

Missions Policy

Adoption Date 10 September 2020
Last Review Feb 2022
Next Review Feb 2025
Revision Number 1



1 REVIEW POLICY

This policy shall be reviewed at least once every three years

2 CIRCULATION

Public

3 PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to outline how Anglican Churches Springwood will seek to take its part in God's mission to the world

4 CONTENT

4.1 General Principles

- We regard the goal of God's mission as being the proclamation of the gospel of Jesus Christ through which God saves his elect
- We see the ministries of our church as part of God's global mission
- We see ourselves in unity with individuals and organisations everywhere which seek to proclaim the biblical gospel of Jesus Christ
- While we may support missionary activity that does not directly preach the gospel (e.g. community development, health, poverty relief), we seek for such activity to be accompanied by a clear gospel witness
- We believe that interest in God's mission flows out of a grasp of the gospel itself and, as such, we aim for mission to be at the heart of our church
- We consider that God has been exceedingly generous to us, spiritually and materially, and therefore we aim to show generosity to people who are both gospel-poor and materially poor

4.2 Missions Committee

4.2.1 Appointment

The Missions Committee will be appointed by the Senior Minister and will include at least two members of Parish Council.

4.2.2 Functions of the Missions Committee

- Make recommendations to Parish Council on whom Anglican Churches Springwood takes on as mission partners and partner organisations
- Make recommendations to Parish Council on the allocation of mission funds to mission partners and partner organisations
- Make recommendations to staff on how global mission, in particular our mission partners and partner organisations, are promoted in our church
- Ensure that up to date information about our mission partners and partner organisations is made available to our church
- Provide encouragement to our mission partners on behalf of our church

4.3 Considerations for the selection and retention of mission partners

4.3.1 Proximity

- Are they from our church? Are they from the Springwood area?
- Do they have connections with our church already or a relationship with our church? How wide and deep are these connections within our church?

4.3.2 Ministry

- What is the work that they propose to do? Is the ministry a gospel-centred ministry? Is it considered worthwhile?

- Does it fit well within the range of Mission Partners that we already have? (A good variety is preferable – of geography, ministry-type and situation)
- How long are they planning to be engaged in this work?

4.3.3 Organisation

- With which mission organisation are they going? Does that organisation sit comfortably with Anglican Churches Springwood's theology and ethos?

4.3.4 Person

- Do we believe the person is suited for the task? (Character? Competencies? Convictions? – proven track record in ministry?)
- Do we believe this move to be wise for them at this time?
- How well do their references check out?

4.3.5 Process

- Have they come to the decision to go into a new mission in consultation and counsel with our church? Or other wise Christians? (Or is it "out of the blue"?)
- How long have they been considering this move?

4.3.6 Support

- What other sources of support will they have?
- What level of support would they be expecting from Anglican Churches Springwood? (Financial and personal/pastoral) Is this realistic?
- What kind of relationship do they envisage with our church? (What kind of feedback/reporting on their work will they provide?)
- Would the members of Anglican Churches Springwood be able to enthusiastically support this ministry?

4.4 Principles for ongoing support of mission partners

4.4.1 Coverage

- We aim for all mission partners to have a profile in all of our congregations
- We aim for all mission partners and partner organisations to be prayed for specifically at least once per term in all of our congregations
- We aim for all small groups to be praying for at least one of our mission partners regularly
- When mission partners are on home assignment, we aim for them to visit all of our congregations

4.4.2 Funding

- Funding will be allocated to mission partners and partner organisations twice per year taking into account current factors such as
 - Particular needs
 - Other potential sources of funding (e.g. other supporting churches or individual donors)

4.4.3 Encouragement and pastoral support

- Our church shall maintain regular contact with each mission partner
- Each small group in our church will seek to support (via direct encouragement and prayer) at least one of our mission partners
- Our church will consider sending staff members or other qualified church members on pastoral visits to mission partners when the missions committee sees the need and recommends such pastoral care

4.4.4 Communication

- A link person from our parish should be appointed as the first point of contact for each mission partner
- Mission partners will be made aware of the link contact person
- The link person will make the church aware of latest information received from mission partners
- The church website will include information on mission partners
- Church members will be encouraged to sign up to mission partners' news letters

4.4.5 Accountability

- The Missions Committee will interview mission partners each time they are on home assignment in order to

discuss

- The mission partners' work and wellbeing
- The relationship between the mission partner and our church
- We will respect our mission partners' requests for careful handling of sensitive information

4.5 Support of missions other than our mission partners and partner organisations

Where a member of our church has a strong interest in a particular cause or ministry, they may be allowed to promote that cause or ministry in the congregation of which they are a member as a one-off promotion. Only those whom the Parish Council formally designates mission partners and partner organisations are to receive ongoing, parish-wide support and promotion.

5 APPENDICIES

5.1 Appendix 1

6 REVISION AND REVIEW HISTORY

Revision Number	Date	Changes/Comments
0	10 Sep 2020	Initial adoption
1	Feb 2022	Rolled over without change – discussion re place of missions committee