

# Long Island Abundant Life Church

## SHORT TERM MISSIONS (STM) POLICY

### A. Biblical purpose of STM

1. To fulfill the Great Commission of Christ (Mt 28:19-20; Jn 20:21).
2. To share Christ's concern for the world (Lk 10:2; Mt 9:36-38; 18:10-14),
3. To minister to the totality of human need (Mt 25:31-46; Lk 16:9, 19-31).

### B. Flexibility of STM policy

Exception may be made only after thorough consideration by World Missions Committee and with approval by the board of deacons.

### C. Revision of STM policy

The World Missions Committee shall evaluate the policy annually; then, any recommendation of revision shall be submitted to the board of deacon for approval.

### D. Goals of STM program ( at least one of the following be satisfied)

1. Short-term missions programs shall be viewed as opportunities for LIALC members / Non-members to get a first-hand taste of missions and strengthen personal relationship with Christ.
2. Help LIALC member to explore the possibility of long-term missionary work.
3. To proclaim the Gospel through action and word abroad.
4. To strengthen spiritual maturity and servanthood to local church and community.

### E. Definition of an official “LIALC Short Term Mission Trip”

A proposed STM trip to be sponsored by LIALC may originate in one of the three ways that fulfills the goals stated in part D:

1. In response to an official written request from an evangelistic association / recognized missions organization.
2. In response to an official written request (or LIALC Mission application) by an individual member of LIALC, who desires to go on a short- term missions trip.
3. By the World Missions Committee/ pastoral staff in response to a perceived need or opportunity.

### F. Criteria for selecting short-term candidates ( at least one must be satisfied).

- a. Active membership in church, (Non- LIALC member may be considered on individual cases)
- b. Proven responsibility in church, active serving in church ministry.
- c. Sincere interest in world missions as possible missionary.
- d. Attendance of a major missions conference,
- e. Parental/guardian approval and support for candidate under age 18.
- f. World Missions Committee appoints STM leader.
- g. One reference letter from fellow active LIALC member.
- h. World Missions Committee needs to be notified at least 8 weeks prior to date of leaving for the trip.
- i. Received training.

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## **G. Approval procedure for short-term missions field/ candidates**

1. Notice of intention for STM need to be received by World Missions Committee at least 8 weeks prior to date of leaving for the trip.
2. After careful considerations, the World Missions Committee will make recommendation to the pastors.
3. The pastor will give final approval of short-term missions workers.
4. Endorsement of the STM candidate will be notified to the mission field.

## **H. Sources of funding. Funds to support STM can come from the following three sources:**

1. Each STM team member is encouraged to arrange his financing from funds “above and beyond” the tithe and regular offering commitments.
2. World Missions Committee proposes an annual allocated amount from World Mission Fund to be approved by Board of Deacons for the budget year January 1 to December 31.
3. Board of Deacons approves Special STM fund- raising for current budget year.
4. Individual fund-raising at church should refer to the LIALC Fund-raising/Sale policy.

**I. Funding priorities:** At its discretion, World Missions Committee may distribute varied amount of financial support to individuals of the same STM team due to different financial capabilities. E.g. church salary staff, individual working professional or student.

World Missions Committee may exercise the following financial support on case by case basis :

Pastoral staff: no more than 50%.

Working professional: no more than 50%.

Student: no more than 75%.

## **J. Eligible expenses during the mission trip.**

- 1) Entry Visa to the mission field.
- 2) Travel expenses to and from the mission field, including the cost of airline tickets, airport taxes, meals, layover hotel costs, tips, etc.
- 3) Travel expenses on the mission field.
- 4) Housing accommodations.
- 5) Food expenses.
- 6) Necessary Material /equipments for the mission field

**FUNDS ARE NOT PROVIDED** by STM funds for gifts, souvenirs, personal purchases, or sightseeing unrelated to the purpose of the mission trip.

Approved by Board of Deacons: 02/13/2007