

Appendix III—WCC, Mission Purpose & Policy Guidelines Supporting Short-Term Mission Trips

Adopted by the Board: June 27, 2005

PURPOSE:

As a mission-minded church we want to do all we can to encourage, promote, and expose people to missions—short-term mission trips are one excellent example—but the approval process takes time. We encourage you to start planning well in advance. The steps include initial approval by the Pastor, recommendation from the Missions Committee, and final approval by the Church Board—please allow at least six weeks for the entire process. We see the value of being able to approach the congregation individually and as a whole to ask for support through prayer and financial giving by use of the weekly bulletin, monthly newsletter and/or share the information from the pulpit since this can involve a sizeable monetary expense, but we do ask that the bulletin, newsletter and pulpit time is not utilized until after final approval by the Church Board.

PROCEDURE:

When seeking the congregation as a whole for financial/prayer support the following are the required steps:

STEP 1—Talk to the Pastor (Missions Committee Chairman in his absence) about your plans. Please bring specific information regarding the details (when you are leaving, where you are going, approximately how much it will cost, percentage/amount you can provide and what you would like to raise from contributions, etc.), plus information about the agency you are working with or group you are going with, so we can do some background checks as you'll be soliciting funds from the congregation. Pastor will report back to you within thirty (30) days.

STEP 2—Pastor will pass on your initial information, plus the additional background information to the Missions Committee, and they will meet ASAP for their approval and counsel. The level of support will be determined by your financial need.

STEP 3—Your request will then be added to the next Church Board Meeting agenda for their discussion/approval. All monies given will be sent directly to you, or the agency you are working with if a tax receipt is required.

STEP 4—You will be allowed to present your trip and seek support with weekly bulletin notices for four consecutive weeks, monthly updates in the newsletter, and pulpit time one Sunday for five minutes—both in the a.m. and p.m. service, should you choose to do so.

STEP 5—Please notify Pastor/Missions Committee Chairman immediately when you have reached your financial goal.

STEP 6—After your trip we would appreciate a verbal report from the pulpit to share with the congregation about your experience! Please make the specific arrangements with Pastor.

STEP 7—Throughout the process, give God pleasure by representing Him, the agency/group, and Wakeshma Community Church well throughout the entire process. God bless you!

Notes:

1. These guidelines apply to individuals within Our Congregation, and do not apply to organized trips by our Youth Ministry
2. We ask adults (high school graduates) not to formally approach the Congregation more than once every five years with the exception of sensing a call to full-time ministry.