

MISSION POLICY OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VANUATU

The Ministry and Missionary Committee has in 1995 submitted a **Mission Statement of the Presbyterian Church of Vanuatu** to 1995's General Assembly emphasizing eleven points of what mission is as follows :

John 20:21. "As the father sent me, I am sending you."

MISSION IS:

1. The way which God is working in the world to give freedom and life to every people. The story of the work of God reaches every people and different culture, and it affects the whole of creation, through the church and the people whom God uses to carry out His Mission.
2. To us who are Christians, we believe and understand that God reveal His mission through the cross in Death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ. And through the work of the Holy Spirit in creation, which the Bible reveals.
3. To us who have faith in Jesus Christ and follows Him, Mission is:
4. Challenging us to follow Jesus and walk with him to unexpected places.
5. To worship God and celebrate God's faithfulness to the world. We listen to the voice of the others. We share the Good News to the poor, and help people to reach the goal which God has created them for.
6. We heal and look after all people, we struggle with those who are struggling, and go against structures and powers of the world which enslaves people, helping to live in unity within the community and in the church.
7. We love all people, in spite of their skin, color, culture and race, we cry with those who are mourning.
8. We live and promote the life of Jesus Christ, which is life in all its fullness-love, peace, grace and justice. We share the work of Jesus Christ.
9. To have right relationships, and structure that will allow all communities to dwell inside the love of God.
10. To establish justice and right relationship in God's creation.
11. To unite with Christian men and women and carry out that Mission in the world.

However, up to the time of the writing of this Policy, there is not yet in place a standard Mission Policy.

The question that we need to ask is what is the main responsibility of the Presbyterian Church of Vanuatu when it comes to drawing up a Mission Policy?

In respond, the Church need to acknowledge that there are two main responsibility, namely Worship and Mission.

Firstly, the Church must worship and honor God in every area of her life. She must not compromise her loyalty to God in any area of her life, but to genuinely and truthfully worship and serve Him.

Secondly, the Church must genuinely engage in the two components of mission of the Church which includes everything that Jesus commanded (Matthew 28:20).

- Build the members of the Church to grow into spiritual quality (inward mission).
- The whole Church taking the whole Gospel to the lost (outward mission).

Believing that Mission is the whole church taking the whole gospel to the whole world; in doing missions, this policy encourages every congregations, sessions and presbyteries to see it as their duty to involve in the mission activities relevant to them. They are also encourage to make Mission Policies relevant to their context **but not inconsistent with this Policy**. Importantly each member of every congregations must be fully involved in praying, giving and willing to send those who are called to take the gospel to places beyond their boundaries.

Purpose

1. To provide clear direction, guidelines and responsibilities of the mission leadership of the Church.
2. To avoid decisions making on missionary efforts and missions activities based on personal interests or reasons of chances.
3. To ensure transparency and accountability of the mission funds and other missions resources.
4. To insure that mission related issues are carefully evaluated.
5. To ensure the prevail cooperation and harmony between all mission committees and the whole church.
6. To familiarize new Missions Committee members with the direction and procedures of the church on mission involvement and policy in place.
7. To develop a loving accountability local congregations, sessions and the missionary receiving support.
8. To build confidence and unity in the whole ministry of the church.
9. To prevent confusion, inconsistency, and misunderstanding.
10. To define the specific responsibility of the church, the missionaries, mission partners and agencies.
11. To help missionaries commissioned by the church to have a clear sense of direction and continuity from God through the church in their part to spread the Good News, with the final goal to plant churches.
12. To give proof of the commitment of congregations members and sessions to world mission.
13. To make clear the means by which the church handles its commitment to world mission.
14. To ensure that God's great compassion on every substance of human life is addressed in doing missions.

Ministry and Missionary Committee

The Convener and Members of the Ministry and Missionary Committee are appointed and commissioned by the General Assembly, serve for a term of two years and can be reappointed. The responsibilities of the committee are,

- To uphold the General Assembly and its Executive's decision regarding mission and missions.

- To appoint graduating Pastors to respective Presbyteries, Sessions and mission fields upon request.
- To oversee the ministry and missionary activities of the church.
- To propose changes to the Mission Policy and seek approval from the Assembly Executive and endorsement of the General Assembly.
- To meet once a month with extras if need be.
- To work closely with the Presbyteries, Sessions and Congregations in assessing applications of those felt call by God to involve in Missions beyond their boundaries.
- To work together with TTTI and Doctrine and Worship Committee in assessing and evaluating theology ,doctrine and philosophy before signing of any partnership agreements.
- To encourage Presbyteries, Sessions and Congregations to help each other in providing support for missionaries and other mission activities.
- To help the Presbyteries, Sessions and congregations to appropriately implement the points under the purpose of this Policy.
- To prepare Ministry and Missionary Reports and make presentations to Assembly Executive and General Assembly.
- To help all Congregations in all Sessions within all Presbyteries to include mission spot/corner in the Sundays order of worship services so as to help members learn and pray about world mission.

The Appointment of the Secretary on Mission and his/her Job Description:

The Secretary on Mission is appointed and commissioned by the General Assembly and serve for a term of three years and can be reappointed.

The job descriptions of the Secretary are:

1. Be the Executive Officer of the Mission Development of the Church.
2. Provide overall Missions oversight of the responsibilities of the Presbyteries and training opportunities.
3. Be the official member of the Ministry and Missionary Committee.
4. Investigate opportunities for missions activities and training for the Church members within Vanuatu and overseas and seek implementation.
5. Liaise with partner churches and other mission organizations regarding mission activities in need of partnership.
6. Make contacts and continue to make sure that good working relationship is maintained with the Presbyterian Church of Vanuatu and Overseas ecumenical mission headquarters.
7. Provide opportunities for PCV to establish partnership with other Christian Denominations in Vanuatu and Overseas.
8. Provide an identifiable sending church in order to meet the requirements of home government and overseas.
9. Become a liaison between missionaries, governments and churches when special needs or problems come up.
10. Participate in meetings and conferences of the mission partner churches and church organizations in Vanuatu and Overseas.

11. Consult with PCV Clerk, Presbyteries Clerks and Talua Principal from time to time regarding mission development.
12. Responsible for the production of the written resources on mission for the use of the Church.
13. Organize Mission Conferences and or consultation meetings with partner churches and organizations in Vanuatu and overseas.
14. Tour the Presbyteries from time to time his schedule allow.
15. Present mission reports to the Assembly Executive and General Assembly.
16. Inform the PCV Clerk on the implementations of the responsibilities of the Secretary on Mission.
17. Assist in empowering the local congregations in their ministry within their own boundary.

Financial

- Sessions and their Congregations implement the General Assembly and its Executive's decision to start investing some of their funding resources collected through tithes, offerings and donations to missions fund account to prepare them to serve as senders of those called by God to serve as mission workers and missionaries beyond their boundaries.
- Sessions and their congregations stand together in supporting mission candidates in training, mission workers, missionaries and other mission activities.
- Put 10% of tithes, offerings and donations that every congregation collected every Sunday to the mission account of each congregation for missions, oversight by the Session and Presbytery.
- All congregations have mission box in their churches and all money collected shall be put in the same missions account as above.
- Encourage families of all congregations to donate raw garden crops or in kind to the church to sell for mission funds.

Sessions Mission Committees

All sessions in all Presbyteries establish mission committees with chairpersons and secretaries and members with deep interest in missions. Members who want to learn more about missions and be involved in its activities. Members who see their involvement as God given appointment to serve His Church. Members who are devoted to bible meditation and prayer.

The committees are free to make additions to the duties mentioned in this policy which are relevant to their context and have them included in their Mission Policy.

Their duties are,

1. Attend their once a month scheduled meetings.
2. Establish and maintain regular Prayer life and Bible study focusing on spiritual maturity.
3. Encourage the Congregations in their attempt to be senders.
4. Present the Committee's report to the Session.
5. Help the congregations to establish new ways to engage in the mission activities.
6. Encourage the congregations in mission fundraising activities, placing emphasis on the importance of transparency and accountability in the handling of the mission funds.
7. To be instrumental in establishing the Session Mission Policy that is relevant to the context of the Session and is in line with this Policy.

8. Be accountable for communication and prayer for the mission workers and missionaries supported by the Session.
9. Prayer for all missionaries and all mission activities beyond own boundaries regularly.
10. Bear the burdens of the Mission Committees of other Sessions, showing the unity of the church fellowship.
11. Be familiar with this Policy and specific Session Policy.
12. Provide someone to coordinate mission responsibilities with the missionaries and the sending congregations.

Congregations Mission Committees.

Like the Sessions Mission Committees, all congregations within all Sessions establish Congregations Mission Committees with chairpersons, secretaries, treasurers and members with deep interest and passion for missions. Members who want to learn more about missions and be involved in its activities. Members who see their involvement as God given appointment to serve His Church. Members who are devoted to Bible meditation and prayer.

The committees are free to make additions to the duties mentioned in this Policy which are relevant to their context and have them included in their Session Mission Policy.

Their duties are,

1. Make and administer the missions budget for the support of missionaries, activities and programs
2. Make sure that 10% of tithes, offerings and donations are collected and put into Mission Account.
3. Make sure that all congregations have the mission box in their churches and all money collected shall be put in the same Mission Account as above.
4. Encourage families of all congregations to donate raw garden crops or in kind to the church to sell for mission funds.
5. Update Mission Policy relevant to their congregational context and make proposal to Sessions Mission Committees.
6. Serve as liaison between congregation and its related missions organization and missionaries in communicating love, care and encouragements.
7. Represent missionaries to the congregations, sharing the experiences, stories, prayer requests, challenges and how God used them to spread the Gospel.
8. Encourage the Congregations to care for the missionaries they support both in the field and during their holidays as follows :
 - Meet the specific needs of missionaries according to their capability.
 - Send gifts to missionaries on specific times. E.g. Christmas.
 - Pending funds, send congregational representatives to mission fields to encourage missionaries personally and evaluate their progress.
 - Provide housing for missionaries while they are on holidays and care for them.
9. Encourage interaction between the congregation and missionaries through letters, emails, and visits.
10. Develop intercessory prayer within the congregation for missionaries and mission activities as follows :

- Have missions' news in Sunday services' mission spot, Sunday school classes, newsletter etc.
 - Organize and coordinate missions' intercessory prayer groups within the congregations.
11. Educate and excite the members of the congregations about missions targeting specific groups in the church community as children, young people, married people both young and old, using various methods of education (conferences, workshops, films etc.).
 12. Encourage the leaders of the congregations to pray for God to raise up workers for missions.

Eligibility Criterion

A. Applications :

Applications will be open for the following categories:

- Long term mission of 1-3 years.
- Short term mission of 1-6 months.
- Short term mission for incoming overseas missionaries as well as PCV outgoing missionaries.
- Long term mission for incoming overseas missionaries as well as PCV outgoing missionaries.

Overseas churches are responsible for the funding of their missionaries coming to serve both in short and long term missions within the Presbyterian Church of Vanuatu. Local congregations within the fields that the overseas missionaries are serving, must see it as their duty to support the missionaries in kind.

PCV missionaries going out to serve in other countries are to comply with the internal mission policy of those countries and mission agencies, which must be sorted out before the departure of the PCV missionaries.

B. Qualification :

1. The applicant must be a committed Christian and a citizen of Vanuatu or a citizen of own country in case of overseas missionaries.
2. The applicant must state clearly the missions task that God called him/her to and must meet the requirement they apply for.
3. The applicant must not have a criminal case, or have a disciplinary case with Police or any other authority.
4. The applicant must only apply on the Standard Application Form approved by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Vanuatu.
5. The applicant must submit copies of their Academic Certificates as well as References from the Pastor of his/her local (congregation) sending church.
6. Applicant with serious medical conditions should not apply for either short or long term mission.

C. Personnel :

1. The applicant must be recommended and supported by his/her (congregation) sending church.
2. The applicant must be approved and affiliated with a reputable mission organization that already signed a partnership agreement with PCV.
3. The male applicant must meet the biblical qualifications as emphasized in 1 Timothy 3.

4. The applicant must agree with the theology, doctrine and philosophy of the Presbyterian Church of Vanuatu.

D. Expectations :

- The applicant is expected to maintain regular communication with the local (congregation) sending church as well as the whole church through letter and other available means of communication.
- Report to the sending church while on holiday.
- Inform the sending church on any changes in ministry.
- Be faithful in the performance of the ministry entrusted to him/her.

Procedure for choosing missionary candidates and missions to support.

- Congregation mission committee makes a thorough investigation on the missionary candidate or proposed missions based on the appropriate requirements.
- Congregation Mission Committee makes recommendations based on these requirements and submit a detailed report to the Session through the Session Mission Committee. Such report should include :
 1. If the mission should be supported.
 2. How it should be supported in terms of finances etc.
 3. How often (periodically or regularly).
- Session may return the report with further questions if not fully satisfied with the report.
- Session has the authority to accept or reject the Committees recommendations
- If the Committees insist, then changes can be made and make re-submission to the Session.
- If the Session accepts the report and its recommendations, the Congregation Mission Committee engages with the missionary and the mission agency/organization and provide details for support.
- The Session must report all undertakings to the Presbytery who will make presentation to the Ministry and Missionary Committee through the Assembly Executive.
- The Presbytery has the right to question the Session for clarification before making presentations to the Executive.

Procedure for sending support.

- The Treasurer of the Congregation will keep the detailed records relating to all funds sent.
- The Congregation Mission Committee will keep a detailed file on every missionary or mission supported, including all contact information on sending agencies, financial accountability networks, names and contact information of higher church leaders and mission updates by way of reports, emails, newsletters etc..
- The Congregation Mission Committee will work alongside each missionary or mission agency/organization to decide the appropriate method of support.

Procedure for evaluating missions and missionaries and changing level of support.

- The Congregation Mission Committee keep continual communication with missionaries and missions efforts and shall make periodic review from time to time.

- The Congregation Mission Committee will formally discuss and reflect upon periodic support given to missionaries or for the funding of short-term mission trips and other missions. The discussions and any decisions taken will be recorded in the minutes.
- Any missionary or missions receiving regular or periodic support should be formally evaluated by the Congregation Mission Committee every time a change in support is being considered.
- A summary report should be written on the formal evaluation and be put in the missions' or missionary's official file. Such summary should include important areas as follows :
 1. Overall marks of the missions or missionary's character and fruitfulness.
 2. Any changes, be it positive or negative in the missions or missionary's life or situation that is appropriate to considerations for their continual support.
 3. Recommendations for changes in support such as increasing, decreasing or termination.
- By approval of all members, the Congregation Mission Committee can raise, lower, or terminate support of a missionary or missions based on a formal evaluation. In the case of termination, the Session must approve the decision to terminate and inform the Presbytery accordingly.
- The Presbytery will then let the Ministry and Missionary Committee know through the Assembly Executive.

Procedure for terminating support.

- Support can be terminated when changes in the original considerations for support come into being.
- When this happens, the sending (congregation) church will give at least three months' notice before termination.
- In the case of a change in theology, doctrine, philosophy, organization, character or accountability, one month notice will be given before termination.
- By approval of all members, the Congregation Mission Committee can terminate support of a missionary or missions based on a formal evaluation. The Session must approve the decision to terminate and follow the procedure as above.

Partnership Agreements.

This Policy encourages partnership agreements with overseas churches and organizations. However, before any agreement is signed, theology, doctrine and philosophy of the intending Partners must first and foremost be evaluated by the Ministry and Missionary Committee, Doctrine and Worship Committee and Talua Theological Training Institute. If all three give their consent, then the Ministry and Missionary Committee finalize the document and make presentation to the Assembly Executive for approval and endorsed by the General Assembly.

Missions that require overseas partners involvement.

1. The Presbyterian Church of Vanuatu will identify mission area needs and make request to already established Partner Churches and shall await their response. After receiving favorable response, the requirements will be formalized.
2. The Partners are encouraged to inform the Presbyterian Church of Vanuatu about the availability of their personnel in specific mission field as well as projects they can be involve in and wait for PCV's respond.

3. This Policy must not encourage the idea of partners presenting their personnel to Presbyterian Church of Vanuatu and request the Presbyterian Church of Vanuatu to create posts for them. As such, the Ministry and Missionary Committee must carefully evaluate all requests that come from Partner Churches as well as intending partners.
4. The fact that Presbyteries and Sessions make their yearly plans towards the end of each year means that Partner churches requesting short term missions/ministries must submit their requests between July and October of each year, so that November Assembly Executive of each year can consider the requests and inform the Partner Churches of the decisions thereafter.

Projects and organizations are as follows,

- Bible Colleges
- Bible Schools
- Health Services
- Schools (kinder garden – secondary)
- Mission organizations
- Church planting in Vanuatu and overseas
- Evangelists
- Camps, conferences and other mission events
- Disaster reliefs
- Short term missions/ministries
- Long term mutual support in mission activities and exchange personals
- Expertise to important infrastructure
- Visits and consultancy
- Any particular priorities in need of support/funding

Pastor Kalmara Firiam,
Moderator
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Pastor Collin Kelep,
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Ps Kevin Talesa,
Convener
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Pastor Peter Ray Namuli
Secretary on Mission
Presbyterian Church of Vanuatu

Date:

Month:

Year: