

Trinity Bible Church at River Oaks

Philosophy of Missions

Purpose for Philosophy of Missions

Our overall purpose as a congregation is to glorify God by obeying His revealed will in the Scriptures (2 Cor 4:15). We trust that this philosophy of missions document can serve Trinity Bible Church at River Oaks in our pursuit of faithfulness to the Lord in at least two key areas:

- Stewardship of our congregation's resources, whether spiritual or material.
- Leadership of our congregation in partnering with others outside our congregation, as well as sending and supporting our own members.

In short, this Philosophy of Missions is offered to prevent us from haphazardly carrying out God's work and to promote our overall purpose as a church in the area of missions: *"to proclaim the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ" and "to promote missionary interest and endeavor"* (TBCRO Constitution, Article II, Section 1, Paragraph b and d and Article III, Section 12).

Participation of Church Members

We believe that all members of TBCRO are called to serve the Lord using their gifts and abilities in the strengthening and the expansion of Christ's church for His glory. So we encourage all those who consider TBCRO to be their church home to participate in missions in these three ways:

- Engage locally (serve our city and the Mississippi gulf coast area)
- Engage globally (serve as senders or go as workers)
- Pray (for our missionaries and ministry partners, for our city and for more laborers)

Principles Governing the Support of Missions and Missionaries

- Spiritual Integrity

We will only partner with missions (missionaries, mission endeavor, etc.) who demonstrate exemplary Christ-like character and proven ministry capabilities.

- Doctrinal Harmony

We will only partner with missions (missionaries, mission endeavor, etc.) whose doctrinal position is in harmony with our doctrinal position (TBCRO Constitution, Article III).

- Relational Connectedness

It is our desire to partner with missions (missionaries, mission endeavor, etc.) with whom we have an established, growing relationship or with those who have a desire to develop and maintain a strong relationship with us as a sending and/or supporting church. Individual missionaries must be members of and in good standing with an approved mission agency. We will partner with mission agencies in the care of our supporting missionaries.

Projects

When we participate in trips or projects, we seek two outcomes: we desire to have a helpful impact on those we serve and we desire to be transformed in the process. Short-term mission trips and/or short-term service projects must be well conceived, and must support long-term objectives. Free will offerings can be taken to support projects, but all such offerings must be approved by the Board of Elders (TBCRO By-Laws, Article II, Section 3, Paragraph e).