in all matters of faith, that each church is independent and must be free from interference by any ecclesiastical or political authority.
12. **We believe** that local churches can best promote the cause of Jesus Christ by cooperating with one another in a denominational organization.
13. **We believe** in the personal and visible return of the Lord Jesus Christ to earth and the establishment of His kingdom.

VII References

1. 2 Cor 5:18-20 All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And He has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.
2. Matt 28: 18-20. Then Jesus came to them (the 11 disciples) and said. "*All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, 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. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.*"
3. Rom 10:13-15. For, everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can they preach unless they are sent?
4. John 3:16 For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.
5. Isaiah 49: 6. He says (the Lord): "It is too small a thing for you to be my servant to restore the tribes of Jacob and bring back those of Israel I have kept. I will also make you a light for the Gentiles, they you may bring my salvation to the ends of the earth."
6. Acts 1: 8. "*But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses to Jerusalem, and in the Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.*"
7. Romans 5:8. But God demonstrated his own love for us in this: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.