



the **CROSSING**

igniting hearts, changing lives, impacting the world

Missions Policy

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The Crossing's Vision of Missions

At **the CROSSING**, we believe that God has called us to make an impact in the world through missions. We define missions as “any evangelistic endeavor that seeks to fulfill the Great Commission of making disciples of Jesus throughout the world.” We place no limits on the geographical location of our outreaches and joyfully celebrate any person who chooses to share Jesus or follow him, whether in a foreign land or in a neighboring community. (Luke 15:10)

Part of **the CROSSING's** vision is to see hearts ignited and lives changed through the ministry of the Holy Spirit in the local church. We envision hundreds of those who receive ministry at **the CROSSING** going out both locally and to the ends of the earth to share the Good News of the Kingdom. Pastor Scott's Dream of a Church envisions a church “where thousands come to receive, hundreds are sent out to serve and millions are blessed.”

We believe that God has called **the CROSSING** to minister to the whole person, caring for the social, relational, physical, and spiritual needs of individuals. (Luke 4:18-19) We value giving God's love away. This value is lived-out as we seek the lost, serve the poor, and engage with the marginalized and disenfranchised personally.

Missions are an expectation of every disciple of Jesus. Missions are not an event, or program; it is the lifestyle of a disciple who lives the Great Commission to go and make disciples of all people. Missions begins with those around us, our family and neighbors, and extends to our community, our country, and the entire world. We believe that God has called the leaders of the church to train up and equip our members to do the work of the ministry. (Ephesians 4:12).

I. Long-term mission policy

A. *Definition of Long-term Missions*

The CROSSING, defines a long-term mission worker as “any person who has intentionally chosen to live among a specific people group with the expressed purpose of sharing the Gospel and making disciples.” Again, we do not limit this definition to overseas missions, although we fully support those who are carrying out God’s work in other nations. For example, this includes full-time college campus workers, those ministering to impoverished communities or planting churches in America and anyone else who is living an intentionally missional lifestyle. By long-term, we are speaking of people who are not taking a trip with a specific endpoint in mind, but who have committed to live among a specific people group until the Lord calls them home or to another mission field.

B. *Financial Support of Long-term Missions*

The CROSSING limits our financial support to those who consider **the CROSSING** their church home. Those who consider **the CROSSING** their home church are individuals who have been involved in the life of our church in the following ways:

- They have joined our church as members.
- They regularly attended our weekend worship services.
- They regularly supported the work at **the CROSSING** with their tithes and offerings.
- They have served in one or more ministries at **the CROSSING** for at least one full year.

All new financial support requests will be reviewed and discussed by the Mission Action Team, and the Pastor of Outreach. After this review, the Pastor of Outreach will make an annual proposal for monthly support to be approved by the Crossing pastoral staff. Those interested in receiving support from **the CROSSING** complete and submit a Long-term Mission Application by August 1st to be considered for the subsequent year. (See application on Page 9 below).

C. *Spiritual Support of Long-term Missionaries*

The CROSSING understands that finances are a necessary component to live missionally in the world. However, we also understand the even greater spiritual component of prayer and encouragement needed for our long-term mission workers.

We believe prayer is essential for success in any missional endeavor and *require all of our long-term mission workers to have an on-going prayer letter/email that is sent to ministry prayer partners*. Some long-term missionaries will choose to write and send their own mission prayer support letters on a weekly, monthly or quarterly basis. Others seek to have members of the Crossing organize prayer efforts on their behalf. In the case of the former, we are supportive of those individuals who choose to organize their own prayer team efforts. As for the latter, the Pastor of Outreach will identify and assign a member of the Mission

Action Team, to champion the cause of prayer for our long-term missionaries. Regardless of the prayer option chosen, each long-term missionary (and their family) will have one member from the Mission Action Team assigned to them.

We also recognize the importance of home visits for our long-term overseas missionaries and will seek to support their return to the Crossing. This may include, but is not limited to open gatherings for church members to attend and hear about the work of the mission, video testimonies given by the missionary or other awareness raising efforts and initiatives. The long-term missionary is responsible for communicating their return plans and engaging in a dialogue with their assigned Mission Action Team member before their arrival to discuss plans for home visits.

D. Long-term Mission Annual Renewal application

The CROSSING requires all long-term missionaries who receive financial support to complete a long-term missions renewal application every year. The purpose of this document is to celebrate the work that has been done for God's kingdom and to keep both the missionary and the Crossing leadership mutually accountable before God. For the missionary, the application will be a means of providing the Crossing church with a better understanding of the work being done and vision for the future. For the church leadership, it will provide a means of justification for all fiscal expenditures from the Faith Promise budget. The ongoing amount of funds provided for each missionary on a monthly basis will be proposed by the Pastor of Outreach and approved by the church leadership staff no later than August 1st of each year. The missionary may request an extension to the time of submission by July 15th if extenuating circumstances prevent timely submission. After receipt, the application will be reviewed, celebrated, and prayed for by the Missions Action Team and finally reviewed for approval by the Crossing pastoral staff.

II. Mission Action Team (M.A.T.)

A. Purpose of Mission Action Team

The CROSSING values the equipping of the saints for the work of the ministry. It is our goal to see a multiplication of missional work both regionally and internationally by equipping Crossing members to fulfill the Great Commission. The M.A.T. is a group of Crossing members who lead mission-oriented activities and develop other leaders to carry on the work of the Great Commission. M.A.T. members commit to the following:

1. Commitment & Training (Year 1)

All members of the M.A.T. team must be active members of the congregation. Active Members are those who:

- Pray for the Ministry.
- Regularly Attend our Weekend Services
- Actively Participate in Small Groups
- Give Faithfully to the Ministry.
- Have Faithfully Served in one or more areas of the Ministry.

During the first year as part of the M.A.T. team, members are required to receive missional training. At present, missional training includes the Perspectives Course (<http://www.perspectives.org>) or our Extend Course. The intention is for M.A.T. members' perspective to be broadened through a better understand the mission field both locally and globally.

2. On Mission (Year 2)

M.A.T members who have successfully completed either Perspectives or Extend Course go “on mission” in the world to serve Jesus. This may include a short-term mission trip overseas or to another region of the country, or a regular time of service locally. This time allows M.A.T. member to put into practice what they have learned and to serve Christ in a practical hands-on way.

3. Lead a Mission (Year 3-4)

Within the next two years each of our M.A.T. members will seek to lead a team of Crossing members on a local or foreign mission trip.

4. Equip Another M.A.T. member (Year 5)

The goal of the M.A.T. member is to duplicate themselves by identifying and mentoring another person through the process described above.

5. Support of Long-term Missionaries (On-going)

Over the five-year period of each M.A.T. member's involvement on the team, each person will be assigned one (or more) of our long-term missionaries as a spiritual and relational support contact. This role may include organizing prayer letters for the missionary (as agreed between the missionary and the M.A.T. member) as well as being their first point of contact for any home visits. After equipping a person to join the M.A.T., the new member will carry on this role. After the five year commitment, the M.A.T. member will continue to lead new teams on mission in the world.

III. Short-term Mission Policy

A. *Definition of Short-term mission*

The CROSSING defines short-term missions as any trip with a specified, limited duration of minimally two days and up to 3 months in duration. Short-term missions are not limited to those that take place in other countries. The purpose of the trip must have a gospel-oriented focus, not simply a recreational or social purpose (such as a retreat) that focuses on reaching people other than the team members.

B. *Financial Support of Short-term mission*

The CROSSING limits our financial support to those individuals who consider the Crossing their church home. Those eligible to receive support must be Crossing members in good standing. We define good standing as those who:

- Pray for the Ministry.
- Regularly Attend our Weekend Services

- Actively Participate in Small Groups
- Give Faithfully to the Ministry.
- Have Faithfully Served in one or more areas of the Ministry.

Crossing members who desire to receive ministry funding must complete the short-term application document for consideration. When traveling as a team, each person must complete and submit a form individually. The forms will be reviewed by the Pastor of Outreach and submitted to the Crossing staff for approval.

The CROSSING is willing to support members of our church who go on mission trips through another organization. In those cases, the member will need to include the name of the sponsoring organization on their application. **The Crossing will only issue checks to not-for-profit 501(c)3 organizations.**

The maximum amount of support provided for any individual person going on a short-term trip is \$500. This support is funded from our Faith Promise account. **Any individual going on a short-term mission trip is responsible to raise the entirety of the funds required for the trip minus the Faith Promise contribution of \$500.**

Crossing members are highly encouraged to solicit funds and donations for their trip from friends and family members outside of the Crossing. Crossing members are to refrain from soliciting financial support until their short-term missions application has been approved. Once approved, Crossing members who desire to raise support for their short-term trip through members of the Crossing and also receive funds through Faith Promise **must indicate in writing or verbally to each person solicited that they are also requesting funds from Faith Promise.** The following language is required to use on any written correspondence:

“This donation request is in addition to my personal request of funds from the church’s Faith Promise budget. Monies donated to Faith Promise are used to support all of the Crossing’s long and short-term missions.”

C. Crossing-Sponsored Short-term trips

The CROSSING will send out short-term teams on an annual basis. Crossing-sponsored mission trips will be led by the Outreach Pastor, other Crossing pastors, and members of the M.A.T. team. All interested in participating in a Crossing-sponsored mission trip must complete a short-term application form. The Crossing staff as well as the leader of the specific trip (if not part of the staff) reserves the right to deny an individual the opportunity to join the trip when the person’s character or maturity is in question and would therefore not be a good representation of our church. All names for potential short-term missionaries will be presented to the staff by the Pastor of Outreach before being approved.

D. Non-Crossing Members on Short-term mission trips

Individuals who are not regular attenders at the Crossing, who are interested in joining a short-term mission trip, are required to complete the short-term

application form. In addition to this form, the individual will also need to supply the following:

- Two personal character references, one from a Christian leader (pastor).
- If the short-term trip involves visiting or serving any of our long-term missionaries, a letter (email is acceptable) must be written to the long-term mission worker identifying who they are, explaining why they believe God is calling them on the trip, and requesting permission to visit and serve. This letter or email will be sent to the Pastor of Outreach who will then share its contents with the long-term missionary.
- If the short-term trip is not to one of our long-term missionaries, a request letter (or email) must be addressed to the Crossing Pastor of Outreach.

The Pastor of Outreach will present all names from non-Crossing Members to the pastoral staff for approval. All documentation will also be made available to the staff for review. The Crossing only provides financial support to members.

IV. Faith Promise

A. *Definition of Faith Promise*

The CROSSING, financially supports our missionaries through our Faith Promise fund. Faith Promise is a separate fund that is dedicated to supporting both short and long-term missionaries. Monies given to Faith Promise are used exclusively for local, regional, and international missional purposes and are not used to support the general operations of the church.

Faith Promise giving is an optional choice that is above and beyond one's tithe. **The CROSSING** does not encourage members to give to Faith Promise in exclusion or replacement of the tithe. Faith Promise giving is an annual commitment made by those who desire to support Crossing missions on a one-time or on-going basis. The congregation is asked to prayerfully consider how much they can trust the Lord to provide "by faith" over the course of the year to donate to missions. Funds may be given by writing "Faith Promise" in the memo of a check or choosing this option on-line.

B. *Allocation of Funds*

The primary allocation of Faith promise is in support our long-term missionaries. The budget for Faith Promise is proposed by the Crossing Pastor of Outreach at the end of each year and approved by the church Council. Adjustments to allocations of funds to individual long-term missionaries and funding for new requests for support will be submitted by the Pastor of Outreach and by the Council with the annual budget.

C. *Communications on Faith Promise*

It is the responsibility of the Pastor of Outreach to regularly communicate to the congregation about Faith Promise and encourage members to give financially.

Long-term Missions Annual Renewal Application

Please submit this form via email to the Crossing Pastor of Outreach no later than August 1st. For extensions to this deadline, please contact the Pastor of Outreach on or before July 15th with the proposed date that the document will be submitted.

Date: _____

Please update our records to make sure we have current information on file:

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State/Country: _____

Zip Code: _____

Email Address: _____

Primary Phone: _____

Are you requesting continued support for the upcoming year? _____

Do you currently have a Mission Action Team member assigned to you/your ministry? _____

- If no, do you have a name of one or more individual(s) who may fit into this role? _____

Do you currently have a regular prayer letter or email that is sent out for your ministry? _____

- If yes, how frequently is it sent out? Who writes that letter/email? If it is someone other than you, please provide their email address: _____

-
- If no, would you be interested in having a member of our Mission Action Team assist you? _____
-

Please provide between 100-250 word responses to each of the below questions:

- Please describe how you have stewarded your time and talents in service to the Lord over the last year:
- Please describe the greatest success story or work that you saw the Lord complete through your ministry over the last year:
- Please describe the greatest challenge you face in your ministry currently:
- Please describe any goals you have for the upcoming year or any ways your ministry will change significantly from what it has been in the past:
- Please describe how we at the Crossing can be of greater service to you in your ministry:

Long-term Missions Application Form

The Crossing Staff will review each individual request that is submitted. At the time of the budget setting for the upcoming year, the staff will prayerfully consider each of the receive requests and determine whether we are able financially to support any new long-term missionaries and how much we will allocate to each individual. If you do not receive funds in one year, you are welcome to apply back a second year. Applications need to be submitted no later than August 1st of the current year to be considered for funding in the upcoming year's budget.

Date: _____
Name(s): _____
Name of missions
org/ministry: _____
Mission/org web
site: _____
Your Address: _____
Your City: _____
State/Country: _____
Zip Code: _____
Email Address: _____
Primary Phone: _____

Are you a Crossing Member?

Do you currently attend the Crossing regularly?

Do you regularly give financially to the Crossing?

Have you served in a ministry at the Crossing for a period of one year or more?

Please list all the ministries you have been involved in at the Crossing.

Please provide between a 100 - 250 word responses to each of the below questions:

- Please describe the nature of the work you will be doing:
- Please describe your personal vision or calling to this ministry:
- Please describe how this ministry is in alignment with the Great Commission:
- Please describe how this ministry is in alignment with the overall vision of the Crossing:
- Please describe in your own words why the Crossing should consider supporting you financially:
- Please describe your current financial needs in the upcoming year and the other sources and forms of funding you have planned to meet these needs:

Mission Action Team Application Form

Every individual seeking to join the Mission Action Team must fill out the below application.

Name: _____

Email Address: _____

Primary Phone: _____

Are you an active member of the Crossing today? Yes No

Have you been on a Crossing sponsored mission trip before? Yes No

Have you led a Crossing sponsored mission trip before? Yes No

Have you already taken the Perspectives course? Yes No

Have you already taken the Extend course at the Crossing? Yes No

Personal Information

Please provide between 100-250 word responses to each of the below questions:

- Please describe why you desire to join the M.A.T.
- Please describe any specific mission burdens you have currently (for places or people).
- Please describe how you hope to learn and grow personally as part of this team.

Commitment

The M.A.T. Team is a five-year commitment broken up into smaller goals for each year. We ask that you prayerfully consider your involvement in each of these areas before joining the team. We realize that this commitment is not a small one, but we believe it is important for us as a church to make sure those we are establishing and presenting as leaders to our church have carefully weighed out the responsibilities before them before joining this vision. Ultimately, we trust that by counting the costs up front, your life will make a greater impact in the world.

By God's grace, I will commit to take either the Extend class or the Perspectives course.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
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By God's grace, I will commit to going on a short-term mission trip to get experience on the mission field.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
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By God's grace, I will commit to leading a short-term mission trip of one or more other people from the church.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
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By God's grace, I will commit to recruiting and encourage another person to join the MAT team.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
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By God's grace, I will commit to being a supporter of one of our long-term missionaries while on the MAT team.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
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Signature:

Date:

Short-term Mission Application Form

Every individual seeking to go on a Crossing short-term mission trip, must fill out the below application for each individual trip taken.

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____
State/Country: _____
Zip Code: _____
Email Address: _____
Primary Phone: _____
Date of Birth: _____

Are you a Crossing Member? Yes No

Are you in a small group? Yes No

Are you requesting financial support from Faith Promise? Yes No

For international trips only:

Passport number: _____
Passport date issued/expires: _____

Marital Status

Marital Status Single Engaged Married Widowed Separated

Spouse Name: _____

Is your spouse supportive of you applying for this trip? Yes No

Mission Information

Destination: _____ Dates of Trip: _____

Briefly describe the type of Work (preaching, VBS etc.): _____

Emergency Contact Information: (Name, Relation, Primary & Secondary Phone, Email, Address) _____

If this mission trip is sponsored by another organization than the Crossing, fill out the below:

Organization name: _____

Have you already applied? Yes No Have you been accepted? Yes No

Personal Information

Please provide between 100-250 word responses to each of the below questions:

- Please describe where you are spiritually:
- Please describe why you desire to go on this trip:
- Please describe what you hope to contribute to the team/trip:

Non-Members Additional Information

For those who are not members or attendees of the Crossing, but have a desire to join one of our missions trips, you must also include two personal character recommendations (one from a pastor or spiritual overseer) and a letter/email addressed to the Crossing Pastor of Outreach and when applicable to the long-term Crossing member you are visiting on the trip. These documents must be submitted in addition to the application and can be sent to the following address: Pastor of Outreach, c/o The Crossing, 1895 Wrightstown Road, Washington Crossing, PA 18977 or to info@crossingumc.org with the subject line: "Recommendation for (Your Name) for short-term mission trip".