

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

One Harker Road | Fort Oglethorpe, Ga | 706.866.2521

Mission Committee | Relationship Priorities

- I. Purpose of the Church:** The Church exists to glorify God through the proclamation of the gospel to call sinners to repent and believe the good news of God in Christ, to gather God's saints for worship, and to equip them for service and growth in holiness.
- II. Purpose of the Mission Committee:** The committee exists to support the congregation in the execution of her purpose by identifying and recommending ministries, agencies, and individuals with whom the church may partner in keeping with priorities established below by the Session of the First Presbyterian Church of Fort Oglethorpe (FPFO).
- A. Responsibility to the Congregation:** The Mission Committee should faithfully and weekly remind the church of the missionaries and partner agencies supported by the congregation. This may take various forms such as prayer reminders or during various weekly events as well as missions conferences, hosting missionaries, missionary updates, etc.
- B. Relationship to the Session:** The committee does not have the power of commission and must submit all recommendations to the Session for final determination and authorization of missionary support. The mission committee shall annually make a recommendation to the Session for support levels of each supported missionary and/or partner agency.
- III. General Principles:** All ministries, agencies, and individuals supported through the mission committee of FPFO must be evaluated in terms of the following general criteria. Specific criteria for particular fields (World, National, Local) will be articulated elsewhere.
- A. Orthodoxy:** all who receive support must have a firm and vibrant commitment to the historic creeds of the church (e.g. the Nicene, Apostles Creeds, etc.) and priority will be given to persons and agencies who are committed to the Westminster Standards as their own faithful summary of the Bible's teaching.
- B. Ordinary Means of Grace:** the mission committee will give particular effort to identifying mission works whose ministries center on the "ordinary means of grace" (e.g. word, sacraments, prayer, fellowship of believers) to recommend for support and partnership.
- C. Accountability:** all who are endorsed by the FPFO Mission Committee must be accountable not only to God, but also to His church either through a board of directors comprised of orthodox Christians or the church courts formally.
- D. Great Commission:** priority will be given to missionaries and agencies focused on Great Commission work (i.e. making and baptizing disciples and making known and teaching Christ's words and commands) by intentionally drawing people into God's church.
- E. Reports:** in addition to being accountable within their own agency and/or church, missionaries supported by FPFO must submit at least quarterly reports/updates to the Mission Committee and/or the Session so the congregation can be apprised of God's work and prayer needs.
- F. Sacraments:** The committee will recommend only ministries and/or missionaries that/who share our understanding that the sacraments are to be administered by ordained teaching elders and within the context of the covenant community (i.e. the Church).

IV. World Mission (Cf. PCA *Mission to the World*)

- A. Church Planters:** The focus of the Great Commission is to bring people into union with Christ's body (His Church) and as such, missionaries engaged in the vital work of planting churches receive preference over all other works.
- B. Bible Translation:** Since it is necessary for people to hear the word of Christ in order to be saved, agencies and people engaged in faithful translations of the scripture may be considered for long-term support.
- C. Discipleship and Service:** While Christian service in *parachurch* activities that specialize in job training, physical needs, medical care and other endeavors are commendable, they are not the primary mission of the Church as an institution. As such, congregation members who are engaged in short-term mission trips may apply for assistance. Long-term support of "Mercy Ministry" and *parachurch* ministries may be commended to individuals Christians to support, but will not be recommended by the FPFO Mission Committee.

V. Home-Missions (within and to US Persons; MNA, RUF)

- A. Church Planting:** Missionaries engaged in planting churches should receive preference over all other mission work
- B. Chaplains:** The committee may identify and recommend certain military chaplains endorsed by the Presbyterian and Reformed Joint Commission on Chaplains (PRCC) to receive support for buying resources to equip and disciple servicemen for Christ as well as other financial support to ease the burdens of military life on the chaplains and their families.
- C. University Campus Ministry:** The Committee should identify campus ministers whom God has blessed with success at drawing students not only to attend college ministry events, but also who proclaim the whole counsel of God and inspire love for Christ's body, the Church.

VI. Local Missions (NW Georgia, TVP, etc.; MNA, RUF)

- A. Direct Outreach:** The Mission Committee should be actively looking for ways in which the congregation can directly reach our neighbors and community with the gospel (e.g. Love's Arm, Scouts BSA, etc.). This includes not only such things as advertising the church, but also evangelism training, and relationship building between church members and people in the community.
- B. Parachurch Organizations:** On the local level, agencies and *parachurch* organizations with which the church can not only engage in financial, prayer, and spiritual partnership, but also physical and mutual service may be considered if these *parachurch* organizations meet the "General Principles" outlined above (Section III).
- C. Campus Ministry:** The committee should actively seek to identify ways the congregation can both support and engage in ministry to local school children to gain an avenue of presenting Christ and the claims of His gospel to the families of local grammar and high school children.