



# First Baptist Lawton

## MISSIONS STRATEGY

### AND POLICY MANUAL *(April 2023)*

#### **FBC Lawton Mission's Vision Statement**

Partner with churches, ministries, & individuals Here, There & Everywhere with a direct connection to FBC Lawton whose work advances the gospel of Jesus Christ fulfilling the Great Commission as one body, "Christ Led – Body Engaged – Gospel Centered."

#### **BIBLICAL BASIS FOR MISSIONS**

##### **1.1 Scriptural Imperatives**

The Bible is a book chiefly concerned with God's redemptive purposes in His creation. God's plan to redeem a people for himself through His Son, Jesus Christ, is the message of the Bible. The Scriptures further teach that God's redeemed people will be from every tribe, tongue and nation, and the Church's obedience to this missions mandate will serve as God's means in accomplishing this task. We take this mandate seriously, letting this focus influence all we do at FBC Lawton, citing the verses below as our Scriptural imperatives to participate in God's global, redemptive purpose:

##### **Matthew 28:18-20**

*And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.*

**Acts 1:8**

*But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.*

**Romans 10:14-15**

*How then will they call on Him in whom they have not believed? How will they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how will they hear without a preacher? How will they preach unless they are sent? Just as it is written, "HOW BEAUTIFUL ARE THE FEET OF THOSE WHO BRING GOOD NEWS OF GOOD THINGS!"*

**GENERAL STATEMENTS****2.1 Purpose of the Standard Operating Procedure and Strategy Manual**

To provide information that clearly states our motivations, procedures and guidelines in pursuing our missions program.

To help us make consistent, objective decisions by providing guidelines that address our ongoing needs and requests.

To help us stay accountable to our established priorities and overall direction.

To serve our Staff and entire Church Body by providing missions leadership and stated direction.

**2.2 Definition of Missions**

We define missions primarily as proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ to everyone in every place (evangelism). What flows from gospel proclamation is the imperative to teach, baptize and nurture believers (discipleship) and assist in gathering to church. Missions is not limited to these activities (evangelism and discipleship), but it is never to be separated from them.

**2.3 Scope of Missions**

With an Acts 1:8 focus the scope of our missions efforts will be built around the following areas. *"...you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth."*

- HERE, Local missions (Jerusalem)
- THERE, U.S.A. (Judea, Samaria)
- EVERYWHERE, International (*remotest part of the earth*)

## **2.4 Flexibility**

Exceptions to these policies may be made at the discretion of the Missions team, and approval of the pastor/administrator.

## **2.5 Revision of Policy**

The Missions team will review this policy annually (in March). Revised portions will be approved by the pastor/administrator.

## **MISSIONS TEAM STRUCTURE AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

### **3.1 Purpose of the Missions Team**

To provide management, oversight and leadership to all issues related to missions at FBC Lawton.

### **3.2 Selection of Missions Team Members**

**Chairman:** Evaluated and appointed by pastor/administrator annually.

**Other members:** Appointed by pastor/administrator, chairman.

Ex Officio member: Could be added as deemed necessary.

#### **1: Team Member Qualifications**

Team members must be members of FBC Lawton and in agreement with the Baptist Faith and Message. They are required to maintain a deep interest in missions and display an earnest attitude for missions. Further they are to exhibit an agreement and understanding of this policy. If a member is serving on staff or volunteering with an organization, they must recuse themselves from any discussions concerning that organization.

#### **2: Team Member Responsibilities**

Members of the team should regularly participate in Missions Team meetings and events. They will take part in reviewing and modifying the FBC Lawton Missions Policy annually. They should also be a consistent and vocal advocate for missions among the wider FBC Lawton body.

### **3.3 Term of Office**

Terms shall be in agreement with FBC Lawton constitution and bi-laws.

### 3.4 Team Member Functions

The roles listed below will be evaluated annually, giving members an opportunity to serve in different ways if they so choose, or as they need to be reassigned additional positions.

**Chairman:** prepare agenda, moderate meetings, delegate work, appoint sub-committee chairmen, serve ex officio on all mission sub-committees, assist the pastor/administrator in developing, coordinating, and administering the overall missions program, be responsible for the annual missions budget, and be responsible for reviewing policies and recommending revisions. Prepare or assign meeting notices at discretion of chairman.

All other roles are to be selected by the Missions ministry team.

**Vice-Chairman:** preside at meetings in absence of the Chairman.

**Secretary:** Maintain the official minutes of the Missions team, record and distribute copies of the minutes to team members and upload them in CCB. Maintain an updated master copy of the Missions Team Policy manual.

*The following responsibilities/roles will be assigned as needed by the Missions team.*

**Publicity/PR:** This person (or persons) would be responsible for informing the church of mission opportunities through the church bulletin, pulpit announcements, and creative missions publications. They would also assist Sunday school classes with info on missions when needed.

**Missionary Relations:** This person would serve as the link between our missionaries and the church. He or she would be responsible for gathering and responding to emails and newsletters, as well as maintaining current contact information for our missionaries.

**Administrative:** This person would sort, direct and file the missions related mail we receive as a committee. He or she would also be responsible for the taking and distribution of minutes for our monthly meetings.

**Hospitality:** This person would serve in the hosting of visiting missionaries or missions related speakers. Also they would coordinate hospitality at any committee related functions.

**Prayer:** This person would inform both the church and committee of specific prayer needs as they relate to missions.

**Finance/Budget:** This person would serve as a liaison between the finance office and the committee, informing us of the current state of mission's offerings, communicating needs

to those processing and routing checks, and generally dealing with the financial issues of missions as they arise.

### **3.5 Frequency of Meetings**

The team should make efforts to have a monthly scheduled meeting. More or less frequent meetings can be held at the discretion of the chairman.

### **3.6 Approval of Items**

The team should have a minimum of 60% of active members present when approving business. Business decisions will be approved by a 2/3 majority, but every effort will be made to establish consensus. Consensus can only be achieved when everyone on either side of an issue has been fully heard and fully understood by the Missions Team.

## **FINANCIAL POLICIES**

### **4.1 FBC Lawton's Primary Missions Giving**

FBC Lawton's primary avenue of mission's support is through the Cooperative Program and through special mission's offerings through the Southern Baptist Convention. (These special offerings are separate from and do not impact FBC Lawton's Mission Budget (4.2)). The special offerings are mentioned below along with the targeted goal for the church body to reach. (These special gift offerings are encouraged to be given in addition to regular church tithe).

- **Annie Armstrong** Offering for North American missions.
  - March/April (Easter month)
  - Goal amount: \$18,000 (Goal to be reassessed annually).
- **Edna McMillan** Offering for Oklahoma State mission.
  - September
  - Goal amount: \$10,000 (Goal to be reassessed annually)
- **Lottie Moon** Offering for International missions.
  - December
  - Goal amount: \$40,000 (Goal to be reassessed annually)

### **4.2 FBC Lawton's Mission Team Budget**

FBC Lawton's Mission Team Budget is currently 1% of the overall annual operating budget. When undesignated mission offerings are given to the church, they will be placed in this account. This

budget is comprised of two categories: Missions Scholarship and Direct Missions. 60% of the annual FBC Lawton’s Mission Team Budget will go toward Mission Scholarships, and 40% of the annual FBC Lawton’s Mission Team Budget will go towards Direct Missions. The goal is to hold \$5000 in reserve in the Mission Teams account to ensure funds are available for unforeseen needs and emergencies.

### **Missions Scholarships (60%).**

One of the goals of the FBC Lawton Missions Team is to facilitate the participation of as many FBC Lawton members as possible on short-term mission activities and trips. Any FBC Lawton church member is welcome to apply by filling out the FBC Lawton Missions Support Application. Most of these trips will be organized by FBC Lawton as part of their mission and vision strategy. Whenever possible FBC Lawton members are encouraged to fund their mission trip personally and through fundraising efforts to help make the scholarship funds available to those in the most need of financial help. Additionally, requests for mission scholarships must be approved by the Missions Team. Any contributions received for a specific recipient/trip must include a note (DO NOT write in on memo of the check) stating, the funds are for FBC Lawton Missions and the name of the person the funds are for.

- Scholarships for FBC Lawton Mission trips will be limited to 25% of the total cost per person, up to a maximum of \$1000.
- Scholarships for Non-FBC Lawton Mission trips will be limited to 25% of the total cost per person, up to \$500.
- *Exceptions: If the applicant has made every effort to raise the necessary funds for their trip and additional funds are needed, the Mission Team will discuss and agree on any additional amount to be given.*

### **Direct Missions (40%)**

Another one of the goals of the FBC Lawton Missions Team is to support state, national, and international missions including but not limited to the following: vision trips, local outreach, materials for trip/projects, and missionary support. The missions team will make every effort to maintain balance in how the Direct Missions funds are distributed between state, national, and international missions, however they have the discretion to fund needs as led by the Holy Spirit.

#### **ADDITIONAL NOTES:**

- *All Missions expenses will be divided equally between the Missions Scholarships and Direct Missions.*
- *If the Mission’s Team would like to take up a Special Missions offering, then approval must be given by the financial committee first.*

## SHORT-TERM MISSION PURPOSE & REQUIREMENTS

**5.1** FBC Lawton utilizes short term mission trips as a means for the body of believers to engage in missions for a brief period of time.

### **Purpose of Short-Term Mission Trips**

- To lead people to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ
- To grow disciples
- To build up the church and local missionaries/workers/pastors
- To assist FBC Lawton in being obedient to the Great Commission
- To provide humanitarian aid in appropriate settings

### **5.2 Requirements for Mission Participants**

- Faithful follower of Jesus Christ.
- Active member of FBC Lawton or a church similar to the faith and beliefs of FBC Lawton for a minimum of 6 months. (Statement of faith available at: <https://www.fbclawton.org/>)
- Active member of Sunday School
- A letter of recommendation from the participant's Sunday school director is required.
- Encouraged to be involved in local mission work, such as *FBC Lawton local missions projects, M28 Ministries, Pregnancy Resource Center, Boys & Girls Club, Etc.*, before traveling on a FBC Lawton mission trip. (*Exercising our mission muscles before going on a mission trip*)
- Great Commission minded.
- Willing to share the Gospel and participate in team strategies to do so.
- Willing to share their personal testimony.
- Able to attend most team meetings and/or training sessions prior to departure unless the team member lives out of town. In that case, he/she should communicate regularly with the team leader via e-mail and/or phone and be able to fulfill any requirements that are deemed necessary by the team leader.
- Their mission trip must be fully funded prior to departure. In the event there is an unpaid balance on a participant's account prior to departure, the team member will not be able to accompany the team on the trip. *For further information, please see the 4.2 Financial Policies.*
- Team members must be 16 and over, unless otherwise indicated by the Team Leader. Team members under the age of 16 must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian on the trip, unless it is a mission trip designated for students entering 6-12<sup>th</sup> grades. Parental or guardian permission is required for team members who are under 18 years of age.

### **5.3 Requirements for Team Leaders** *(Same as Mission Participants requirements + the following)*

- Actively involved as a teacher, leader and/or volunteer in FBC Lawton activities.
- A servant leader who is willing to effectively lead his/her team into difficult and unknown situations.
- Shares the Gospel on a regular basis.
- Able to train team members in evangelism, culture, religious beliefs, language, etc.
- Team leader must be 21 years of age or older.

### **5.4 Policies for Team Behavior and Attitudes**

Individuals participating on FBC Lawton sanctioned mission endeavors are reminded that they are ambassadors of Jesus Christ (II Corinthians 5:20). As teams go on mission they not only represent Him, but FBC Lawton, the United States, and the supporting mission agency (if applicable). For this reason, FBC Lawton requests that each team member seeks to be above reproach in his/her actions and attitudes.

- Team members must submit to the team leader's authority and leadership.
- Political uncertainty is always of great concern of FBC Lawton while serving in the international mission field. Therefore, FBC Lawton requests that team members refrain from expressing political opinions and comments.
- Refrain from profanity, alcohol, the use of tobacco products, marijuana products, illegal drugs, gambling, immorality, and any other activities that do not align themselves with Scripture.
- All team members must adhere to the behavioral guidelines for each specific team set by the team leader and the missionary agency with consideration towards the culture to which the team is going.
- A team leader reserves the right to ask an individual whose behavior is unacceptable in the field to return home. Any cost incurred as a result of this action will solely be the responsibility of the team participant.



### **5.5 Required Documentation**

- Application for Short-Term missions
- Personal testimony form
- Criminal Background Check (Background checks are completed annually and the cost is absorbed by the team participant. For updated cost, contact the appropriate team leader or the Missions Team Chairperson. In the event that an individual has a history of criminal activities, the Missions team will discuss the matter and will determine whether or not he/she will be allowed to participate in mission endeavors of FBC Lawton.
- List of 5 prayer partners.
- Copy of passport and/or visa for international trips.
- Notarized Waiver of Liability, and Emergency Medical Care Authorization form.
- Proof of insurance, and documentation that it is valid overseas if it is an international trip.

### **5.6 Insurance**

All FBC Lawton mission teams participating in international mission travel are required to have travel insurance. Travel insurance is purchased through a FBC Lawton approved insurance company and is included in the total trip cost for each team participant. The safety and health of each of our team members is important, not only to the team participant but also to his/her family and FBC Lawton. In the event that there is a health emergency while in the field, FBC Lawton wants to make certain that proper care and treatment can be administered immediately and without delay. Granted, anything can happen while serving in the mission field, but we must be proactive and have a plan of response in the event that an emergency occurs.

## 6.1 Implementation of Strategy

**Prayer Alignment:** The fuel of missions is prayer, therefore the key to implementing our priorities and strategy is through consistent and broad-based prayer support. We desire that our priorities are intentionally and specifically lifted to God in prayer.

**Ministry Integration:** Missions must not be only a priority to our Missions team, but for our church to be aligned in our strategy it must become a priority to all our ministries. The goal is for all our adult, youth and children’s ministries to interface with our mission priorities at some level.

**Publicity and Publications:** Through the production of various publications and our church newsletter and website we will continually be making the priorities and needs of missionaries known to our people.

**Annual Mission Celebration:** For the purpose of bringing awareness to FBC body of the mission work of FBC Lawton including mission trips and project support and the impact it is having in advancing the gospel.

**Short-Term and Vision Trips:** We will attempt to engage in an increasing number of short-term and vision trips with our strategic partners. Short-term trips will be done through partnership with an agency or field workers, and we will look to those entities to communicate their needs, and then address how we can possibly meet them. Vision trips will be for the purpose of examining how we can engage in areas where we have never had “boots on the ground.” They will also be used to expose participants to a cross-cultural context with which they are not familiar.

**Missions Spotlight:** On Sunday mornings, monthly if possible, we would like to interview or feature one of our missionary partners with an interview or prayer emphasis.