

TPC Missions Budget Policy

The entire Missions budget of Trinity Presbyterian Church shall solely be devoted to efforts that directly adhere to the guidelines provided by the Great Commission.

Mat 28:18-20

¹⁸ Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Thus every Christian Church must make *disciples* by:

1. Preaching the Gospel
2. Initiating people into the Church through baptism
3. Teaching those who have joined the Church all that Christ has commanded us.

Since temptations to veer from this course surround us, it is important that we especially focus our efforts in Missions in a way that fully complies with Christ's Great Commission.

Thus, TPC missions support shall be limited to the following areas:

1. Church planting efforts (both local and foreign)
2. Seminaries (both local and foreign) which focus on training and sending out pastors
3. Churches that are not financially self-sustaining
4. Evangelism that intentionally moves new believers toward an existing church or toward the creation of a church.

However, humanitarian efforts which may indeed show love to those in need, but do not meet the requirements of the Great Commission, do **not** qualify for Missions support from Trinity.

Similarly, evangelistic efforts that do not seek to support the church would likewise fall short of the Great Commission since in it, Christ commands us to make "disciples" and not simply to elicit "verbal commitments."

Similarly, evangelistic efforts that begin and end with the Good News, but do not endeavor to baptize and teach converts, to observe all Jesus taught and commanded his followers are not supported by Trinity Missions funds.

This pattern of *establishing* and/or *sustaining* churches rather than simply seeking individual conversions is what we see Paul model for us throughout his ministry in Acts and his epistles, and thus functions as our blueprint for Missions support at TPC. Specifically, our missions support, financial or otherwise, will primarily be in favor of establishing and/or sustaining churches of *reformed* theological doctrine.

Care For Missionaries

To provide greatest encouragement and ease of call to our supported missionaries, we are committed to providing "deep" rather than "broad" missions support, which means we intentionally choose to provide substantial financial support for a few missionaries instead of less financial support for many missionaries. Additionally, to reduce the travel impact on missionaries and families when they return to the United States for sabbatical periods, we will endeavor to identify and support missionaries which receive substantial support from many local churches (e.g., within our Presbytery).

End of Year Gifts

As God provides, we shall endeavor to retain 10% of our annual Missions Budget for End of Year special gifts for our supported missionaries. By November of each year, the Missions Committee will recommend how to disperse End of Year gifts to the TPC Session for final approval.