



Green Acres

BAPTIST CHURCH

Missions Ministry Policies and Procedures

Purpose Statement

The Missions Ministry is committed to Evangelize God's World through local, national and international ministries, and to Equip God's People to reach the lost.

Priorities and Values

Priorities and values are the foundation of our ministry. These priorities and values are so basic to us that everything we do is built on them. They must be shared with individuals, churches and ministries where we partner and work. Our core values are as follows:

Prayer- We should ask God to call out and send laborers for the harvest from our fellowship and beyond. We should pray for our mission partners.

Scripture- The Word of God draws the lost to faith and drives the disciple of Jesus toward Christ-likeness.

Church- We should start churches, build churches, and support churches and church planting movements.

Evangelism- God has uniquely enabled us to share the Word of God around the world.

Discipleship- Training leaders to lead others is a crucial part of completing the Great Commission.

Compassion- We must care and have concern for the needs of individuals, churches and ministries as well as encourage and strengthen them.

Unique culture of every society- We need to communicate the Gospel in a way that is understood by people where they live.

Ministry that has eternal significance- We should be good stewards of the time, talents and treasures that God has given us.

Strategy

1. Establish Strategic Mission Partnerships according to the Acts 1:8 model.
2. To provide training and resources for GABC members, other churches and individuals for carrying out the Great Commission.

Strategic Mission Partnership

A Strategic Mission Partnership (SMP) occurs when a group in the church has so bonded with a specific mission field and the personnel on the field that they make a long-term commitment to become a vital and strategic partner with that field. These are funding partners, praying partners, short-term project partners, individual partners and organizational partners. All partners work together to collectively realize the ultimate goal of the field. Many times, this process takes several years. Ministry compatibility occurs as the result of the church's fruitful ministry at home (something to export), and the field having a mature work in place (need to import).

Funding Requests - Priority Rating

Request for GABC funding of mission projects by individuals, groups or organizations will be considered by the Missions Committee and/or the Minister of Missions. Mission projects of GABC will be given primary consideration and will be funded through the church budget, World Mission Offering or by other mission gifts. Requests for support for mission projects by individuals, groups or organizations outside of GABC will also be considered. All funding requests will be carefully considered based upon the following priority rating criteria:

Need - What evidence exists to show that God is at work?

- Evangelistic – Great Commission
- Humanitarian – Great Commandment
- Personal - Support
- Administrative - Facilities/Equipment

Growth/Multiplicity - What organizational plans are in place?

- Growth Potential
- Objectives
- Goals
- Leadership development

Niche Ministry -Vital to Kingdom, something others are not doing.

Affiliation - Relationship or link.

- Connection to GABC
- Southern Baptist Convention
- Other

Benefit to GABC

- How can support for this ministry enhance our congregation?
- Is there opportunity for our members to participate?
- Is there educational value for our members?

Accompanying Resources - What other/additional support is being received?

Accountability – Who are they responsible too?

- Communication
- Reports

Short-Term Projects

Short-term projects are a vital part of developing Strategic Mission Partnerships. Working directly with partners on the field accomplishes several objectives that are both advantageous and essential to strengthen our SMP's. The following guidelines will be used as criteria for selecting teams and individuals who will further ministry objectives of Green Acres Baptist Church. Also, these policies and procedures will provide candidates with the necessary steps to receive GABC support. In addition, these guidelines should be used by individuals seeking GABC support for other short-term projects.

Application Process

- Participants of all projects must complete the short-term mission application form. This should be done at least three months, preferably six months, before the departure date.
- Participants must agree to and comply with the GABC short-term financial policy (listed below).
- Following satisfactory reference referral from application, the Minister of Missions, Missions Committee or the team leader will approve participation and support. We reserve the right to reject any individual who does not fit into the strategy and field objectives.

Team Selection Criteria

- Applicants must have a testimony of salvation and be able to clearly express this conversion experience.
- Applicants must be GABC members for at least one year (except college students who are active in GABC ministry).
- Applicants participating in a short-term project sponsored by a group or organization other than GABC must have the approval of the Minister of Missions or the Missions Committee for the sponsoring group or organization
- Short-term projects are considered to be one year or less. If an applicant's project exceeds one year, it will be considered a partnership and be referred to the Missions Committee.
- Participants of GABC short-term projects must agree to attend all training sessions for their project.

Field Behavior

- Volunteers are reminded that they are ambassadors of the Lord Jesus Christ. As ambassadors, they represent not only Him, but also the United States, Green Acres Baptist Church, and/or the supporting mission agency. This responsibility is tremendous and consequently, each volunteer must seek to be above reproach in actions and attitudes.
- Team members must submit to the team leader's authority.
- Due to the political instability and anti-American sentiment in various countries around the world, Green Acres Baptist Church asks that each team members refrain from expressing their political opinions while on the field.
- If at any time while on the field a volunteer's behavior constitutes a problem, the team leader has the authority to ask that volunteer to return home. Any additional costs incurred as a result of this action will be the volunteer's expense.

Financial Support

- Applicants are expected to raise 100% of their financial need; however, we have a limited amount of scholarships for those members who qualify. The maximum amount of the scholarship an individual can receive is an amount equal to one-half the cost of the project.
- Support and fund raising training and/or assistance is available through the Missions Ministry office.
- Funding for each project must be completed prior to departure.
- If a candidate's financial support is channeled through GABC and he/she raises more than the required support or for any reason cannot participate on the short-term project, it is the preference of the Missions Ministry to reallocate his/her funds to his/her team fund or the Mission Ministry Gifts account. It is the responsibility of the candidate to inform supporters of his/her inability to participate on the short-term project.
- Volunteers are asked to submit a written report summarizing activities and results of the projects within 30 days of returning from the project.
- Candidates are financially responsible for any costs associated with changes made in travel arrangements and additional costs that may occur.
- Green Acres Baptist Church reserves the right to amend these policies and procedures, and to approve or deny any or all financial support.

Insurance Coverage

- Green Acres Baptist Church will purchase insurance for each participant through Adams & Associates.
- The plan is designed for individuals under the age of 85 traveling outside the United States.
- Toll-free multilingual assistance is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.
- Each participant will receive an insurance identification card prior to departure of each project.

Immunization & Visa Information

- Team leaders will advise you of the suggested immunizations for the country to which you will be traveling. You can also check the website at the International Mission Board, www.imb.org/medinfo/, for additional information.
- Immunizations are the responsibility of each participant and should be completed before departure of the project. Vaccines vary from \$15.00-\$150.00. Contact your medical professional for additional information.
- Green Acres Baptist Church will apply for the visas as required by the countries to which you will be traveling. Costs of the visas will be included in the price of the project.
- To check the requirements for entry into your country, check the website at, <http://travel.state.gov/foreignentryreqs.html>.