

SHORT-TERM MISSION TRIP POLICIES – draft Jan. 12, 2012

Aylmer EMM Church, Ontario

OUR PURPOSE and COMMITMENT

Jesus' greatest commands are to love God and love others (Matthew 22:37-40). As Jesus demonstrated, love is often sacrificial (John 3:16). To follow Jesus is to love even when it hurts (Luke 9:23). To follow Jesus is to seek out and love the downtrodden, the enslaved, the imprisoned, the suffering and those far from God (Matthew 25:31-46). To follow Jesus is to disciple others to the same (Matthew 28:19, 20). Aylmer EMMC corporately and individually seeks to obediently and proactively demonstrate Jesus' love locally and globally.

Our goal is to encourage each member of AEMM Church to prayerfully consider their role in God's global purpose. Considering the advances in modern transportation, we believe that the Lord is providing opportunities to the church today to participate in the global harvest unlike any other time in history. Thus, we will seek to provide ongoing opportunities to go to the remaining unreached people groups of the world and declare his glory!

WHY GO ON SHORT-TERM MISSION TRIPS?

1. It is a means of responding to the great commission to "go and tell".
2. To better represent the needs of our long term missionaries to the AEMMC body, and to express personal love and support to them.
3. It is a means of learning first-hand about missions' work and determining if God has placed a call on people's lives for long-term involvement on the mission field.
4. To sensitize our people to the plight of other peoples/cultures, and to counter consumerism. To expand the world of our people, helping them see and experience God at work in a different place/culture.
5. To be actively engaged as agents of shalom (peace).

REQUIREMENTS FOR MISSION TRIP PARTICIPANTS

The mission participant must meet the following criteria:

- Must be outlined by missions' team based on the purpose of the trip.
 - Some trips are work trips (ex. MDS), some evangelism, youth, local, international, etc... different criteria will be applied based on the group and purpose of the trip.

AYLMER EMMC TRIP FUNDING

It is our intention to create opportunities through which the Lord may provide financial support for mission trip participants. At AEMMC we will seek to be a church of goers and senders. That means that the church as a whole is to participate in our missions efforts by either being the ones who step foot on the mission field, or by being those who prayerfully and financially send those who go.

The following are avenues through which a trip participant may pursue financial assistance for a mission trip.

1. Personal Fundraising
2. Team Fundraising
3. AEMMC Support
4. His/her own financial contribution

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

1. PERSONAL FUNDRAISING

1. Personal funds may come as a result of an individual writing letters and/or talking with family and friends who are not part of the AEMMC about their need for financial support.
 - A. Personal fundraising for a particular individual MAY NOT be conducted within the AEMMC body, but may only be conducted among family, and friends outside the church body. This is to prevent an individualistic, “every man for himself” approach to fundraising within our church family. A more biblical approach is to “consider the needs of others.” (We realize that some trip participants may not have any family or friends outside the church that would be remotely interested in supporting God’s work around the world. However, God continually uses unbelievers and those resistant to his purposes to accomplish his will.)
2. Funds received through personal fundraising will be applied directly towards the individual to whom they are designated.
3. Funds received in excess of the total need of the individual would need to be handled with the utmost integrity. Thus, those persons giving financial gifts after the total need has been met will need to be notified of such and asked to rescind or redirect their gift. This will be the responsibility of the individual to whom they are designated.

2. TEAM FUNDRAISING

1. Team funds may come in the form of designated gifts for a particular trip and/or from any fundraisers for a particular trip.
2. Team fundraising will be conducted as a unified team within the body of AEMMC.
3. All funds received through team fundraising will go into a group fund and be allotted to individuals on a needs basis. For this reason, trip participants will need to be open and honest with their trip leader and leaders about their real financial needs. These decisions will be made prayerfully, carefully, fairly, and with the counsel and accountability of multiple leaders involved.
4. Funds in excess of the total need of the team will be applied to the general missions fund of AEMMC.

3. His or Her OWN FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION

4. AEMMC Support

- Up to 50% of expenses for each individual, which is to be applied at the discretion of the missions team according to perceived need. Subject to budgeted money available.
 - Applies to 1 international trip every 2 years.
 - Applies to 1 local trip per year.
- For AEMMC EMPLOYEES - Refer to employee policy (attached).
- Exceptions may be made for individuals specifically asked to lead an AEMMC team.

AEMMC SUPPORT FOR INDIVIDUALS - WITH ORGANIZATIONS OTHER THAN AEMMC

- 10% of total expenses.
- 1 trip every 2 years.
- SUBJECT TO approval of formal application – outlining total expenses, details about organization, place, date, expected ministry opportunities, expected ministry outcomes.
- Subject to approval of the organization
- Reporting –a verbal and written report about the experience upon return.

- For AEMMC EMPLOYEES - Refer to employee policy (attached).

The following is a list of things that will not be provided by AEMMC:

- Passport expenses
- Travel Insurance
- Immunizations and medications
- Tips or gratuities
- Travel that is not ministry-related (sightseeing, shopping, etc.)
- Food for self or others
- Any gifts or equipment the individual may wish to purchase.

FUNDING PROCESS

1. Funding for a trip participant will be applied in the following order:
2. Personal fundraising
3. Team fundraising
4. His/her own financial contribution
5. Finally AEMMC support.

If the total need is met through personal fundraising then no group funds will be applied. Church funds will only be applied if the need is not met through personal fundraising and group fundraising. No funds will be given for non-ministry related expenses (e.g., sightseeing, shopping, non-ministry related travel.) It is our goal to honor the Lord in all that we do and keep him at the center of our policy decisions. May the Lord supply all of your needs in Christ Jesus, so that you can join us in “declaring God’s glory to the nations!”

MISSION TRIP CODE OF CONDUCT

Trip participants must in every way, in reliance upon the Holy Spirit, strive to behave in such a way that accords with godliness as Christ’s ambassadors. While, this statement should serve as the chief directive for all behavior, a few guidelines are put forth here for the purpose of clarification.

DRESS

At all times, modesty must be observed. In many cultures around the world the concept of “modesty” is much more modest than the typical modern American conception of it. Failure to recognize such cultural differences jeopardizes ministry effectiveness and team focus. Trip participants must not dress in any way that calls ungodly attention to self and distracts from ministry goals. It is necessary to pack accordingly.

SEX/GENDER ISSUES

AEMMC takes God’s offense at sin very seriously. We realize that the sexual issues and temptations faced while traveling can be alluring, even to the strongest of Christian leaders. We recognize that prostitution and pornography are thriving businesses in all of the countries we have been called to serve, and boundaries of accountability related to physical relationships are also weakened when we vary from our routine lifestyles. We wish to insulate one another from unnecessary temptation and the manifold fleshly devices of the enemy. To do so, we have established guidelines concerning gender issues.

- AEMMC trip participant may not be alone with any member of the opposite sex on a mission trip, including with team members, with other missionaries, or with locals. By alone, we mean out of the sight or hearing of another member of the team. (Of course, married couples are an

exception.)

- If the group is staying in a home, males must sleep in one room and females in another. If avoidable, no member of the mission team should room alone. Each person is to share a room with at least one other person of the same gender, unless married to the person.
- No attempt is to be made to form long-term formal dating relationships, either with a team member or locals during the trip.
- Zero tolerance of addictive substance use will be tolerated while on the trip.

GROUP ATTITUDES

Team members must go with a view to “die to self” for the duration of the trip. A mission trip is not to be viewed as one’s personal vacation, nor a time to focus primarily on relating to another member or members of the mission team. Team members are expected to labor diligently in whatever task has been given them by their team leader or missionary, including attending all group meetings such as daily times of group worship and prayer. Exceptions may be given due to poor health or other extenuating circumstances.

The following key attitudes contribute to a positive trip experience for the entire team: love (1 Peter 4:8), thankfulness (Hebrews 12:28), teach ability and humility (1 Peter 5:5-7), faithfulness (Matthew 25:21), holiness (Hebrews 12:14), patience (Ephesians 4:2), flexibility (James 4:13-5), compassion (Mark 6:34), brokenness (Psalm 126:6).

For more information or clarification and discussion, please contact

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