

**Harmony United Methodist Church
Hamilton, Virginia**

MISSION

*“Do all the good you can, in all the places you can, to all the people you can.”
-John Wesley, founder of the Methodist movement in the 1700’s*

MISSIONS COMMITTEE POLICY AND PROCEDURE

AUTHORITY OF MISSIONS COMMITTEE POLICIES:

The following missionary policy for Harmony Church has been created with the purpose of directing its missionary outreach efforts to best support the proclamation of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is our privilege and responsibility as a church to support mission endeavors as John Wesley encouraged by doing “all the good we can, in all the places we can to all the people we can.”

Matthew 25:34-46

Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. ³⁵ For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶ I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.’ ³⁷ Then the righteous will answer him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? ³⁸ And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? ³⁹ And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?’ ⁴⁰ And the King will answer them, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.’

MISSION MINISTRY PURPOSE:

The purpose of the Missions Committee is to encourage the people of Harmony UMC to contribute to missionary service under the direction of God. The Missions Committee will work to make the greatest use of the Lord’s resources for mission efforts by supporting donations/collections and outreach/Mission Trips in three areas: Loudoun County, Regional/Domestic US, and International. (See below for parameters/limits. These parameters/limits will be reviewed and updated annually by the committee at the end of each year, as needed).

The Missions Committee encourages the congregation of Harmony to reach outside the church walls... to spread the love of God through the gifts of time, talent and treasure to those who are in need and to those who do not yet know the joy of salvation in Jesus Christ, through a variety of missionary supported venues. (Matthew 28:19-20; Mark 16:15; Acts 1:8).

- 1. Loudoun County** – Within a 50 mile radius of HUMC. Initiatives of donations/collections/outreach/mission trips will not conflict with each other within a given month. There is a maximum of 24 initiatives in a calendar year.
- 2. Regional/Domestic US** – In the United States. Initiatives of donations/collections/outreach/mission trips will not conflict with each other within a given month. There is a maximum of 4 mission trips and up to 10 donations/collections within a calendar year.

3. International – Outside the domestic US. Initiatives of outreach/mission trips/donations and collections will not conflict with each other within a given month. Each calendar year we will sponsor up to two missionaries, one youth mission trip, one adult mission trip and one Church to Church Partnership. (See definitions below).

A. **Missionary** – Individuals identified by the General Board of Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church. These missionaries serve in more than 60 countries sharing their gifts of teaching, health care, evangelism, refugee assistance, community development and congregational development as they serve God's mission and share the good news of Jesus Christ in word and deed. They work to serve in partnership with ministry and mission with those in need of support and love. Harmony's support of the Missionary would be a dynamic relationship where the church and missionary pray for one another and communicate regularly in addition to financial support.

B. **Church to Church Partnership** - A church-to-church partnership is designed to help build up an indigenous church (normally outside the US) with the desire to ensure a strong emerging church within three to five years. Harmony's support of the Church to Church Partnership would be a dynamic relationship where both churches are actively engaged in prayer, communication, volunteers and speaking opportunities in addition to financial support of the new church. They will serve in partnership with ministry/mission to help build up the new church to share good news of Jesus Christ.

MISSIONS ORGANIZATION:

THE MISSIONS COMMITTEE

The purpose of the Missions Committee is to maintain mission policy, plan for mission opportunities and projects; develop and promote means for involvement in missions; monitor activities of missionaries; and manage the missions' budget. The work of the Missions Committee supports Harmony Church, and will be coordinated with other ministries and committees within the church.

The Missions Committee will include church members with a love and passion for missions. It will be composed of a minimum of five members. Supported long-term missionaries are not eligible to serve on the Missions Committee. A chair, vice chair, and a secretary shall be selected by the Committee. The Chair is elected by the charge conference annually. The committee selects the Vice-Chair and Secretary at the end of each year for the following year.

The chair's responsibilities include:

- a. Plan and publish an agenda for each meeting;
- b. Schedule and conduct each meeting;
- c. Report committee actions or recommendations, as appropriate; and
- d. Work to ensure cooperation among other ministries and committees.

The vice-chair fills the role of the chair in his or her absence.

The secretary's responsibilities are:

- a. Record committee activity and meetings;
- b. File committee records in the church office; and
- c. Communicate with missionaries and mission organizations.

The Missions Committee will hold regular meetings throughout the year, with the time and place of the meeting to be determined by the committee, and advertised in Harmony's weekly bulletin, and other church publications.

Decisions by the Missions Committee will be made by consensus.

MISSIONS COMMITTEE PROGRAM PLANNING

A year round program of missions shall be promoted by the Missions Committee with the following objectives:

- a. To encourage Harmony's congregation to thoughtfully and prayerfully consider how they can contribute to mission efforts;
- b. To present the challenge of the Great Commission, "make disciples of all nations";
- c. To advise Harmony's congregation of the work, progress, challenges, and needs of those providing direct missionary service on the mission field; and
- d. To support the effort of Harmony Church with special gifts beyond regular giving.

Each fall the Committee will review initiatives from the past year and look at those slated for the following year. The goal is to identify the new year Mission committee/initiatives by the end of November the year prior.

FINANCES:

Those who support the missions of Harmony Church are encouraged to faithfully give to church offerings. Gifts received that are designated for missionary purposes, unless specifically earmarked, shall be placed in the general Missions budget and allocated at the discretion of the Missions Committee. In keeping with the total financial budget of Harmony, and in order to support ongoing mission goals, surpluses shall be carried into the next fiscal year.