

Cap Missions Team

MISSIONS POLICY

Capilano Christian Community
Calling people to Jesus Christ
Celebrating all that Christ does in our midst
Changing to become more like Christ

Calling and Context:

Jesus...gave his charge: "God authorized and commanded me to commission you: Go out and train everyone you meet, far and near, in this way of life, marking them by baptism in the threefold name: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Then instruct them in the practice of all I have commanded you. I'll be with you as you do this, day after day after day, right up to the end of the age." [Matthew 28:18-20; The Message]

At Capilano Christian Community we believe that God is advancing His Kingdom by revealing the love of Jesus Christ through the compassionate service, community and justice-making of Christians as well as through direct witness to the person and work of Jesus Christ. As leaders of Capilano Christian Community we desire to commend workers to engage in Kingdom work locally and across the world according to the calling in Mathew 28 and Luke 6.

Jesus' call to follow him includes ministry and mission in the context of community. Notice these elements in the following story about a day in the life of Jesus and the comments of Henri Nouwen.

One of those days Jesus went out to a mountainside to pray, and spent the night praying to God. When morning came, he called his disciples to him and chose twelve of them, whom he also designated apostles...He went down with them and stood on a level place. A large crowd of his disciples was there and a great number of people from all over ...who had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases. Those troubled by evil spirits were cured, and the people all tried to touch him, because power was coming from him and healing them all. [Luke 6:12-19, NIV]

Henri Nouwen comments:

Jesus spent time on the mountain at night in solitary prayer. He came down in the morning and formed his community. Then in the afternoon, with his apostles, he went out and healed the sick and proclaimed the good news. I've been fascinated by the sequence of prayer at night, community in the morning and ministry in the afternoon. Notice the order—from solitude to community to ministry...these are the disciplines we are called to practice...communion with God...recognizing and gathering together in community...ministry or compassion in the world.¹

We honour Christ's calling in this model as we seek to encourage and send people from our community to represent Christ and his ministry in the world.

¹ *Spiritual Direction, Wisdom for the Long Walk of Faith*; Henri Nouwen with Michael J. Christensen & Rebecca J Laird; pp. 110-111.

Purpose: The Cap Missions Team (CMT) is to follow Jesus particular call to CapChurch to do ministry and compassion in the world beyond Cap. The CMT is empowered by the Cap Eldership to develop a ministry and mission minded culture within Cap, lead ministry initiatives, form policy, discern each missionary's call, and budget and allocate funds on behalf of CapChurch.

Summary of Responsibilities:

- Develop needed minimal policies and procedures for the administration of CapChurch missions;
- Set missions budget and allocate funds annually to CMT approved individuals/agencies
- Develop and encourage a ministry and mission culture at Cap
- Interview prospective missionaries offering discernment and wisdom;
- Foster public and private prayer for our missionaries / commended workers;
- Facilitate communication between CapChurch and her missionaries;
- Address issues and lead any contingencies arising from the CMT missions program (e.g. insurance, letters to cross borders, insufficient funds, etc.);
- Each team member is called to acknowledge the direction of the Holy Spirit as they maintain a vision of serving the church above any personal mission bias.

Operating practices:

1. Definitions

- 1.1. **Missions:** The process of disciple making and Kingdom work via compassionate service; justice-making; witness to the person and work of Jesus Christ; and inviting persons into a relationship with Jesus
- 1.2. **Missioner/commended worker:** One who is set apart by CapChurch to carry out Kingdom work [*i.e. the Great Commission*] in a specific place or region. Ideally all members of Cap would fit this definition, some local, some far off.
- 1.3. **Cap Missions Team [CMT]:** those members of CapChurch who are entrusted by the Cap Eldership with
 - ✓ the work of creating a missions culture/vision/ethos in our community;
 - ✓ discerning who is responding to the Holy Spirit's invitation to intentionally engage in Kingdom work;
 - ✓ commending, sending, supporting and debriefing missionaries;
 - ✓ setting and administering missions budget and policies for supported individuals and agencies

2. **Creating a Mission Culture/Vision/Ethos**

The vision is to create a culture and ethos at CapChurch where every person who partners in the gospel with us sees himself or herself as a missionary—someone who knows Jesus Christ and seeks to make Him known via serving in Kingdom work.

To create this kind of mission culture requires the *Cap Mission Team* to do the work defined in 1.3 above and do that work in the following manner:

- ✓ Be responsive to the Holy Spirit and individuals who are called by God to be intentional missionaries
- ✓ Be proactive in modeling for and educating the community in what it means to follow Jesus Christ in Kingdom work
- ✓ Inform the community of mission venues
- ✓ Educate the community in ways that build our desired mission ethos
- ✓ Nurture and equip three missional groups in CapChurch [*expressed in the past as giving everyone at CapChurch a chance to say “no” to an intentional mission experience or one of these groups*]
 - Those who “go”
 - Those who “stay” and support
 - Those who “return” and can contribute to the ethos via inspiration and training

3. **Financial Support For Missioners / Commended Workers**

Christians from CapChurch will serve God locally and further afield. Some may be fully dependent on financial support, some may be partially or entirely supported by gainful employment, and some may move between these different modes as circumstances prescribe (as was the case with the apostle Paul).

We want to create a missions ethos that reflects the concept that first, the New Testament teaches that God calls people to ministry and second, their support is another decision. Being a self-supported missionary was the practice of the early apostolic church and normative during the first three centuries of church history. While this was envisioned as the norm, the Apostle Paul did argue that being supported was appropriate for some [1 Cor. 9:18].

Therefore as regards CapChurch people serving in Kingdom work we want to create a missional ethos that reflects a spectrum of situations:

- ✓ Self-supported ministry is the situation for most members of the church.
- ✓ Being financially supported is a privilege for some. This financial support is dependent on
 - the CMT’s discernment and acknowledgement of a person or agency’s call from God for a particular Kingdom work and

- the CMT's decision to commend a person or agency for financial support from the CMT budget.

4. Accountability of Missioners/commended workers

Every missioner or commended worker the CMT recognizes, whether financially supported or not, is accountable to the CMT directly (and therefore to the elders indirectly). It is expected that the missioner will communicate with the CMT and CapChurch as is appropriate so that the whole community might join in encouraging and celebrating the worker and the work.

5. Missioner or Commended Worker- Sending and Support Group

Missioners or commended workers working locally or further afield are expected to form a sending and support group from the community who are not CMT members. This sending and support group [minimum of two people] is asked, at least once every three months, to support the missioner or commended worker in whatever ways are needed. *[e.g. prayer, encouragement; care packages, manage mailing lists, deal with banking, insurance, taxes and other financial details which are not looked after by the agency with which the worker is serving].*

6. Specific Responsibilities of the Cap Missions Team

- 6.1. Annually reaffirm the purpose and policies for the CMT.
- 6.2. Make policy and CMT budget decisions on behalf of the CapChurch including:
 - ✓ necessary minimal policies or procedures for the orderly administration of CapChurch missions
 - ✓ Deal with contingencies arising from our missions program (e.g. insurance, letters to cross borders, insufficient funds, etc.);
 - ✓ setting the annual CMT budget
 - ✓ allocating the CMT budget
- 6.3. setting annual minimal goals for nurturing the missions ethos at Cap and carry them out
- 6.4. discerning and deciding upon which prospective missioners to commend and their appropriate support.

7. Specific Responsibilities of the CMT chairperson

- 7.1. Call meetings;
- 7.2. liaise with the pastors and elder as necessary
- 7.3. See that minutes are taken and distributed to CMT; pastors; elders
- 7.4. Assign someone to update the CapChurch webpage as it pertains to mission

8. CMT parameters

- 8.1. CMT shall be composed of no less than 5 members who are active partners CapChurch.
- 8.2. CMT new members will be selected by the current members of the CMT.
- 8.3. Active local missionaries and commended workers or agency board members may serve on the CMT but need to be aware of this conflict of interests especially around budgeting decisions. When a local missionary is on the CMT, they are serving God and Cap not their agency or particular interest.