



Christ Church Newland Mission Policy: Defining Mission Partnership

Vision

We long to see disciples of Christ made and matured globally. This is our prayer and desire as Christ Church Newland and this Strategy document asks: “how can we accomplish this vision?”

Types of partnerships

It is helpful to distinguish different levels of Mission Partnerships that Christ Church Newland will have. To this end we have identified three levels of partnership, which is in no way a value judgement on the importance of the work but rather our involvement and relationship with that Mission Partner.

Gold Partners

These partnerships will have the greatest level of investment and ownership by the Christ Church Newland. The workers will most likely have been raised up and commissioned by the church. The church will have a strong sense of on-going pastoral and practical care for those involved and concern for the faithfulness, effectiveness, and general direction of their ministry. Gold partnerships will likely be long term and fewer in number. The church commits to investing resources into the development of Gold partnerships, including prayer, finance, and relational investment e.g. regular visits. If there are significant problems or needs the church will take these with greatest weight. Christ Church Newland has a sense of ultimate responsibility for Gold partnerships. We would expect Gold partners to send frequent prayer updates, and news of the progress of the mission and their lives. We also would expect termly ‘PrayerCasts’ to be shared with the church.

Silver Partners

These partnerships will have a particular focus of activity rather than a full sense of ownership and participation as in Gold Partnership. Many missionaries have four or five major supporting churches with one acting as the lead or sending church. We would expect less information but would hope their contact in each church should at least be part of the missionaries immediate support group.

We may send short term teams to a Silver partner’s Mission field and pray for them regularly. The church has an ongoing and church family wide connection with this ministry. If there were needs that arose the church would seriously consider how it can help, but would not consider itself to have final responsibility for that ministry. Silver partnerships might come and go with more frequency than Gold partnerships. We would expect Silver partners to update the church, with news of the progress of the mission and their lives. We would also hope for a termly ‘PrayerCasts’ to be shared with the church.

Bronze Partners

It's important for the church to be open and flexible to engage in world mission in a more *ad hoc* way when opportunities present themselves. The church may have connections through people in the church which aren't owned by the whole church family, but on occasion the church would love to engage in e.g. a visit to Christ Church Newland or a particular need or appeal. We would expect Bronze partners to send prayer updates, and news of the progress of the mission and their lives. We would like a termly 'PrayerCasts' to be shared with the church.

Developing Gold Partnerships: Identifying, Raising, and Sending Missionaries

Foundation:

A church which will cultivate world mission workers is one where the entire church has a strong sense of being on mission. The Christ Church Newland value of being "missional" commits us to making mission a central part of church life. The regular preaching about evangelism, praying about our everyday witness, and actively engaging in outreach as a church will help Christ Church Newland become a place where considering world mission becomes a natural extension of what we all already do. Christ Church Newland needs to be a place where evangelism is commonplace and talking about world mission is normal.

Therefore on the basis of this foundation, four phases will help the church effectively raise and send mission partners:

Phase 1: Identify

Phase 2: Assess

Phase 3: Develop

Phase 4: Send

Phase 1: Identify

Christ Church Newland seeks to be active in the identifying of missionaries rather than simply waiting for people to come forward. Just as Paul exhorts Timothy to actively entrust the gospel to "reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others" and Titus encouraged to appoint elders, so the church should actively entrust the gospel to be taken to the nations. In Acts 13:1-3 the church, under the leading of the Holy Spirit, set apart and send Barnabas and Saul.

There are two main ways to help identify mission workers:

1) The eldership and International Committee will continually, prayerfully and deliberately consider who in the church are displaying gifts that would be well used in world mission. Those identified should then be approached and helped to consider world mission.

Action: Elders set aside one meeting per year to consider any in the church to engage with. also International Committee likewise should set aside one meeting to do likewise. Elders and Int. Committee will then share together and take action.

2) Regular 'Mission Focus' events in the life of the church give opportunity for people to consider working as a global missionary. These events will give people time and space to consider their gifts, life situation, and to be exposed to mission opportunities. Identifying

mission workers happens best when World Mission is a frequent “conversation” in church life.

Action: International Committee to plans termly ‘events’ e.g. world mission dinners, world mission exploration courses, world mission Sunday etc.

The International Committee will run, on behalf of the Christ Church Newland an annual short term mission trip, as a key way to identify long term workers.

During this process, the International Committee will take responsibility for initiating on-going conversations and prayer with people considering world mission work.

Phase 2: Assess

After people are identified as having potential and an active interest in being sent on world mission, the church has the responsibility to carefully assess suitability and ministry fit. This phase isn’t about finding the finished product, but identifying potential and weaknesses to be worked on. This phase will vary in length of time and intensity and must be tailored from person to person. A member of the International Committee and/or an elder will be appointed as a **mission mentor** who will regularly meet up with the candidate to help assess the following:

Character – using 1 Timothy 3v1-7 as a guide, does the person show consistent growth in godliness and a life which will commend the gospel in the mission field? Is their walk with God healthy and living? Given the particular challenges of cross-cultural mission, does the candidate have a degree of stability and endurance needed?

Fruitfulness – is the candidate meaningfully engaged in making and maturing disciples here and now? What cross cultural experiences or interest do they have? Is the candidate a committed member of The Globe Church now?

Grasp of the Bible – does the candidate show a desire and mature ability to know the gospel deeply and grow in their grasp of the Bible? Do they show signs of the ability to handle the Word of God rightly and to teach appropriately into different contexts/cultures?

Direction of ministry – consider the world mission needs as outlined in the World Mission Vision. Which of these is the candidate passionate about/suited to? Are there particular parts of the world/people groups they are drawn to? How can that be explored further?

Begin engaging agencies: Work with candidates in this phase to consider and approach mission agencies to partner with and begin *initial* discussion.

Short term trips in this phase are to be encouraged to both assess personal fitness for world mission and also to begin to identify places or ministries that they could work in.

When the time is right, the mentor should suggest the candidate meet with the elders to confirm the assessment and affirm moving on to Phase 3.

This confirmation would be best marked by being shared at a church meeting.

Actions:

Appoint a mentor to work through this process.

Encourage the candidate to go on short term mission trips, attend mission conferences, read and engage study concerning all the aspects of World Mission.

Candidate meets with elders at appropriate time for confirmation of assessment process.

Phase 3: Develop

This is the period of preparation following the affirmation of the assessment phase.

Weaknesses can be addressed, training developed, and steps onto the mission field developed. During this period, the **mission mentor** continues to help guide the candidate.

-Experience

First and foremost, the best thing the candidates can do is to be full and engaged members of Christ Church Newland, loving, serving, witnessing in everyday ways (Acts 13:1-3).

In addition, during the assessment phase, passions and weaknesses may have been identified which can be encouraged or addressed through ministries here at Christ Church Newland. For example, if the candidates have little Bible teaching experience they may develop these within the existing Church ministries (Homegroup, Students, Congolese service, Iranian Bible study). A ministry 'Trainee Scheme' would be ideal but not essential. Likewise if they have little cross cultural experience they may find opportunities within the 'Hub', Iranian work, or Congolese 2.30 congregation.

Short term trips are another excellent way to be fanning into flame desires and passion for mission and for gaining more experience, perhaps even taking leadership of a small team.

-Training

Probably during the time of assessment, or after the church is clearer on someone's suitability for mission work, the elders and International Committee should discuss what training would be helpful. Depending on circumstances, this may include something like a Distance Learning Course or residential training at a Bible college.

-Agency Partnership

Candidates would be expected to partner with a mission agency in their work. An agency will likely have their own application/assessment process. The church should now be in a good place to encourage the candidates forward to engage with agencies. The elders should take an active role in considering which agencies to partner with. They will need to be confident in the agency's approach and doctrine, and feel that this is an agency they can have a fruitful partnership with. This will involve elders having conversations/attending conferences to help build a relationship. It is vital for the Christ Church Newland to maintain good 'partnership' with the Mission Agency as much as the Mission Candidate.

Communication between the agency and International team should be regular.

-Prayer

The Church family at Christ Church Newland should be encouraged to pray for the candidate through Sunday Intercessions, Home group Prayer Casts, and maybe prayer support letters (a good habit to begin early).

The International Committee should pray for the prospective candidate as an agenda item as a matter of course.

Actions:

Elders/International Committee to advise candidate on training and consider how to develop experience.

Candidate and church begin serious engagement with agencies to develop partnership.

Phase 4: Send

-Set apart & Commission

Once the candidate has reached a stage where development is completed/ underway, and agency assessment processes have been completed (if applicable), it is important for Christ Church Newland to clearly mark that THEY are sending the candidate in cross cultural mission. Closer to a time of departure, the church should hold a commissioning service.

-Finances

Elders prayerfully consider financial commitment of Christ Church Newland to the candidate according to the Mission Partner's needs and church's ability to give. They should give guidance to candidates in raising support and developing partnerships beyond Christ Church Newland if applicable.

-On Going Commitment

Clear and honest discussions should be had between the candidate and the International Committee and the elders about what on-going care and commitment will look like after they are sent. It would be wise to draw up a partnership commitment outlining expectations for communication, care, home assignments etc. See below for more details.

Actions:

Organise church setting apart and commissioning

Elders agree financial commitment

Partnership commitment to be drawn up