

PBCC Short-term Missions Guidelines

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From time to time members of our body participate in short-term mission trips/projects and inquire about/request financial support from PBCC. We want to encourage participation in short-term missions for several reasons, including 1) increasing vision/passion for missions, 2) spiritual growth, and 3) using skills and gifts to bring Kingdom blessings to others. The intention of the following guidelines is to provide more uniform treatment of short-term volunteers and to increase the benefit and impact of the short-term experience.

1. On February 1 each year, the Missions Council will send an email to the leadership of the High School, College, and 20-Something ministries asking them to forward a notice to their list of participants asking that everyone planning to be involved in a short-term mission project get in touch with the Missions Council (david@pbcc.org). The same notice will be posted during February in the bulletin for others who may be planning on a short-term mission.
2. The Missions Council will ask all these to fill out and submit a questionnaire to the MC. The MC will review the questionnaires and reply to each. Some of these may be invited to a MC meeting for an interview.
3. The list of short-termers will be reviewed by staff and elders for any screening they deem appropriate. For those going on short-term mission longer than two months, a staff or elder relationship for mentoring and guidance is essential.
4. Short-term projects/trips of 1-8 weeks: The MC will approve and specify a one-time support gift. All of these folks will be invited for a group "send-off" in the services one Sunday in May or June. There will be a bulletin insert with everyone's photo, contact information, and project details along with an encouragement to the body to pray for them and partner with financial support.
5. Short-term projects/trips of 2 months to 2 years: These will be required to meet the requirements specified in the PBCC Missions Guidelines (see below). The MC will make a recommendation to the Elders for short-term missionary status and recommend a monthly support amount. As soon as Elders approve a candidate, staff will determine a Sunday for presentation to the body as a PBCC short-term missionary. We will include in the bulletin that day an insert with the candidate's photo, contact information, and project details along with an encouragement to the body to pray for them and partner with financial support. Prior to departure to field assignment, missionary will be "commissioned"/sent off in Sunday morning services.
6. Participants who receive financial support and recognition in accordance with these guidelines will be asked to fill out and return a debriefing form to the Missions Council.
7. PBCC financial support will be (pending Elders/Exec approval of this policy) 15% (for example) of trip cost up to a maximum of \$300 (for example) for shorter duration trips/projects, and 15% (for example) of monthly budget up to a maximum of \$300 (for example) per month for those going for 2 months to 2 years.

From PBCC Missions Guidelines:

Considerations For Missionary Status:

Short Term (2 months to 2 years):

- a) Associated with and having relationships within the body of PBCC including a pastor or elder
- b) Agreement with PBCC doctrinal statement.
- c) Demonstrate a sincere interest in world missions and suitability for proposed short term assignment.
- d) Complete the short term portion of the PBCC Missionary Candidate Preparation program (or equivalent program elsewhere).
- e) Participation in further training/reading as deemed necessary by the Missions Council.
- f) Missions Council approval of proposed area of service and sending agency.
- g) Final decision on candidate approval shall be made by the Board of Elders.