

River Hills Community Church		Policy Number: 2008-07
River Hills Policies & Procedures		Revision: 2
TITLE:	Short-Term Missionary	Page 1 of 4

Short-Term Missionary

Table of Contents

<u>SECTION</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
1.0 DEFINITION AND PURPOSE.....	2
2.0 GOALS.....	2
3.0 TYPES OF TRIPS.....	2
4.0 QUALIFICATIONS.....	2
5.0 PROCEDURES.....	3
6.0 MID-TERM TRIPS.....	3
7.0 TRIPS NOT SPONSORED BY RHCC.....	3

Created Date: 10/01/08 Revised Date: 03/24/2018
--

Policy Originator: International Ministries Team	Approved by: Board of Elders, 12/4/2017
--	---

Summary of Changes 3/24/18: Clarified qualifications for participation (Section 4); Addressed EFCA/ReachGlobal led trips (Section 5)
--

What are Short-term Mission trips?

Short-term Missions at River Hills Community Church (RHCC) is a vital part of the work of growing us into a church that has a vision for the greatness of God displayed in the nations of the world. We see our role in sending short-term missionaries as a way to help us see, as well as be a part of in a practical way, the work God is doing in other parts of the world.

2.0 GOALS

Short-term missions will serve a dual purpose. First, we will encourage the missionary and the local indigenous church as we come alongside them in the work they are doing. Second, we will display the greatness of God to those who do not know Him through our service to them.

Short-term missions trips will also be field driven. That is, we will go as we are invited by the long-term missionaries, who know the language and culture, to help in a specific work. Our role in short-term missions is to serve the missionary and the local indigenous church.

We will also seek to send some of our leaders on each team. We believe that the younger among us will serve best alongside proven leaders from RHCC.

Sending people from RHCC is a benefit both to those who go and those who send. We desire that those who go would gain a deeper understanding of missionary work and how the gospel of Jesus Christ is changing lives in other peoples of the world. We expect returning teams to encourage the congregation to further share in God's work.

3.0 TYPES OF TRIPS

There are two types of short-term mission trips the first being less than 6 months. The second, which we shall call mid-term, are trips lasting anywhere from 6 months up to 2 years. Trips 2 years and longer will be evaluated under the River Hills Community Church Long Term Missionary Policy 2007-01.

4.0 QUALIFICATIONS

The following qualifications are necessary for participation in a short-term mission trip.

1. Commitment to Jesus Christ and His gospel.
2. Member of RHCC, or regular attendee of RHCC when not prevented by circumstances such as education, military service, or health.
3. Actively participated in a small group at RHCC for at least 6 months within the past two years unless prevented by circumstances such as education, military service, or health.
4. Agreement with RHCC doctrinal statement of faith.
5. Evidence of ability to serve in specific area of assignment on short-term team.

6. Must be at least 16 years old. Those under 18 must be accompanied by a parent.
7. Must complete the relevant RHCC application.
8. Must be willing to do pre-field orientation and preparation and attend all required meetings, even for trips not sponsored by RHCC.
9. Ability to work with and serve others. Must be able to get along with people who are not like them.
10. Will contribute to and raise financial support for the trip.

The International Ministry (IM) team and the Board of Elders reserve final approval of all participants.

5.0 PROCEDURES FOR SHORT-TERM MISSION SPONSORED BY RHCC

This section covers short-term mission trips organized and led by RHCC as well as ReachGlobal organized trips that work directly with RHCC supported missionaries (e.g., TREK7/APEX).

1. The trip will be brought to the IM team for approval. Trips will ordinarily be field driven; that is, the missionary will ask us to come for a particular task.
2. The IM team will inform the Board of Elders of the trip and receive approval for fund raising allocation.
3. The trip will be announced to the church as far in advance as possible, asking the congregation to pray that God would raise up a team.
4. Applications for the short-term mission will be reviewed by the IM team.
5. The Short-Term Mission coordinator or ReachGlobal will appoint a team leader.
6. Once a team is in place, the RHCC participants will meet regularly for prayer, training, and planning.
7. The RHCC participants are responsible for raising their support. This should be done by each team member sending out at least 20 letters to interested family and friends outside of RHCC, and support from his/her own personal earnings as they are able.
8. The RHCC participants will also send a letter to the RHCC congregation asking for prayer and financial support.
9. Prayer is a vital foundation to short-term trips and each RHCC participant will find at least 5 people who will commit to pray for them as they prepare and go.
10. Typically, the IM team recommends supplying no more than 20% of the total cost from the RHCC Short Term Mission Fund. The IM team can request a higher percentage from the Board of Elders for approval.
11. Special overseas medical insurance purchase is required.
12. Within the elder-approved funds, all expenses related to short-term trips must be approved by the Short-Term Mission coordinator for trips organized and led by RHCC. Expenses for ReachGlobal trips are governed by ReachGlobal's requirements and reimbursement for participants must be sought from ReachGlobal.

6.0 MID-TERM TRIPS

Mid-term trips will have the same requirements as short-term trips. In addition, someone who is pursuing a mid-term trip should be someone who is thinking that God may be calling them into a full-time missionary career. The individual must also have recommendations from leadership at RHCC that can confirm their gifts and abilities to do ministry. An interview with the IM team will be required for approval of the trip and the missionary must go with an agency approved by the IM team.

7.0 TRIPS NOT SPONSORED BY RHCC

Anyone wishing to go on a short-term mission trip not covered by Section 5.0 may apply to the IM team for support. Financial support from the Short Term Mission Fund will be based on him/her meeting the requirements for short-term missionaries in Section 4.0 and how the trip fits into our goals for short-term trips. To be considered for funding, anyone going on a missions trip should go with an agency approved by the IM team.

The individual will not be allowed to raise support from within the general congregation but can raise it from those friends and family within the church. The missionary should also use their own personal earnings for support. Money from the Short Term Mission Fund may be used to help support the individual up to 20% of total amount needed, except when a higher percentage is approved by the Board of Elders of RHCC.

8.0 NON-RHCC INDIVIDUALS PARTICIPATING IN RHCC SPONSORED TRIPS

If the short-term team leader and the IM team agree that there is an opportunity for involvement by an individual not regularly attending RHCC, the individual may be able to participate if the following requirements are agreed to:

1. The individual will need to provide a letter of recommendation from a pastor or elder of their church and/or acceptance by the long-term missionary receiving the short-term team.
2. The individual will be responsible for all expenses related to the trip that they incur. These expenses include all travel, lodging, in-country and other trip-related costs.
3. If the individual will be raising support to participate on the short-term team, the individual must raise support with the funds handled by their local church to ensure accountability. RHCC will not handle support or expenses for an individual outside of RHCC.