

**CITYLIGHTS**  
**Missions Committee**  
**Bylaws**

Draft 7/14/19

## Definitions

**Mission Statement**-The stated belief and purpose of the Mission Committee.

**Objectives**-A specific description of the course of action to execute the purpose of the Mission Committee.

**Missions Committee**-A group of Deacons charged with vetting and recommending Mission Partners to the Elder Board of CITYLIGHTS for affirmation and presentation to the Congregation. The Missions Committee will also be responsible for presenting various mission and/or service opportunities for the Congregation to be involved with individually.

**Elder Board**-The governing board of CITYLIGHTS that oversees the spiritual, directional and practical needs of the church.

**Mission Partner/Partnership**-Mission Organizations or Individuals who are chosen for financial support for a term of 12 months or more.

**Mission Opportunities/Service Opportunities**-Mission Opportunities/Service Opportunities are various organizations or individuals recommended to the Elder Board and the Congregation for short-term support or for specific participation in a service project. These opportunities can range from a love offering for an individual doing a long term or short term mission trip, local or national service projects or a Ministry Spotlight during a Sunday morning service.

**Mission Organization-**A mission organization is an organization whose primary purpose is to equip, support and/or send missionaries to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the world.

**Long-Term-**Long-Term designates an individual's term of service is a minimum of 12 months service in a missionary capacity.

**Short-Term-**Short-Term designates an individual's term of service is a maximum of 12 months service in a missionary capacity.

**Procedures-**Procedures is the process by which the Mission Committee receives a nomination and selects a potential Mission Partner for recommendation to the Elder Board.

**Criteria-**Criteria are the characteristics of a mission organization or individual that qualify or disqualify it from consideration as a mission partner or a mission/service project.

## **Mission Statement**

We believe in the authority of Jesus Christ and partnering with His call to witness to the nations (Matt. 28-18-20). Our goal is to foster the spirit of evangelism in the body of CITYLIGHTS and present to the Elder Board and Congregation various ministry opportunities.

## **Objectives**

We fulfill our mission statement by:

- Fostering relationships by encouraging connection within families, witnessing to neighbors, and going to the nations.
- Encouraging the Congregation to actively pursue God's call on their lives as found the Great Commission.
- Vetting and reviewing potential ministry partners nominated by the Congregants.
- Presenting various opportunities for local and global ministry.
- Stewarding resources (time, prayer, finances) to fulfill our mission statement

## **Procedures for Nomination and Selection of Mission Partners**

- Nomination made on CITYLIGHTS webpage, which is always open for nominations.
- Missions committee will vet partnership opportunities according to the mission statement and objectives.
- The missions committee must unanimously decide on which partnerships to recommend.
- All current and potential partnerships will be reviewed annually at a time to be determined.
- Presentation of recommendations to elders for affirmation.
- Presentation to the congregation of annual partners.
- Mission Partner updates will be presented quarterly to the Congregation by stage presentation, email and social media.
- Deacons will maintain quarterly communication with Mission Partners.

# **Criteria and Policies for Mission Partners**

## **Mission Organizations**

- Mission Statement must be Biblically based and reflective of the Mission Statement of CITYLIGHTS.
- 501-C3 is highly preferred, but not required. Copy of 501-C3 must be obtained if applicable.
- Must have financial integrity. A Form 990 is required.
- The organization must be an evangelistic organization working to fulfill the Great Commission.
- Opportunity to send teams to serve is preferred, not required. NOTE: Opportunities for teams to be sent to serve with Mission Partners will be determined at a later date.

## **Individuals**

### **Long-Term Missions**

- Must be affiliated with a mission organization (ie. sending church, mission board or mission partnership), and must provide a ministry plan (where, what, how) including expected expenses.
- Must be committed to a local church.
- Must have a personal relationship with God.
- Must present 3 references to verify Biblical character.

### **Short-Term Missions**

- 12 Month maximum term.
- Must provide ministry plan (where, what, how) including expected expenses.
- Organizational affiliation preferred, but not required.
- Must provide 3 references to verify Biblical character.

## **Criteria and Policies for Mission Opportunities/Service Projects**

### Mission Organizations

- Service opportunities must reflect the Mission Statement of CITYLIGHTS.

### Individuals

- 12 Month maximum term.
- Must provide ministry plan (where, what, how) including expected expenses.
- Organizational affiliation preferred, but not required.
- Individuals requesting short-term financial support must meet with a current member of the Missions Committee.