

Congregational Assistance Policies and Procedures

Nevada Baptist Convention

Missions Committee

- I. Sources of Funds:** The Cooperative Program contributions from churches in the Nevada Baptist Convention are combined with mission gifts from the North American Mission Board, SBC. The matching percentage ratio is predetermined by a Cooperative Agreement between the Nevada Baptist Convention (NBC) and the North American Mission Board (NAMB). The Executive Director-treasurer of NBC and the Regional Coordinator of NAMB review this Cooperative Agreement annually. The percentage ratio is ninety-one percent (91%) NAMB and nine percent (9%) NBC.
- II. Purpose of Congregational Assistance Funds:** The congregational assistance funds are designated to assist churches and church-type missions fulfill their mission's purpose. Funds may be used to start new churches, establish outreach ministries, and assist churches and ministry personnel in fulfilling their missionary call.
- III. Criteria for Approval for Assistance:**
- A. Guidelines for congregations receiving assistance.**
1. Our intent is to start Southern Baptist Churches that will remain Southern Baptist and will grow to be reproducing churches. The requesting congregation and receiving congregation shall be a cooperating Southern Baptist Congregation in fellowship with a local association, Nevada Baptist Convention and the Southern Baptist Convention. A cooperating church is one that contributes financially to world missions through their local association and through the Cooperative Program in their state; is one that reports annually through the Annual Church Profile; and is one that participates in associational and state convention events.
 2. Funding shall be for churches, missions, projects and ministries consistent with the mission strategies of the local association, NBC and NAMB.
 3. The receiving congregation will have written growth plans defining measurable goals in the areas of Evangelism/Missions, Discipleship/ Education, Ministries, Worship/Stewardship, and Fellowship.
 4. The receiving congregation will have a written strategic ministry plan for the people group or the community where the ministry is, or will be, located.
 5. Congregational Assistance funds are intended for the purpose of facilitating a church planting movement. A new congregation is defined by the NAMB personnel as congregations less than five years old. However, churches older than five years may receive assistance in extreme emergency circumstances, such as operations, rent, utilities, travel, etc.
 6. All funding is approved for a calendar year ending on December 31. For funding to continue into a new calendar year a new request must be submitted. All renewals will be considered one year at a time for not more than 5 years.
 7. Congregations receiving assistance from the church planting portion of the Silver State Missions offering will not be eligible to receive NBC assistance from the

congregational assistance line item. Exceptions will be considered for new church starts within their first two years of public service.

8. The Silver State Missions offering church planting portion will be used for emergency assistance in accordance to NBC policies for ministry and church needs.
9. Approved funds will be made payable to sponsoring churches unless the Church Planting Division Office is notified in writing by the sponsoring entity to send the check to a different account.
10. Pastor/Church leader shall submit a monthly report of ministry activities to the Associational Director of Missions and the NBC Missions Resources Director. The reports are due on or before the 25th day of each month. The financial assistance check is mailed upon receipt of the monthly report.
11. Congregations receiving salary supplement must verify their pastor meets the criteria set by the NAMB including a verification the pastor is covered with medical insurance and is participating in a valid retirement or annuity plan. Exception: Congregations receiving assistance for a period of less than three months, personnel criteria do not apply.
12. Ordination is not a requirement for funding by the NAMB.

B. Guidelines for Pastors of congregations receiving supplement

1. Pastors of congregations receiving salary supplement will need to complete appropriate forms provided by the Personnel Team of the NAMB prior to receiving funds. The process for “appointed” missionaries would take 60-90 days after the initial paper work is submitted. Approval is not automatic. The process for “approved” missionaries will take about 30 days once the paper work is submitted. A pastor should not move to the field before being approved unless the congregation is willing to assume the full support.
2. Pastor (and spouse) shall demonstrate a valid Christian experience and a commitment to Jesus Christ and His church. They must practice a strong moral life and a vital Christian witness.
3. Pastor shall affirm his doctrinal beliefs are consistent with the Baptist Faith and Message statement approved by the SBC in June 2000.
4. Pastor (and spouse) shall have a history of handling their personal finances responsibly.
5. Pastor (and spouse) shall be active members of a Southern Baptist Church in fellowship with their local association, state convention and the SBC.
6. Pastor must be a resident of the United States of America for at least one year. Non-U.S. Citizens must have a resident status that permits them to work in the United States.

Pastors shall complete and have on file at the ministry location/church the **US Government Form I-9, Employees Eligibility Verification.**

7. Pastor shall be willing to work along side a supervisor who has been trained in the art and science of supervision. Church planters shall be willing to work with a mentor-encourager for at least one year and participate in a monthly “Church Planter Network” (peer learning support group) in their association during the first year on the field.
8. Pastor shall be actively involved in the activities of the local association and supportive of the Nevada Baptist Convention.
9. If the church plant is dying or closes during or at the end of a phase down, the pastor will not be funded for a new work.
10. If a pastor or his wife has experienced divorce, their approval will be reviewed and determined by the NAMB Policy printed below.

“Divorce

The North American Mission Board desires that Missions Personnel receiving NAMB support who are appointed or approved, or those endorsed as Chaplains, set the finest possible example in terms of marriage and family in keeping with biblical teachings. Therefore, divorced people will rarely, and only under unusual circumstances, be appointed, approved or endorsed for mission service.

The biblical rationale for divorce is recognized as:

- A. For cause of sexual unfaithfulness. (Matthew 5:32; 19:1-12)
- B. For cause of desertion on the part of the unbelieving spouse.
(I Corinthians 7:10-17)

Pastoral Role

No one will be considered for appointment, approval, or endorsement for service in a pastoral role, unless the divorce is biblically- based and the person has not remarried. In the same manner, the wife cannot be divorced and remarried.

Other Roles

Divorced people may be considered for missions personnel appointment, approval or endorsement to other types of service if the divorce is determined to be biblically based.

Guidelines Regarding Divorce For Use By Missionary Personnel Staff For Evaluating Paid Missions Personnel Candidates and Chaplains:

1. From the official date of divorce, the missions personnel or chaplaincy candidate shall have waited two years before remarriage.
2. In the event of remarriage, the missions personnel or chaplaincy candidate will have experienced five years of successful years of second marriage.
3. In the event of divorce and no remarriage, a candidate will be considered after five years from the date of divorce to the date of appointment, approval or endorsement.

4. People now serving who have been divorced and remarried shall remain in service.

5. All missions personnel and chaplains who are currently serving and who get a divorce and/or remarry after acceptance of this policy, as it pertains to them, will be evaluated under the term of this policy.

A. This means that appointed or approved missions personnel serving prior to June 19, 1997, and chaplains serving prior to May 3, 2000, who have been divorced and/or remarried shall remain in service.

B. This also means that appointed or approved missions personnel serving after June 19, 1997, and chaplains serving after May 3, 2000, and divorcing and/or remarrying will be evaluated under the terms of this divorce policy.”

11. Neither the pastor nor his wife shall be actively participating in or promoting glossolalia as defined by the North American Board Policy.

“Glossolalia

No person who is actively participating in or promoting glossolalia shall be appointed, approved or endorsed by NAMB. This includes having a private prayer language. A representative of NAMB shall counsel any missions personnel serving under NAMB appointment, approval or endorsement, who becomes involved in glossolalia. Continued participation will result in termination.”

12. All NAMB policies will be adhered to.

IV. Procedures for funding process.

A. The Associational Director of Missions (ADOM) or a representative of the Association will submit funding request forms for the following year by July 31st. In case of lack of funds, the DOM’s will be asked to prioritize requests and/or a percentage formula will be utilized.

B. The Missions Resources Director of NBC will review all requests and send them to the Missions Committee two or three weeks prior to the September Executive Board Meeting for review.

C. During the Missions Committee Meeting, the committee will approve or disapprove each request based on NBC and NAMB policies and funds available.

D. The Missions Committee will not allocate more than eighty percent (80 %) of funds available at this meeting. Ten percent (10 %) will be allocated at the March Executive Board Meeting. Ten percent (10 %) will be used at the discretion of the Missions Resources Director in accordance to NBC policies for emergency assistance.

E. The ADOM will submit funding requests for the March Missions Committee Meeting by January 31.

- F.** The ADOM can submit a funding request to the Missions Resources Director for approval by the Missions Committee via mail or phone vote if funds are available.
- G.** Silver State Missions Offering funds designated for Church Planting/ Missions use will be available after the March Executive Board Meeting. The funds will be used for emergency assistance for ministry and church needs at the discretion of the Missions Resources Director in accordance to NBC policies.

V. Cooperative Agreement

If a church ceases to be a cooperating Southern Baptist Church, the members of the church agree to repay the Nevada Baptist Convention the mission dollars previously granted. The repayment time frame is immediately upon withdrawing from the convention. All entities receiving funds are required to be cooperating as covered in III,A,1.

These Policies and Procedures can be reviewed and modified by the Missions Committee when necessary.

Approved March 4, 2003