

### **C. Short Term Missionaries – West Side members**

West Side church members and friends entering ministry beyond West Side for less than one year, including summer youth in summer youth program mission trips, will be designated short term missionaries. A Short-Term Mission Trip (STMT) is a dedicated time of service (one week to one year) when one uses the gifts and talents that Christ has imparted to serve others in a location away from home.

As God's disciples and ambassadors in His ministry of reconciliation, we believe the purpose of a STMT is to proclaim and demonstrate the life transforming power of Jesus Christ by ministering in His love to the physical, spiritual, mental, and emotional needs of others wherever God leads. To this end, we want to encourage and facilitate participation in short term mission endeavors. The Mission Committee will provide direction and encouragement and will consider financial assistance to all West Side persons considering participation in a short term mission ministry. The Mission Committee's role will be one of an innovative facilitator and encourager, handling volunteers on a case-by-case basis.

#### **1. Procedure for request for funds**

The short term mission applicant who desires financial support and/or wishes to raise funds within the church must be associated with West Side Church. He or she must complete the Short Term Mission Application (Appendix D) and be interviewed by the missions committee. If the applicant is a West Side youth, he or she must have the recommendation of the Youth Pastor, Senior Pastor or other youth leader. Minors must have the parental or legal guardian's written permission to participate in the mission. (The annual youth mission trip is not administered under this program).

Upon completion of the interview, the Mission Committee will forward its decision whether to recommend the STMT and the amount/type of financial support to the Outreach Department for approval. The Outreach chair will forward the request, if approved, to the Stewardship & Finance Department for consideration and their concurrence of the fund raising strategy. If approved by the Stewardship & Finance Department, the Outreach Department will then present the plan to session for approval.

After the candidate's application is approved by the session, the Mission Committee will disburse any requested funds and the short term missionary may raise additional funds, if approved.

#### **2. Commissioning of short term missionaries**

Short term missionaries will be commissioned prior to their departure during a Sunday worship service. This will serve to notify the congregation of the short term mission purpose and those involved so that informed prayer support by many will be forthcoming.

#### **3. Report after completion of STMT**

Following the mission trip, all short term missionaries will give a report either in writing or preferably in person to the committee and/or the congregation as to what was accomplished on the field and in his/her own life.