



WORLD MISSIONS MINISTRY

The Home Church Missionary

The World Missions Ministry of PCPC exists to encourage, equip, and enable the members of the church to extend the transforming presence of the kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ to people in locations outside the borders of the United States.

Park Cities Presbyterian Church

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Scriptures

“Then Jesus came to them 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.’”

Matthew 28:18-20

“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?”

Romans 10:14

“Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.”

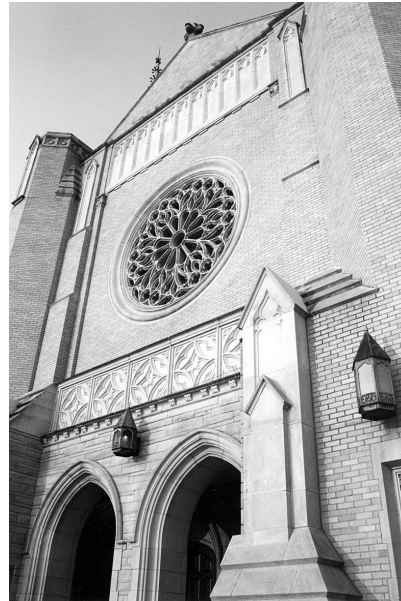
Romans 10:17

“Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood.”

Acts 20:28

Introduction

PCPC seeks to be a true "Home Church" for its members who may feel the call of God to world evangelization. We count it a privilege to shepherd, guide, and counsel members about their roles in world missions. The World Missions Team (WMT) and Missions & Church Planting (M&CP) staff lead PCPC's World Missions Ministry. Our passion is to see qualified individuals extend the transforming presence of our Lord Jesus Christ to the uttermost parts of the earth.



An individual who desires to have Park Cities Presbyterian Church be his or her Home Church should read, understand, and agree with the information in this booklet, the PCPC World Missions Policy, and PCPC's doctrinal statement.

The decision to send someone as a PCPC "Home Church" missionary is PCPC's to make. It is an important decision that is not taken lightly. Much prayer, counsel, and careful consideration is given to each interested PCPC member, for PCPC takes its role as Home Church seriously. The commitment and responsibilities of PCPC and of the Home Church missionary are outlined in this booklet.

What Is a Home Church?

With His mandate (Matthew 28:18-20), Jesus authorized His disciples to be change agents for the Kingdom of God on Earth! Yet Jesus did not call His disciples to do anything that He had not prepared them to do. He assured them of His comfort, presence, and empowering through the Holy Spirit. He had spent three years pouring His life, character, and teachings into His disciples.

Just as Jesus sent out His disciples to be His official ambassadors, so the local church sends its missionaries to be its ambassadors overseas. PCPC strives to follow this Biblical model.

How does PCPC fulfill this important, Biblical responsibility? The preparation and nurturing that was evident in Jesus and in the early church's sending process should be our standard today. If PCPC is a sending church which deems itself to be a **Home Church**, Scripture indicates that we will exhibit the characteristics on the following pages.

- **Sending**
- **Equipping**
- **Supporting**
- **Praying**
- **Nurturing**

A Home Church

Sends Its Own

Acts 13:1-3 tells us that the church at Antioch released Barnabas and Saul, two of their key leaders, to be missionaries. However, they did this only after knowing the direction of the Holy Spirit to the church.

This is a divinely guided call through the local church, not simply an individual's "decision" to be a missionary. PCPC seeks to send its own members to the mission field. We intend to be cognizant of individuals who want to serve overseas, and we want to encourage and support their consideration of cross-cultural service. As a church, we are praying that the Lord will call spiritually mature, effective people out of our congregation to go overseas.

It is PCPC's responsibility (as it was with the Antioch Church), however, to confirm a "call" and to send qualified individuals. It is, therefore, PCPC's serious responsibility to carefully screen and counsel candidates before recommending them for career (or one to three year) missionary service.

Thus PCPC has shepherding, ministry, and spiritual authority over its Home Church missionaries. (See Acts 20:28 and the fifth membership question affirmed by all PCPC members – "Do you submit yourselves to the government and discipline of the church...?")

**"In the church at Antioch there were prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen (who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch) and Saul. While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, 'Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.' So after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off."
Acts 13:1-3**

The Home Church Missionary

A Home Church

***Equips* the People Whom it Expects to Send Overseas**

The local church is responsible for sending out men and women who know God intimately and are capable of "discipling the nations." Jesus disciplined those whom He chose to be His ambassadors. Many local churches today believe that once candidates are channeled into mission agencies, the agencies can teach them "how to be missionaries." It is true that mission agencies can prepare missionaries for specific ministry, culture shock, language learning, new living situations, etc.; but, they cannot be totally responsible for building spiritual character into missionaries and preparing them to be disciplemakers. The local church must assume responsibility for sending out qualified, capable missionaries.

Training and experiential service are important parts of equipping. Potential missionaries need to contribute to the ongoing life of a local church. PCPC seeks to make available these opportunities to develop and hone skills. Paul and Barnabas spent a year teaching people in a local church before they were sent as missionaries.

A Home Church

***Equips* the People Whom it Expects to Send Overseas**

PCPC is establishing a Missionary Development Plan (MDP) for potential missionaries, guiding them into positions of cross cultural service, leadership and growth. Gifts and personality testing, as well as personal counseling will be a part of the MDP. The Plan will be flexible in order to accommodate individuals who begin at various stages of seeking, preparation, and experience.

PCPC's training and counseling will include not only gifts and qualifications, but the exploration of prospective ministry options as a part of PCPC's overall World Missions vision and strategy for world evangelization. Home church missionaries normally will be guided to PCPC's areas of emphasis and World 50 Projects.

PCPC (Missions staff and the WMT) must be a part of a member's journey toward missions from an early stage if the member is to be a PCPC Home Church Missionary.

A Home Church

Significantly **Supports** its Missionaries Financially and Materially

Scripture indicates that Paul and Barnabas depended on their home church and other local churches to anticipate and meet their material and financial needs, even though they could be self-supporting missionaries. Perhaps the church at Philippi provides a good example, as Paul thanked them in Phil. 4:15-18:

**"When I was in Thessalonica, you sent me aid again and again when I was in need. The gifts you sent ... are a fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God."
Phil. 4:15**

A true home church does not wait to be asked for money and material assistance. It seeks to anticipate and quickly meet the practical needs of its missionaries. PCPC's goal is to contribute a sizable part of each missionary's support budget, easing the need for a missionary to raise support among a large number of churches and individuals that may not even know him or her initially.

It is PCPC's intention to associate with a reasonably limited number of individual missionaries, both Home Church and others, in order to encourage maximum involvement with those whom we support. Our highest priority and greatest financial assistance will be given to Home Church missionaries.

A Home Church

Diligently and Passionately *Prays* for its
Missionaries

**"I urge you, brothers, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to join me in my struggle by praying to God for me."
Romans 15:30 .**

The church at Antioch was a church committed to prayer. Prayer is the lifeline for any missionary. We are committed to serious missionary prayer support through the World Missions Team, individual missionary prayer teams, sponsors, missions prayer meetings, various small prayer groups, and prayer in Worship services. E-mails are circulated regularly for quick and serious prayer focus.

We will keep abreast of PCPC Home Church missionaries (and other missionaries we support) whom we know are engaged in Kingdom ministry and face serious spiritual warfare. PCPC is alert to current events and news around the world and prays when we see potential religious, cultural or other events that may affect our missionaries.

We shall pray accordingly.

The Home Church Missionary

A Home Church

Nurtures its Missionaries

The Home Church seeks to nurture its missionaries when they are on the field or at home on home mission assignment (HMA). Prayer is a major part of this effort as well as regular communications. Periodic visits to mission fields are made by PCPC pastors, staff, elders, World Missions Team members, and short-term teams. Park Cities seeks to provide a spiritual, emotional, and material lifeline to its missionaries overseas.

We joyously welcome them back home with the intent of:

- refreshing them
- meeting their needs
- providing personal and ministry counsel as necessary
- renewing relationships
- helping to develop new relationships
- learning from them

We have a biblical shepherding responsibility for missionaries, just as PCPC has for all members of the congregation.

“Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood.”
Acts 20:28

Two Decisions

Two decisions must be made regarding:

- 1) the determination of whether PCPC really is someone's Home Church, and
- 2) whether to "send" the person as a PCPC Home Church missionary.

Is PCPC really the individual's Home Church?

This is not simply a matter of membership, since some individuals have dual memberships or associate or temporary memberships (e.g., while on a study assignment at Wycliffe Bible Translators or SIL; or time to take courses at WTS – Dallas or DTS).

It is not unusual for someone to come to Dallas for such reasons and then to attend and join PCPC, while actually having a home church elsewhere. True "home church" status can be confirmed by discussions guided by representatives of the PCPC staff, the church's membership process, and the World Missions Team. (However, PCPC will consider supporting an individual/couple who is involved in the life of PCPC, yet has another home church.)

Two Decisions

Some important questions:

- “Will the individual submit to the authority of PCPC’s Session and the World Missions Team?”
- “Will the individual seek and follow counsel from appropriate PCPC leaders?”
- “Where will the person make his or her home during home missions assignment?”
- “What other significant church ties does the individual have?”

Tangible evidence of this “home church” relationship would include the relationships developed with Sunday School Communities, PCPC ministries, the World Missions Team, and the Missions and Church Planting staff.

Two Decisions

Once it is confirmed that PCPC is the individual's Home Church, the following question can be addressed:

Does PCPC recommend the individual or family for missionary service?

Home Church status alone does not automatically result in recommendation for career or short-term (1 to 3 year) missionary status. Rather, PCPC (through the World Missions Team and Missions and Church Planting staff) will carefully look at gifts, spiritual maturity, background, experience, and potential ministry matches (including appropriate mission agency). It is significant to note that not all can be recommended for missionary service.

It is important that a member recognize PCPC's existing efforts in World Missions, strategic vision for world evangelization, and that they seek to be a part of what PCPC has set out as priorities for carrying Christ's Gospel to key parts of the world. Much of this booklet further explains the equipping and qualification process for becoming a PCPC Home Church missionary.

Our Commitment

Commitment of PCPC to the Home Church Missionary

As shown in the preceding areas, Park Cities Presbyterian Church, as led by the WMT and as a true Home Church, commits to guide and support missionary candidates by:

1. Giving appropriate counseling, encouragement, and opportunity to minister in order to strengthen candidate skills that will be needed in missions work.
2. Praying with and for candidates seeking God's will in their own lives.
3. Counseling with and providing guidance for candidates regarding potential ministries and mission field locations.
4. Counseling with candidates regarding the selection of a mission board or agency and working with the board on issues such as field location, orientation, ministry responsibilities, field team compatibility, etc.
5. Submitting candidates to the Session for approval as a Home Church career missionary of PCPC upon acceptance by the Director of Missions and Church Planting and the WMT.
6. Providing guidance and assistance with financial support-raising activities.

(Note: PCPC Home Church missionaries must raise 100% of their established support amounts before departing for the field.)

7. Commissioning approved candidates by PCPC at a worship service.

After You are on the Field

After a PCPC Home Church Missionary is on the field, we will continue to:

- Provide counseling, shepherding, encouragement, and opportunities to minister at PCPC; and we will, within our abilities, monitor effectiveness on the field. We will also continue to be a part of ministry follow-up and planning.
- Each Home Church missionary will be supported by a prayer group.
- Each missionary will be assigned a sponsor (Sunday school community and/or family).
- Home Church missionaries visiting PCPC will be given opportunities to share with the congregation, as appropriate, in Sunday school communities, worship services, or other avenues.

Because a Home Church missionary is not with us during the week or in Sunday worship, there is more need for the church to shepherd, love, and communicate.

Qualifications

Qualifications for a PCPC Home Church Career Missionary Candidate

The missionary candidate must be:

1. A mature, baptized believer with assurance of salvation.
2. Personally interested in, and motivated by the Holy Spirit toward, cross cultural missions work and the lost.
3. Consistent in his or her study of the Bible, and in prayer, and accountable to mature Christian friends for spiritual life.
4. Effectively active in PCPC ministry, Christian service and personal evangelism.
5. Dedicated to and driven by a heartfelt desire to love and serve the people of the field eventually decided upon.
6. Experienced, trained or obviously qualified (or able to be qualified) for the ministry to be undertaken.
7. In regular contact with the WMT and appropriate PCPC staff and leadership; open to counsel and direction regarding preparation and ministry plans.
8. Thoroughly familiar and in agreement with the doctrinal standards of PCPC.

Qualifications

9. A college graduate with a minimum of 30 semester or credit hours of appropriate Bible courses, or the equivalent. Spouses of individuals meeting this standard are not required to have an undergraduate degree, although it is preferred. Spouses should meet the 30-hour requirement for Bible courses, or equivalent, or be willing to commit to meet the requirement.
10. Submissive to the authority of PCPC as the Home Church, including guidance and direction regarding ministry, location, and mission agency *before* decisions are made. (See following page)

Note: Most of the above also apply to candidates for one to three year assignments. The most notable exception is #9 regarding Bible courses, however some level of Bible study may still be required. A subsequent change to "career" status would make #9 a requirement.

Missions Agency

Sponsorship by an Approved Mission Board Or Missions Agency

PCPC requires a mission agency/board relationship in order to assure that missionaries have proper ministry direction, administrative guidance and support, a responsible financial and administrative base (e.g., agency policies, procedures, financial standing, legal and immigration support), and an accountability structure. PCPC, as a local church, *cannot* provide: on-field training and supervision, logistical support, insurance and retirement programs, ministry and personal accountability, etc. Missionaries or candidates without a mission agency relationship will not be supported by PCPC.

The WMT will consider evangelical mission boards that are in essential agreement with PCPC's doctrinal standards and World Missions purposes. The WMT will give consideration also to management, leadership, ministry methods, and effectiveness of the board. All mission boards and agencies will be evaluated by the WMT and Missions staff by the following criteria and others as necessary:

1. Mission statement, strategies, and policies.
2. Substantial conformance of the doctrinal statement with PCPC's doctrinal standards or doctrinal practices which do not interfere with PCPC's standards.
3. Membership in evangelical missions associations, such as ECFA, EFMA.
4. Accountability and decision-making structure.

Missions Agency

5. Ability to provide missionaries with ministry and spiritual guidance, on-the-field support, and a basis for personal missionary accountability.
6. Financial support policy, including the raising and distribution of funds for missionary health care, retirement, administration, special projects, and nationals.
7. Description and nature of the governing board as to its membership, duties, and functions, and the accountability it requires of its key staff and missionaries.

Park Cities Presbyterian Church does not see World Missions as just another item on the busy agenda of a large church. Our missionaries are not burdens or obligations; rather, we see them as “called” ambassadors of Christ carrying His message of salvation to all the peoples of the world. There is much more exchanged than support checks and prayer letters, because we see our missionaries as a living extension and vital part of God’s clear mandate to our church to extend the transforming presence of His kingdom throughout the world.

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