

FBC Fort Mill Missions Guidelines

1) **Our Mission:** To glorify God by developing fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ (disciples) motivated by a love for God and a love for others. [Matthew 28: 19-20](#); [Colossians 1:28](#); [Matthew 22:42-47](#)

2) Our Convictions

- a) **Biblical Authority:** We desire to stay true to the Word of God. As our partners seek to proclaim, disciple and plant, they will do so in a way that also seeks to stay true to the Bible. Our partners must be able to agree with the Baptist Faith and Message 2000 and/or The Gospel Coalition Confessional Statement (<http://thegospelcoalition.org/about/foundation-documents/confessional>).
- b) **Faith-Filled Prayer:** We believe it is God who draws people to himself through the work of the Holy Spirit. Therefore, prayer must be first and foremost in everything we do.
- c) **Transformational Relationships:** Almost everything we accomplish for God is through relationships. God wants our relationships to go beyond living at peace with one another to ministering to one other.
- d) **Missional Lifestyle:** We were created to serve God and each other. “For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.” Eph 2:10. As followers of Christ and a local body of Believers, we have a responsibility to share the good news of the Gospel helping people as we go. We base our belief on Scripture: The Great Commission in Matt. 28:19-20, and the Great Commandment found in Matt. 22:37-39.
- e) **Key Personal Practices of Fully Devoted Followers of Jesus Christ:**
 - G – Grow through personal spiritual growth habits (spiritual disciplines)
 - R – Right place of service
 - A – Attend a weekly worship service
 - C – Connect to a healthy small group
 - E – Engage in the great commission

3) Our Priorities

- a) We are committed to being a witness for Christ in our Community and beyond (Acts 1:8) (see Appendix A). We witness in word and deed, ministering to the body, mind and soul, in the name of Jesus. Ministry is the responsibility of every member and we equip, encourage and support our people towards that end (Eph 4:11-12). We are most responsible for those closest to us, beginning with those in our fellowship and moving outwards. We are responsible for those least able to help themselves.
- b) **A Focus on Unreached Peoples:** Like Paul (Romans 15), we want to see the church established among peoples where the church does not yet exist or there is no indigenous community of

believing Christians with adequate numbers and resources to evangelize their own people (< 2% evangelical Christian).

- c) Importance of Career (Long-term) Missionaries: We believe that church planting among UPGs is best accomplished by those committed for the long term. Therefore, we will focus on sending and supporting these workers. We will also submit to their leadership in any work we do amongst their people group. This includes working with national partners and sending short term teams.
- d) The Local Church: We believe the local church, once established, is the primary redemptive organization within its own community and nation. To best facilitate the expansion of the local church we will strive to build and equip local churches that are:
 - Self-Led: The indigenous people will be equipped and entrusted to lead.
 - Self-Supported: Ministries should receive their primary support from their own people and we will not do for them what they can do themselves. Therefore, we will be very cautious in supporting any work which could lead to dependency on outside resources.
 - Self-Propagating: The local church must be contextualized in a way that is biblically sound and culturally appropriate.
 - Self-Correcting: The local church must have and demonstrate Biblically based accountability.
- e) Humanitarian Work: We are called to meet spiritual and physical needs. Ministries of compassion, though, must run secondary to our primary, God-given mission of making disciples. Therefore, the allocation of our resources will reflect this truth and our ministries of mercy will have an evangelism component.

4) Financial Support (partnerships do not automatically result in the allocation of financial resources, but for those that do include this component the following applies)

- a) Candidates/partners must be affiliated with an agency whose doctrinal statement is compatible with FBCFM's (<http://www.fbcfm.com/our-beliefs>) and is a member of the Evangelical Counsel for Financial Accountability (ECFA) or a similar organization ensuring financial accountability.
- b) Candidates/partners must complete and submit a support application (see Appendix B).
- c) The missions pastor and/or the missions team will review each application and determine whether or not to provide support and schedule an interview (see Appendix C), if that has not already taken place.
- d) Support will be determined by considering alignment with this document and the discretion of the missions' pastor and/or the missions team.

- e) The support amount will be determined by considering the need, the availability of funds and the amount of support provided to other partners. In no event can the support be of an amount which would bring the support level above full support.
- f) Support will generally not begin until the candidate leaves for the field of service or the partnership is ‘officially’ launched.
- g) Support will be for **a set period of time subject to regular review** by the missions’ pastor and/or the missions team. Generally, one year cycles except for projects of less than one year. *(Review criteria are still being developed).*
- h) Support may be terminated, upon approval of the missions’ team, for any of the reasons listed below. Notice will generally be given three months prior to ending support.
 - 1) Conduct unbecoming a Christian.
 - 2) Failure to communicate adequately.
 - 3) Change in assignment or agency.
 - 4) Change in doctrinal beliefs so that they are no longer compatible with FBCFM’s beliefs.
 - 5) Resignation or retirement.
 - 6) The discretion of the missions’ team.
 - 7) Inadequate funding to continue the support.
 - 8) Completion of the project or end of the designated support period.
- i) We currently provide support per year (funds) at 4 levels. Higher levels necessarily require more accountability and involvement.
 - 1) Under \$2,500
 - 2) \$2,500 - \$5,000
 - 3) \$5,000 - \$10,000
 - 4) More than \$10,000

We define the type of project or partner within the following categories (see Appendix A):

- Macedonia (for new projects/partners)/**New Work** and/or individual missional scholarship
- Galatia (proclamation, faith, obedience projects/partners)/**Proclamation and/or Service Emphasis**
- Philippi (direct church member involvement projects/partners)/**Direct Involvement**
- Antioch (church planting projects/partners)/**Church Planting**

This way we could have a new project (Level 1 Macedonia to which we contribute \$200/mo); a partnership individual that we regularly have folks interacting with (Level 2 Philippi partner to which we contribute \$3,600/year); etc. Over time, partners can move or be moved between categories and levels of support.

APPENDIX A

Missional Support Ministry

The Missional Support Ministry of FBC Fort Mill are ministry partnerships that seek to serve and support the ministry goals and potential of our global partners in three intentional ways:

Equip Partners by exporting the biblical knowledge, practical wisdom, and ministry experience of FBC FM's leadership and ministry department teams, and to impart biblical principles that undergird FBC FM's mission.

Encourage Partners by extending support through prayer and personal contact from designated team members, to discover and explore ways that FBC FM can minister and mentor in life and ministry contexts.

Empower People to be missional in their walk with the Lord. We want to provide missions opportunities and strategic engagement avenues for the members of FBC Fort Mill.

The intention of the Missional Support ministry is to equip and encourage those in ministry around the world. The Missional Support ministry will allow FBC FM to intentionally focus on equipping and encouraging the workers themselves, not just on advancing their ministry. All those who are partnering with FBC FM are eligible to be Missional Support partners. However, as individual needs and circumstances vary, support will be determined on a case-by-case basis. Consideration will be given to factors including alignment with FBC FM missional strategy, and existing relationships with FBC FM, giving preference to those who have been sent out from the FBC FM body and those who have chosen to consider FBC FM as their home church. All Missional Support partners must be able to agree with the Baptist Faith and Message 2000 and/or The Gospel Coalition Confessional Statement (<http://thegospelcoalition.org/about/foundation-documents/confessional>).

Those who wish to be Missional Support partners must agree to maintain good communication with FBC FM and their assigned lay, deacon, and/or staff partners, in order to provide prayer requests, ministry updates, desire for additional resources or support, etc. Communication with FBC FM will be a factor for consideration in determining levels of continuing support for Missional Support partners.

With the goals in mind of equipping and encouraging our Missional Support partners to fulfill their ministry, a level of **intentional** support and encouragement would be based on individual needs, but would include:

- Pairing with a lay member or members of FBC FM to provide the primary action for prayer support and continued two-way communication. This may be a member of the Missions Team
- Pairing with a Missions Team member of FBC FM to provide additional links with FBC FM for resources, counsel, etcetera, as needed
- Priority in funding of ministry projects and in sending short-term ministry teams from FBC FM
- Priority for pastoral visits and counseling as needed.

Further support given would be unique to each partner but **may** include such items as:

- Travel expenses to attend FBC FM missions' conferences at least once every four years
- Help finding housing while in the Fort Mill area on furlough, if needed
- Necessary expenses to help with conferences or enroll in courses online
- Other expenses such as funding for travel, education, or items deemed necessary and helpful by the Missions Team.

Expectations for our partners:

- Communicating with their FBC FM liaison and the Missions Pastor in a timely fashion
- Openness and honesty about their physical, mental, emotional and spiritual health so that help can be offered in a timely fashion
- Exploring creative and strategic opportunities for FBC FM to be engaged in your work

Expectations for our FBC FM liaison:

- Communicating regularly (at least monthly) to discern how they are doing and what support they may need. Support needs should be communicated to the Missions Pastor and reported to the Missions team.
- Praying for them and their target ministry group consistently
- Acting as an advocate to increase prayer support for your partner (with individuals, community groups, etc.)
- Taking the lead in caring for them when they come to Fort Mill
- Exploring creative and strategic opportunities to engage FBC FM in their work
- Potentially visiting your partner
- Potentially leading a team of volunteers should they have a need for help

APPENDIX B
FBC FM MISSIONS PARTNER APPLICATION

I. General Information

Name _____ Date of Birth _____

Marital Status _____

Name of Spouse _____ Date of Birth _____

Anniversary Date _____

Name of Children _____ D.O.B. _____

Name of Children _____ D.O.B. _____

Name of Children _____ D.O.B. _____

Home Address _____

Home Phone Number _____

Home E-mail Address _____

Field Address _____

Field Phone Number _____

Field E-mail Address (if different) _____

Please provide the names and email of three (3) references we may contact in regards to your mission service.

1) Your Pastor: Name _____ Phone _____

Position and church: _____

Email _____

2) Name _____ Phone _____

Email _____ Relationship: _____

2) Name _____ Phone _____

Email _____ Relationship: _____

II. Mission Board

Name of Mission Board or Agency _____

Street Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone Number _____ Website _____

Should support be approved, please indicate how a check should be made out so it will be properly credited to your account (Note: No checks will be made out to individuals)

Payable To: _____

Account Name/Number _____

Mail To: (if different than above) _____

III. Support Needs

Support needs recommended by your mission board:

Monthly Support Goal: _____

One-time Support Needs: _____ Reason/Purpose: _____

Additional support needs: _____

Amount already pledged to you? Monthly _____ One-time _____

Amount that you are asking FBC FM to contribute: _____

List other churches pledged to support you _____

Your Primary Support Base

_____ Fort Mill Area _____ Southeast _____ Other (where?) _____

4. Where is your church membership? _____

How long have you been a member there? _____

5. Have you been commissioned by a local church? _____

If so, what church? _____

6. Please summarize your call to missions. **Include your (and spouse, if appropriate) personal testimony of how and when you came to faith in Christ.**

(use the back of this page if necessary)

VI. Background and Education

1. List post high school institutions attended and degrees earned

School _____ Degree _____

School _____ Degree _____

School _____ Degree _____

2. List any professional experiences, trade skills, special gifts/abilities, etc. _____

3. List any previous related experience you have? _____

4. Other Comments _____

VII. Relationship to FBC Fort Mill

Are you a member of FBC FM? _____ If so, how long? _____

List ministries you have been involved with while at FBC FM _____

If you are not a member, what is your connection to FBC Fort Mill? _____

VIII. Missionary Candidate Profile

A. What are your personal goals, vision, and expectations for your service?

B. What is/are your spiritual gifts?

C. What do you feel are your biggest strengths and weaknesses?

D. What are your hobbies and special interests (and what are those of your spouse and children)?

IX. Miscellaneous

What is your expected departure date to the mission field? _____

Will you be attending language school? _____ If so, for how long? _____

Other special needs between now and departure date? _____

Have you ever applied to FBC FM for support before? _____ If so, when? _____

APPENDIX C
MISSIONARY CANDIDATE/PARTNER INTERVIEW

Candidate/Partner: _____

Interviewer(s): _____

The questions we will be asking will be categorized into the following areas: Personal, Family, Church life and Doctrinal convictions.

1. Personal Life (Character, Maturity, Relationships, Spiritual Disciplines)

Character

Are there any behavior patterns in your life at present which would disqualify/or hinder you from effectively serving in ministry?

Describe your financial situation including any debts that you might have.

Maturity

In what ways have you observed spiritual growth in yourself over the past year?

What area of your life needs the most growth?

What area of your life is the strongest?

Relationships

Are you at peace with all men? Do you know of any broken relationships that need mending?

What does your manager/supervisor think about the quality and effectiveness of your work? How about your co-workers?

Do you have a history of submitting graciously to those in authority over you?

How do you resolve conflict when it arises?

Personal Disciplines

Describe your personal devotional life.

2. Family Life

As far as you know, is there any area of your family life that would hinder your ministry?

Is your family (wife and children or parents as applicable) supportive of your desire to minister cross culturally?

{To wife} How is your husband demonstrating to you that he is singly devoted to you?

{To husband} How is your wife demonstrating to you that he is singly devoted to you?

{To both} What is there about your marriage relationship which will strengthen or weaken your effectiveness as a missionary?

{To husband} In what ways are you shepherding your family?

As a rule, are your children submitting to you as the God-given authority in your home?

3. Church Life (Membership, Ministry)

Membership

In what ways are you practicing biblical financial stewardship in your support of FBC FM?

Are you and your family faithful in attending Sunday worship and Bible classes?

Are you vitally involved in a church small group?

Ministry

Please describe your desire to serve as a missionary.

In what ways do you hope to serve as a missionary?

What would indicate to you that God would have you serve as a missionary?

Do you believe you meet the character qualifications for this ministry?

How has God equipped you to serve as a missionary?

What is your greatest concern about serving as a missionary?

In what ways are you currently fulfilling the great commission right here where God has placed you today?

4. Doctrinal Convictions

Are there any areas in which your doctrinal position is different than that of FBC FM?

Can you affirm the Baptist Faith and Message? (If no, why not?)