

SRPC Mission Coordination Group

Mission Policy Guidelines

Prologue

Mission is an act of love. The basis of all mission, we believe, is God's love for His world (John 3:16). Since the MCG has been set up we have stressed that mission is what everyone in SRPC does 24/7. However, this document is specifically about cross-cultural and overseas mission.

The central inspiration that we seek to build our mission approach upon is: **“blessed to be a blessing”**. As God has blessed us in so many ways, we now aim to play our role in passing God's blessings onto others.

The Biblical Basis of Mission

1. Mission begins in the heart of God. The whole of the Bible, from Genesis (Genesis 12:1-3) to Revelation (Rev 7:9) is about mission, in setting out God's strategy of redeeming fallen mankind.
2. That Jesus Christ's command to His Church to reach out with the Gospel in the power of the Holy Spirit is explicit. This is set out in Matthew 28 vv18-20; Mark 16 vv 15-18; Luke 24 vv46-49; John 20 v21; Acts 1 v8.
3. Therefore we seek to be a missionary church playing our role in God's Mission to His world

SRPC / MCG Mission Statements

Saintfield Road Presbyterian Church (SRPC) exists to bring the people of our district together so that they may worship God, make a commitment to Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord, and share in fellowship - and to equip and mobilise them for effective Christian witness and service in the local community and beyond.

The **SRPC Mission Coordination Group (MCG)** exists in order to inform, inspire and support the whole church family, both those directly involved in cross-cultural and overseas mission and those supporting them, in participating in God's mission of witness and service to His world.

The Aims of the MCG

Coming from our understanding of the Biblical basis for Mission and from the SRPC and MCG mission statements, the three overall aims of the SRPC MCG are that:

- SRPC will become more fully **aware** of all that God is doing locally and across His world.
- SRPC will **support** mission and our missionaries prayerfully, personally and financially.
- SRPC will **encourage, inspire** and **mentor** members of the congregation in recognising and responding to the call of God's Spirit to become involved in Mission (Acts 13).

MCG Membership

MCG was set up by Session and all members of MCG are confirmed by Session.

The aim is for the MCG to have approximately 6 members at any one time.

Membership rotation in the MCG should ensure that fresh voices and ideas are always welcome. The aim is for the membership of the MCG to have a balance of genders, ages and experiences.

Ideally at least one member of the MCG will be an elder in order to facilitate good communication between the session and the MCG.

MCG membership commitment

Part of the commitment to being an MCG member is to be available on the second Thursday of each month for regular meetings.

Also available for planning and participating in regular events organised by MCG

Process for interested individuals

These guidelines are designed to support and encourage anyone exploring mission service:

- It is recognised that normally the initiative regarding missionary service, short or longer term, will come from members who sense the call to missionary service.
- We would expect members who are sensing the call of God to missionary service to informally share their leading with the minister, youth worker, or a member of the MCG, at an early stage to facilitate prayerful support, counsel and advice.
- When a member becomes ready to further pursue this sense of God's direction to mission service, a more formal meeting / interview will be carried out with members of the MCG and/or session.
- At this stage the church would have contact with the relevant missionary organisation which would begin the application / interview process. Throughout this process the MCG will seek to give prayerful and practical support and encouragement.
- When the application process is complete the church will continue to offer support – through prayer, advice, and the raising of finance if necessary - throughout the preparatory period.
- Once in assignment missionaries will be expected to keep in regular touch with the church. The church will also regularly remember, support and, most importantly, pray for the missionary.
- On home assignment, or at the end of assignment, the MCG will arrange a debrief for the missionary and will facilitate opportunities for reporting to the wider church.

SRPC commitment to members of our church involved in mission

Support for SRPC members involved in mission will take the form of:

Prayer Support

The MCG will organise and contribute to prayer meetings to encourage prayer for those involved in mission. We will seek to give regular updates of prayer points and prayer requests to the congregation through the Sunday morning and evening services throughout the year and in the specific mission report back services. We will also seek to facilitate the distribution of prayer letters as widely as possible through both hard copy and electronic means.

Personal Support

We will seek to encourage the congregation to maintain contact with our missionaries through the sending of emails, letters, care packages, etc.

November 2014