First Baptist Church Missions Policy

I. PURPOSE
A. Definition of Missions
The First Baptist Church of Fort Walton Beach Florida affirms the definition of missions to be any evangelistic endeavor outside our local congregation focused toward fulfilling the Great Commission by proclaiming the Gospel of Christ, making disciples and gathering these disciples into local congregations. Our efforts will center on the total person by addressing their individual spiritual, physical, emotional, and social needs.

B. Purpose Statement
The goal of our missions effort is to win individuals to the Lord, equip them in the faith and assist in establishing churches that have the same aim wherever the occasion presents itself. The missions committee shall seek to guide our church in light of this purpose statement. Our church endeavors to support local, regional, national and international missions programs.

C. The Missions Policy
1. Purpose:
   a. Provide guidelines to stay on a proper course.
   b. Avoid making important decisions on an emotional or haphazard basis.
   c. Maintain consistency as committee members change.
   d. Ensure good stewardship in the allocation of mission funds.
2. Expectations - this policy is a statement of principles not a rigid set of rules. Occasionally, exceptions will need to be made. When that occurs, two thirds of the mission committee must approve the exception.
3. Revisions - The missions policy shall be reviewed and revised as often as needed, with a scheduled review every third year.

II. The Missions Committee
A. Size and Selection
The missions committee shall consist of five to seven members, which includes the chairman (changes will be in accordance to the bylaws of the Church as amended). The committee on committees shall consult with the missions committee chairman and fill vacancies as appropriate.

B. Term of Office
Each member shall serve a term as defined in the Church’s bylaws. Ideally, the person will serve more than one term.

C. Chairperson
The committee on committees will select a chairperson from the currently serving members. This individual is responsible for the proper functioning of the missions committee.
D. Expectations
Members are expected to:
1. Attend the mission committee meetings.
2. Take an active role in the decision process.
3. Serve on special subcommittees that may be formed.
4. Continue to learn about missions outreach.
5. Set an example to the church membership through personal missions interest.
6. Devote much of their energy to furthering the missions program of the church.

E. Responsibilities
The Mission Committee is charged with the following:
1. **Prayer.** Be a major force to mobilize the congregation to pray for missionaries and the world evangelism in general.
2. **Education.** Be a leader a comprehensive missions education program by working with other mission agencies within the church.
3. **Finance.** Prepare a missions budget and oversee its implementation throughout the year. The committee will always be responsible for recommending changes in financial support additions, deletions, or support-level changes for specific individuals or organizations.
4. **Evaluation.** Review the missions effectiveness of the church and make adjustments as necessary.
5. **Listen.** Receive and consider input from church members and make adjustments as necessary.

III. STRATEGY
A. Goals
The missions committee shall seek to establish short and long-range goals for their various responsibilities with dependence on the leadership of the Holy Spirit.

B. Priorities
Recognizing that there are will always be more needs that we can fulfill, the following is meant to assist us in our decision making. We have a two-fold mission strategy; mobilization and global evangelization. Mobilization includes our efforts to help our people more mission active. Global evangelization includes our efforts to help complete the Great Commission. While there can be overlap between the two, we have different goals for each category.

1. Mobilization Priorities
   a. Ministries sponsored by our church. This also includes church short-term teams and/or any other cross-cultural ministries we initiate.
   b. Ministries sponsored by individuals from our church and endorsed by the church.
   c. Emerald Coast Fellowship of Baptist Churches mission projects.
   d. Other.
2. Global Evangelization Priorities
   a. Missionary support: Priority is given to the Southern Baptist Convention Cooperative Program.
   b. Strategic Ministry Support: This category is for those opportunities where we can make a difference for the kingdom of God, regardless of any relationship or benefit to our church. We may never see the missionary, national or City/Country.

IV. Financial Policies
   A. Annual Budget
      The Missions Committee shall prepare an annual budget each year that is submitted to the finance committee for inclusion in the church’s annual budget.

   B. International Missions
      The missions committee shall establish a goal (either a dollar amount or percentage of the total budget) for the Cooperative Program.

   C. Monetary Support
      Support funds will normally be distributed monthly, small annual amounts will be distributed at the discretion of the finance committee.

   D. Ministry Evaluation
      Missionary/project support shall be evaluated annually prior to being included in the next year’s budget.
      Considerations:
      1. For efforts previously funded - is the need continuing?
      2. Other needs.
      Is it an existing Christian project/program? If not specifically a Christian project/program, is the institution/organization faith based? Will the “Good News” be introduced/proclaimed?
      3. If it is a social program why should we support it?
      4. Projected funds available.