

Supporting Ministries Outside the Church Policy

We understand that there are many excellent ministries outside of the local church that we could support, but it is impossible to participate in each worthy ministry. First Missionary Church is interested and active in supporting local and world-wide ministries of Christ's Church, but in order to focus our ministry and outreach efforts most effectively, we will abide by the following guidelines for the support of outside ministries and parachurch organizations:

1. Malachi 3:10 states, "Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse." As a general principle, First Missionary Church encourages its members to give their tithes and offerings to the General Fund in order to support its staff, ministries, and expenses. See 1 Corinthians 9:13-14: "Don't you know that those who serve in the temple get their food from the temple, and that those who serve at the altar share in what is offered on the altar? ¹⁴ In the same way, the Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should receive their living from the gospel."
2. In addition to their regular giving of tithes and offerings, First Missionary Church encourages its members to support other ministries, missions, and projects *above and beyond* their regular tithes and offerings.

Missions and Ministries

3. First Missionary Church does not take out monthly share support in individual missionaries. Rather, the church encourages its attenders to support missionaries and missions projects directly, if possible, rather than through the church. This personal approach toward missions giving fosters a more personal prayer and financial interest in the missionaries and their ministry. The Board of Elders has the authority, however, to bless a particular missionary or ministry with a gift as the Lord may lead, but generally not on a regular, on-going basis.
4. Members of First Missionary Church are encouraged to consider supporting missionaries from our local church who are associated with a ministry or mission and will be given first priority for speaking in services, as long as the ministry and mission are approved by the Board of Elders. Examples: Clear Call, Rejoice Ministries, Local Church Planting
5. Second priority will be given to ministries, missionaries, and missions projects that have an association with the local church or a missionary who has close ties with the local church or district. Examples: Here to There, Timber Lakes, District Church Planting
6. Since World Partners is the official mission work of the Missionary Church, Inc., World Partners missionaries and missions projects may be considered for support. Examples: Acorn Banks

Parachurch Organizations

1. Generally, it is preferable if representatives of parachurch organizations also meet similar expectations as listed above for missionaries. The church is, however, also interested in supporting other local ministries such as:
 - a. Salvation Army/Harvest of Love
 - b. Pregnancy Care Center
 - c. Gideons

2. The Board of Elders has the authority to invite representatives of other organizations to speak on a case-by-case basis.

All invitations must be cleared in advance by the church office for approval and inclusion in the church master calendar.

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