

Woodbury Lutheran Church – Board of World Missions Guidelines for Missionary Support

Application: These guidelines apply to career missionaries and to short-term and long-term mission volunteers. The guidelines are to be reviewed annually.

I. Criteria for support from Woodbury Lutheran Board of World Missions

- A. Applicant must have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.
- B. Coordinating organization should have as its primary purpose to share the Salvation message of Jesus with the lost.
- C. Coordinating organization shall be a Christian organization, which meets the doctrinal criteria of Woodbury Lutheran Church.
- D. Missionary shall have a personal testimony they will be using in the mission field and be willing to present that testimony to the Board of World Missions.
- E. Purpose and goals of mission trip should be submitted to the Board of World Missions in writing.
- F. Applicant's faith statement should also be submitted in writing.
- G. Faith statement and coordinating organization's purpose should be reviewed and acceptable to Woodbury Lutheran Church pastors.
- H. If support is granted, missionary will not send financial support letters to the congregation at large – only to friends and family who may be members of the congregation.
- I. If support is granted, the following reporting requirements must be met:
 - i. Short term missionaries will report back to the Board of World Missions and/or congregation following the trip.
 - ii. For those granted support of \$7,500 or more per year, the missionary must file a report a minimum of 4 times annually. A reporting template is available from the Board.
 - iii. For those granted support of less than \$7,500 per year, the missionary must file a report a minimum of 2 times annually. A reporting template is available from the Board.
 - iv. Lack of specified communication shall result in review of and possible withdrawal of support by WLC-BWM. Why? WLC-BWM is accountable to the congregation for how it supports and funds missions, since the monies come from the general offering. Regular communication is one way the Board can stay informed and accountable. The reporting process is not intended to be a burden to the organization. Instead it allows the organization opportunities to communicate about its work, successes, and challenges to our congregation. In this way, a better connection is made with the congregation, with the hope of developing additional prayer, involvement, and moral support.

II. Prioritization of Funding

- A. Highest priority is given to WLC members participating in missions sponsored by WLC. Members are asked, however, to establish their own support prior to seeking support from the Board.
- B. Second priority is given to members of WLC
- C. Third priority is given to family of WLC members who are not members themselves
- D. Other funding will be by special review by the Board for long-term missions only. Other short-term missions outside of WLC will only be funded in very special situations.

III. Short-Term Missions Funding Guidelines

- A. Missions of two months or less – the Board will provide one-third of the cost, with a maximum support of \$500 per person per year.
- B. Missions greater than two months – provide up to 50%, with a maximum of \$2,500 per year.
- C. Church organized youth trips – funds will be given to the youth group, not to individuals. The amount of support will be determined by the Board.
- D. Funding will stay within the budget and within congregational guidelines.

IV. Long-Term Missions Funding Guidelines

- A. Survey trips or start-up costs for missions of Woodbury Lutheran – the Board will pay costs that are not covered from fundraising; in some cases this may be 100%.
- B. Long-term missionaries sent from WLC – provide up to 50%, up to a maximum of 20% of the total Mission Board budget per missionary/family in any given year.
- C. Long-term missionaries from other sending organizations – up to \$15,000 per year.
- D. Commitments are available up to two years, after which funding will be reviewed according to the criteria for mission support and funds available from WLC.
- E. Long-term missionaries supported by WLC prior to the establishment of these guidelines may be continued at the previous support level, but a transition plan should be followed to move them to the support guideline levels.