

MEMORIAL ROAD CHURCH OF CHRIST MISSIONS INTAKE PROCESS

Adopted by the Elders 10/26/11 (Rev'd 4/4/12 and 4/19/14)

Memorial Road church of Christ has a longstanding interest in foreign and domestic missions, and is approached each year by many new requests to assist with mission efforts throughout the world. To allow the congregation to exercise responsible stewardship over its missions budgets, it is essential that there be a reliable process for making sure the Missions Advisory Committee (MAC) has sufficient information to evaluate and compare each request.

The MRCC Missions Ministry Statement¹ includes missions purpose, philosophy, strategies, expectations, and accountability. Essential principles distilled from the Missions Ministry Statement with particular relevance to the selection of mission efforts are the following:

- A. The purpose is to share God's love to transform people into fully devoted followers of Christ, encompassing the message of salvation, gathering into local churches, and nurturing to full maturity.
- B. MRCC mission work is done in fulfillment of the great commission and in full acknowledgment of dependency upon God for both direction and outcomes—we are mere fellow-workers.
- C. As we seek to be like the Father and Son, the members of MRCC love all people and want them to know about the good news of Jesus Christ, regardless of where they live or their ethnic origin.
- D. MRCC missions efforts should generally:
 1. be capable of bearing fruit and giving good return on the church's investment of spiritual, human, and financial resources;
 2. establish churches that are self-sustaining, evangelistic, and committed to ministry training and planting other churches; and
 3. take advantage of the connections and opportunities due to its large talent pool and natural bridges to the outside world
- E. Particular consideration will be given to those efforts that:
 1. seek to involve and develop 'ownership' by local Christians from the outset and lead to self-sufficient and indigenous churches;
 2. can be readily evaluated for continuation, reduction, or termination based on periodic milestones, or have a specified time horizon for MRCC participation;
 3. in locations of particular interest to and involvement by members of MRCC; and
 4. will be overseen by MRCC or have oversight of a domestic or foreign congregation in which MRCC elders have confidence.
- F. Efforts seeking support of MRCC should have a clear written strategy with defined goals and an accountability process.
- G. The individuals being supported must have winsome personalities and be doctrinally sound, zealous for the lost, motivated by love, filled with the Spirit, visionary, self-starters, submissive to leadership, wise, of impeccable integrity, properly prepared, compatible with any team members and people where they are working, emotionally stable, effective workers, apt communicators, and highly accountable.
- H. The MAC will pray about requests as we seek to follow the guidance of the Holy Spirit. The denial of a request is not a determination that the work is not worthy, but rather a reflection on the need to prioritize and allocate limited funds among worthy efforts.
- I. **Schedule.** The allocation of missions resources requires several steps:
 1. Jan-Mar Review requests for sufficiency by the Missions Intake Committee
 2. Apr-May Review and prioritization by the MAC
 3. May-June Approval by the elders (followed by communication of status)
 4. July Missions Contribution (followed by adjustment if necessary)
 5. Aug-Sept Notification of expected funding availability
 - Jan-Dec, Yr. 2 Approved requests are funded

Due to the long-lead time on decisions, it is important the requests be submitted to the Missions Intake Committee as early as possible.

- j. **Special Requests** (i) for one-time needs; (ii) with an existing MRCC connection; and (iii) that are modest in size may be submitted to the Special Request Subcommittee at any time.

Application Process. The process for requests to be considered is as follows:

¹ The Mission's Ministry Statement is available on the www.MRCC.org website.

1. **Requests** (other than small Special Requests—see J above) should be made in writing at least one month (and preferably 3-4 months) in advance of any *desired first audience with the MAC*, and should include the following:
 - a. Specifically **what** the requester wants MRCC to do and for how long.
 - b. A written **strategic plan** and expected outcomes for the desired work.
 - c. Description of any existing connections with MRCC or its members.
 - d. A succinct statement of **missions/ministry philosophy** (no more than 1 page).
 - e. **Personal history** of the parties, including: (i) family; (ii) job; (iii) education; (iv) health; (v) past involvement in missions and/or ministry; (vi) any past ministry or missions failures or terminations; (vii) any personal, marital, family, sponsoring church, team, or cultural problems that have the potential to impact the proposed work, (viii) any prior psychological testing, and (ix) any particular skills or training in preparation for the work.
 - f. At least three **character references** with current contact information (i.e., name, title, address, telephone, and email) and relationship.
 - g. Who provides the **oversight** of the proposed work and how is **accountability** carried out? If there is a change of oversight requested, provide prior oversight contact information.
 - h. A detailed **budget** for the work, including amounts and sources of all support for the previous, current, and next year.
 - i. **Contact information** of the requestor.
 - j. Multiple **meeting and/or telephone call options** for when the requestor might be available to speak to the MAC.
 - k. A one-to-two page summary in the attached format should be submitted to the Missions Intake Committee.
2. Depending on the extent of involvement, MRCC reserves the right to require doctrinal screening, psychological testing, background checks, and additional compatibility information.
3. The request should be **submitted, preferably electronically to:**

Missions Intake Committee
 Memorial Road Church of Christ
 2221 E. Memorial Road
 Edmond, OK 73013-5518
 Email: Missions@MRCC.org
4. The Missions Intake Committee will seek to provide timely preliminary feedback. The feedback may include a request for more information, a scheduled visit or telephone conference, or a declination of the request.
5. If a request is the result of a **genuine emergency**, the time frames provided above may be waived.
6. The personal and **confidential** information submitted will be shared only with those with a need to know.
7. If the request relates to an existing work of MRCC or is in a country or territory where MRCC has an area coordinator, the request will be forwarded to the **area coordinator** for evaluation and action, which may include return to the Missions Intake Committee.
8. The Mission Intake Committee may waive any of the above requirements for good reason.
9. If the Missions Intake Committee believes the request should not go forward, it will report the action to the full MAC, and communicate with the requester as appropriate.

Encl: MRCC Missions Request Summary Form