



WILLOUGHBY PARK ANGLICAN CHURCH

LIVING FOR CHRIST GROWING DISCIPLES

MISSION AND AID POLICY

WHY A MISSION AND AID POLICY?

The Parish Council allocates a portion of the church's annual budget for funding mission and aid. A sub-committee of the Parish Council, the Mission and Aid Committee, has been given responsibility for researching and recommending suitable recipients for this funding.

The mission and aid policy provides a framework for making decisions and identifies responsibilities of the Mission and Aid Committee. The objective is for the faithful stewardship of funds, a coherent plan for mission and aid support that enables the Church to partner in the work of the gospel across the globe and to educate the church about mission and aid.

The formal documentation of a mission and aid policy reflects a number of important factors:-

- the size of the budget allocated to mission and aid is significant,
- mission and aid funding commitments are typically very long term,
- the potential for conflict of interest, and related party interests
- a coherent approach to mission and aid support is useful in helping people understand God's global initiative, and
- the turnover of Mission and Aid Committee membership, with attendant risk of losing the understanding of how and why decisions were made in favour of supported ministries.

Documenting Mission and Aid Committee roles and responsibilities also enables new members to be inducted and to retain knowledge within the committee when existing members retire.



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1. WHAT IS MISSION AND AID?

1.1 Mission

The Bible declares that God made Man, creating him in His image and for His fellowship. Man rebelled against God and broke that relationship yet God sought him out and took the initiative of grace to redeem him and to restore the broken relationship. From the earliest pages of the Bible, God demonstrates his desire to be in relationship with his creation. The mission of God is what fills the Bible from The Fall to Revelation. The result of this mission is a multitude praising the Lamb, for “by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation, and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God” (Rev 5:9).

Bruce Dipple, Director of the School of Cross Cultural Mission at SMBC, defines mission as: *“God’s desire to be known by all people throughout the world, fulfilled through the medium of his people.”*

This is why Christ calls his church to “go and make disciples of every nation” (Matt 28:19). Our church’s involvement in mission is in joyful obedience to this call. (See Appendix 1 for additional biblical references to God’s mission.)

1.2 Aid

“Christians care about all suffering, especially eternal suffering” (John Piper). This means we give to Christian mission, but we will also give aid to those suffering now, particularly to relieve suffering of brothers and sisters in Christ. The practice of generosity toward the family of God runs through the whole Bible, and is typified in Paul’s collection for the poor saints in Jerusalem, suffering a famine (2 Corinthians 8-9). So the Scriptures ask that “we should continue to remember the poor” (Gal 2:10).

While mission and aid are two distinct activities, for the purpose of simplicity, both are under the responsibility of the one committee, who will apportion funds to each area from the mission and aid budget.

2. WILLOUGHBY PARK’S RESPONSIBILITIES IN MISSION

2.1. Responsibility of everyone

The chief purpose of the church on earth is to give glory to God, witnessing to the gospel, directing people to the Father and the Son in the power of the Holy Spirit. In Acts 1:8, as Jesus ascended to heaven, his last instruction to the disciples was that they were to be his witnesses to the ends of the earth. As the disciples made disciples of others, this became an instruction for them too. This work and care is a responsibility for everyone and not the



domain of a special interest group. All members of Willoughby Park have an obligation to pray or serve in some way with the shared goal of the spread of the gospel to all nations and people.

2.2. From Willoughby to the ends of the earth

The instruction to witness in Acts 1:8 covered the whole world: "Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." The focus is global. We have particular responsibility for our own locality but are to actively support the spread of the gospel to the ends of the earth. We interpret the application of these verses in our context to mean:-

- Jerusalem - Local evangelism and church growth.
- Judea and Samaria - The support of ministries within Sydney, NSW and Australia
- The ends of the earth - Willoughby Park's partnership in overseas mission and aid.

2.3. Sent people and sending people in ministry partnership

In the Epistle to the Philippians, Paul, who was ministering the gospel whilst imprisoned in Rome, writes of his great joy and thanksgiving in prayer because of the "partnership in the gospel" between him and the Philippians (Ch 1:3-6). In Chapter 1:27, Paul also talks of "striving together as one for the faith of the gospel."

In chapter 2, Paul mentions "Epaphroditus my brother, co-worker and fellow soldier, who is also your messenger, whom you sent to take care of my needs."

In this example, missionary and partnering church are praying for each other to stand firm, for the advancement of the gospel. Epaphroditus was sent by the church in Philippi to bring gifts and encouragement, and to be a messenger and a co-worker with Paul.

In the same way, Willoughby Park sees itself as a "partner in the gospel" with our link missionaries who have been sent from our wider church family here in Australia. Their ministry is our ministry to be engaged with through prayer, communication, material and pastoral support.

3. **WILLOUGHBY PARK'S RESPONSIBILITIES IN AID**

3.1. Responsibility of everyone

When Jesus told the Parable of the Good Samaritan, he showed that assisting those in need was the responsibility of all believers, and wasn't just restricted to one's immediate neighbours or kin.

3.2. From Willoughby to the ends of the earth

The Apostle Paul's collection in Macedonia and Achaia for the famine-struck Christians in Jerusalem shows that this care was to extend even from one region to another (2 Cor 8-9). So we will seek to alleviate the needs of others, with a particular focus on Christian brothers and sisters where the church is most persecuted and in need of outside help. See also point 2.2 above.



3.3. A ministry partnership

We are not to be of those who say, "Go in peace; keep warm and well fed," but do nothing about their physical needs (James 2:16), but to give generously and cheerfully, treating our brothers and sisters as such. As a result, 'Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, others will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else. And in their prayers for you their hearts will go out to you, because of the surpassing grace God has given you. (2 Cor 9:13-14). In this way, we will seek to give not just to a global fund, but to Christians with whom we might develop a ministry partnership.

4. **WHAT IS THE MISSION AND AID COMMITTEE?**

The Mission and Aid Committee is a subcommittee of the Willoughby Park's Parish Council, appointed to address Willoughby Park's mission and aid activities outside the parish and its locality. In the context of the Acts 1:8 model, outlined in point 2.2, this would be Judea and Samaria and the ends of the Earth.

4.1. Objectives of the Mission and Aid Committee

- 4.1.1. Work for the effective partnering by Willoughby Park in the work of the Gospel beyond our Parish
- 4.1.2. Encourage the raising and sending of missionaries from within our church family
- 4.1.3. See all members of the church family grow in understanding, enthusiasm and service for mission

4.2. Responsibilities of the Mission and aid Committee

- 4.2.1. Promote the church's mission links and activities
- 4.2.2. Promote the church's aid links and activities
- 4.2.3. Prepare the annual allocation of the mission and aid budget
- 4.2.4. Investigate and make recommendations to Parish Council for mission and aid support
- 4.2.5. Build and maintain partner-relationships with link missionaries and mission and aid organisations
- 4.2.6. Monitor and, if necessary, be involved with pastoral care of missionaries linked to the church
- 4.2.7. Ensure the organisation of prayer for link missionaries and supported mission and aid organisations
- 4.2.8. Assist with identification and preparation of people for both short and long term mission
- 4.2.9. Education of the congregation in mission and aid awareness and support, including educating regarding the health of the global church in making disciples of all nations
- 4.2.10. Report to the congregation as appropriate

4.3. Activities of the Mission and aid Committee

- 4.3.1. Collate Prayer requests



- 4.3.2.Link missionary communication and follow-up
- 4.3.3.Organise mission and aid breakfasts / dinners / other events within the Parish of Willoughby Park
- 4.3.4.Maintain relationships with link missionaries in the field through activities such as sending Christmas cards.
- 4.3.5.Regular committee meetings for planning events, administration
- 4.3.6.Review appropriateness of continuing support for ministries at the end of each review period
- 4.3.7.Periodically review mission and aid policy to ensure that it agrees with clergy and committee understanding of how mission and aid outside the parish locality of Willoughby Park should be conducted

4.4. Membership of the Mission and Aid Committee

- 4.4.1.Mission and Aid Committee is chaired by a member of the Parish Council.
- 4.4.2.Members are appointed to the committee from each of the Willoughby Park congregations.
- 4.4.3.Members are recommended to the committee by the clergy or by existing committee members on the basis of their understanding, enthusiasm and willingness to learn about supporting mission and aid.
- 4.4.4.Appointment to the committee is by invitation from the Mission and Aid Committee chairperson and confirmed by the Rector.
- 4.4.5.A list of current members and the chairperson of the committee can be provided by the church office.
- 4.4.6.Anyone wishing to join the committee should first approach a member of clergy or one of the committee members.

5. **WHAT IS WILLOUGHBY PARK'S MISSION AND AID BUDGET?**

- 5.1. The Mission and aid Budget is a portion of church income, agreed by Parish Council, dedicated to the support of mission and aid outside the parish and overseas.
- 5.2. The Mission and Aid Budget is working toward 10% of the total church budgeted offertory income.
- 5.3. A breakdown of the Mission and Aid Budget is prepared annually by the Mission and Aid Committee. This identifies funding for existing link missionaries, supported organisations and new funding recommendations to be considered and approved by Parish Council.
- 5.4. The Mission and Aid Budget is reviewed on an annual basis by Parish Council
- 5.5. Willoughby Park commits funding for a pre-defined period, typically aligned to each term of service for overseas link missionaries.
 - 5.5.1.There is an explicit decision to review the support, in line with re-commissioning of missionaries for their next term of service in the field.
 - 5.5.2.Appropriate review periods are to be defined for recipients who do not fit the model of periodic service in Australia and overseas.



6. THE BASIS OF WILLOUGHBY PARK'S MISSION AND AID SUPPORT DECISIONS

Remembering that mission is God's initiative to make Himself known to His people, it is important to prayerfully remain open to the leading of the Holy Spirit, guarding against being too self-reliant when assessing suitable candidates for financial support.

To assist in understanding which of the many worthy ministries should receive support from Willoughby Park, a framework of preferences is used to identify the ministry that fits best within the context of existing mission and aid support and likely long-term sustainability of the mission partnership.

Two core principles are:

1. Prayerful partnership is most successful when relationship can be built between the people of Willoughby Park and individuals rather than organisations
2. Supported mission and aid should be diverse, locally and functionally, giving a window into the God's mission across the globe, to engage as much of the church family as possible.

The current framework of preferences follows. It must be noted that these are guiding principles, not absolutes. It is possible that a ministry could be chosen for support which may conflict with one or more of these principles:

- We aim to support responsible and trusted ministries with close, overt ties to evangelical gospel work, recognizing the necessity of proclamation of Jesus Christ as Saviour, for lives to be changed and cultures to be transformed.
- Our preference is for Word proclaiming mission work, which might include church planting, theological education, student work, Bible translation and ministry apprenticeship training.
- We recognize a primary responsibility to support Diocesan ministries; ministries that do not normally receive their support from outside the Anglican Churches in the Sydney Diocese (e.g. Moore Theological College, Bush Church Aid Society and Church Missionary Society).
- We look to support mission and aid work locally, nationally, and overseas.
- We see the value of supporting local missions that reach people previously not reached by local churches, and that we don't expect to be able to pay for themselves (e.g. REACH).
- We pray that people will be raised up from Willoughby Park's congregations who we can partner in sending
- We seek to personalize partnership through links with people rather than projects, but recognize the benefit of short-term projects in raising mission and aid awareness.
- We aim to focus and build our support for a few mission and aid links, ensuring that we do this well: sustainable, predictably and significantly.
- Our preferred missionary sending organisation is CMS, and, for Bible translation work, Wycliffe.



APPENDIX 1

Biblical Basis of God's Desire to be Known by All People

Mission is God's initiative throughout history. There are many references to this, in both the Old and New Testaments. All verses quoted here are from the NIV:

- Gen 12:3b *"...and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."*
- Gen26:4-5 *"I will make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and will give them all these lands, and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed because Abraham obeyed me and did everything I required of him, keeping my commands, my decrees and my instructions."*
- Exodus: 9:15-16: *"For by now I could have stretched out my hand and struck you and your people with a plague that would have wiped you off the earth. But I have raised you up for this very purpose, that I might show you my power and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth."*
- 1 Kings 8:41-43: *"As for the foreigner who does not belong to your people Israel but has come from a distant land because of your name— for they will hear of your great name and your mighty hand and your outstretched arm—when they come and pray toward this temple, then hear from heaven, your dwelling place. Do whatever the foreigner asks of you, so that all the peoples of the earth may know your name and fear you, as do your own people Israel, and may know that this house I have built bears your Name."*
- Psalm 67:1-5
*May God be gracious to us and bless us
and make his face shine on us -
so that your ways may be known on earth,
your salvation among all nations.

May the peoples praise you, God;
may all the peoples praise you.
May the nations be glad and sing for joy,
for you rule the peoples with equity
and guide the nations of the earth.
May the peoples praise you, God;
may all the peoples praise you.*
- Isaiah 49:6: *"It is too small a thing for you to be my servant to restore the tribes of Jacob and bring back those of Israel I have kept. I will also make you a light for the Gentiles, that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth."*
- Isaiah 66:18-20: *"And I, because of what they have planned and done, am about to come and gather the people of all nations and languages, and they will come and see my glory.
"I will set a sign among them, and I will send some of those who survive to the nations—to Tarshish, to the Libyans and Lydians, to Tubal and Greece, and to the distant islands that have not heard of my fame or seen my glory. They will proclaim my glory among the nations. And they will bring all your people, from all the nations, to my holy mountain in Jerusalem as an offering to the Lord*



- Matthew 28:18-20: *"Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 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, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."*
- Luke 24:45-47 *"Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. He told them, "This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem."*
- John 17:15-19: *My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world. For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified.*
- Acts 1:8: *".. you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."*
- Acts 10:34-35: *Then Peter began to speak: "I now realize how true it is that God does not show favouritism but accepts from every nation the one who fears him and does what is right.*
- Romans 10:14-15 *"How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"*
- Revelation 7:9: *After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb.*

Biblical Basis of Aid: God's desire for his people to care for the poor

Some selected references from both the Old and New Testaments.

- Ex. 23:11... *but during the seventh year let the land lie unplowed and unused. Then the poor among your people may get food from it, and the wild animals may eat what is left. Do the same with your vineyard and your olive grove.*
- Lev. 23:22 *"When you reap the harvest of your land, do not reap to the very edges of your field or gather the gleanings of your harvest Leave them for the poor and for the foreigner residing among you. I am the Lord your God."*
- Prov. 14:31 *Whoever oppresses the poor shows contempt for their Maker, but whoever is kind to the needy honors God.*
- Prov. 19:17 *Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will reward them for what they have done.*
- Prov. 22:9 *The generous will themselves be blessed,*



for they share their food with the poor.

- *Mark 10:21 Jesus looked at him and loved him. "One thing you lack," he said. "Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me."*
- *Acts 9:36 In Joppa there was a disciple named Tabitha (in Greek her name is Dorcas); she was always doing good and helping the poor.*
- *Acts 24:17 "After an absence of several years, I came to Jerusalem to bring my people gifts for the poor and to present offerings.*
- *Rom. 15:26 For Macedonia and Achaia were pleased to make a contribution for the poor among the Lord's people in Jerusalem.*
- *2Cor. 9:9 As it is written:*

"They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor;
their righteousness endures forever."
- *Gal. 2:10 All they asked was that we should continue to remember the poor, the very thing I had been eager to do all along.*



APPENDIX 2

A practical guide to mission and aid support process at Willoughby Park

1. **Policy document:**
 - a. review annually,
 - b. revise every 7 to 10 years

2. **Membership of Mission and Aid Committee**
 - a. Aim for four to five members
 - b. Aim for balance of membership from congregations, genders, ages/stages

3. **Formal Link Missionary Communications**
 - a. Annual review
 - b. Propose a cycle of letters to a link missionary:
 - i. Once accepted by Mission and Aid Committee and Parish Council, then
 - ii. Letter of acceptance and partnership under God
 1. commitment to care and prayer
 2. finances: amount, length of commitment, when payment sent etc.,
 3. mutual prayer: send them Willoughby Park's prayer points
 4. mutual care: deputation visit every Leave and Home Assignment
 - iii. 12 month in advance notice of completion of connection with Willoughby Park
 - iv. Final letter of thanks to be sent on completion of service
 - c. Generated initially by Mission and Aid Committee for Treasurer
 - d. Then generated by Treasurer

4. **Awareness raising in the congregations:**
 - a. Web page with up to date details of supported people, projects and supported organisations
 - b. Church noticeboard
 - c. Weekly congregational prayer in services
 - d. At least four times per year, mission and aid awareness spots in services

5. **Care**
 - a. Mission and aid Committee Breakfasts / dinners
 - b. Christmas cards and possibly gifts
 - c. Acknowledging children's birthdays with a card or email.

 - d. Occasional "care" package (Tim-Tams, Vegemite etc.)
 - e. Occasional email from a group or individuals
 - f. "Welcome home" food boxes, preparation of the home, etc.

6. **Prayer:**
 - a. Update lists of small groups in each congregation committed to pray and care for each missionary
 - b. Provide information for congregational prayer
 - c. Email group lists that office staff send prayer letters
 - d. Office to send prayer points from Willoughby Park to each missionary
 - i. Parish Prayer Meeting prayer sheet



- e. Missionary section of Parish Prayer Meeting: staff responsibility

7. Going

- a. Short term mission and aid and Mission and aid Exposure Policy
- b. Long term mission and aid policy

8. Reporting

- a. To Parish Council: by Chairperson of Mission and aid Committee
- b. To Congregations:
 - i. Quarterly service mission and aid spots plus bulletin articles
 - ii. Annually: AGM/ Vestry Meeting



APPENDIX 3

Current mission and aid partnerships at Willoughby Park

1. Organisations we support financially (long term)
 - a. Mission
 - i. Wycliffe for David Blackman 30%
 - ii. CMS for Amy Stephens 30%
 - iii. REACH for Matt Pettett 35%
 - b. Aid
 - i. Operation Christmas Child = Samaritan's Purse
 - ii. Anglicare Food and Toiletries Drive (support through goods)
 - iii. Anglicare clothing and tin bins
 - iv. Operation Caring Christmas (goods)
 - v. Streetwork 5%

2. Organisations we support financially (short term)
 - a. Mission
 - i. St Mark's Anglican Church Sussex Inlet
 - ii. Diocesan New Churches for New Areas
 - b. Aid
 - i. Operation Christmas Child = Samaritan's Purse
 - ii. Syrian Refugees via Anglican Aid

3. Organisations we pray for in services (in addition to the above, see 'Prayer Leading at Willoughby Park' for more information)
 - a. Scripture and Crusader/Scripture Union groups in schools
 - b. City Bible Forum and Mark Leong
 - c. Moore Theological College
 - d. Youthworks College

4. 2016 Mission Allocation amounts

Missions	Activity	Amount
From parish funds:		
CMS – Amy Stephens		1,200
R.E.A.C.H.		1,200
Anglicare	Election BBQ	1,132
Samaritans Purse – Operation Christmas Child	Christmas in July	1,497
Sub-total		4,829
From special donations:		
Bush Church Aid	Parishioners	43
CMS – Amy Stephens	Offertories & thanksgiving	1,528
Streetwork	Offertories	20
Anglican Aid – Syrian Refugee Crisis	Thanksgiving	891
Wycliffe	Thanksgiving	891
Samaritans Purse – Operation Christmas Child	Thanksgiving & Parishioner	911
Sub-total		4,284



Total		\$ 9,113
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