

MA/RI District North American Missions Policy

Article 1 – Purpose

We, the ministers of the Massachusetts/Rhode Island District of the United Pentecostal Church International, recognize the need to “preach the gospel to every creature” to the very best of our ability and, by the grace of our Lord, to bring as many souls as we can to a saving faith in Him before His return for the church. More specifically, we focus our attention in fulfilling our commission as stated in Mt 28:18-20 on the vast multitude of souls residing within the boundaries of Massachusetts and Rhode Island. As it is our desire to establish a basis on which we may, together, labor wisely and effectively, we hereby establish the following MA/RI District North American Missions Policy.

Nothing in this policy statement is to be construed as superseding any aspect of policies & procedures outlined in the General Constitution of the United Pentecostal Church International. Should there be any conflict between the two documents, the latter will always be the controlling authority.

Article 2 – District organization

Section 1 – District North American Missions Executive Committee

The District North American Missions Executive Committee shall consist of the District Superintendent, the District North American Missions Director, the Sectional Presbyter and the Sectional North American Missions Director in whose section the project or individual of concern is located.

Section 2 – District North American Missions Board

The District North American Missions Board shall consist of the District North American Missions Director, the District North American Missions Secretary, a Sectional North American Missions Director from each Section in the District, and the District Spanish Ministries Coordinator. As the demographics of our District evolve and develop, it may be desirable to add additional Ministry Coordinators for additional culture/language groups from time to time.

Section 3 - Duties of the District North American Missions Board

- A) To meet as often as necessary, but at least twice each year, to conduct business and develop programs of the North American Missions Department, and to plan their implementation. Such meetings may be conducted in virtual conference forums such as Zoom or Skype as well as in person, depending on existing circumstances at the time,
- B) District Board approval is required prior to moving forward with any procedure or program that has implications beyond the operation of the Board itself,
- C) To promote and facilitate evangelism within each Section and throughout the District through the establishment of church plants, preaching points, and daughter works,
- D) To formulate District North American Missions Policy with the approval of the District Board and the District Conference ~~when~~ appropriate,
- E) To lead the District in raising Christmas For Christ and other North American Missions Funds,
- F) To make available to our missionaries and pastors in our district documents and forms necessary to facilitate starting church planting and to qualify for financial and other

support. Any forms referred to in this policy statement are available on the MA/RI District Website or the General North American Missions' website.

2

Article 3 – Funding

Section 1 – Purpose of Funding

- A) Monetary funds are needed to meet the operational expenses of the District North American Missions Board and to underwrite the development of North American missionaries from within our own ranks and to help make it possible for them to become missionaries in their own right. Funds are also needed to recruit and attract others from outside our District to come to establish new churches within our District.

Section 2 – Source of Funding

- A) These funds will come, primarily, from two sources – our annual Christmas For Christ campaign and free will offerings from local churches. These funds are raised for the benefit of our missionaries in their efforts to plant and establish churches across our district. It is requested that every local church send in a monthly offering to help support the District North American Missions program. These may be designated for either a specific missionary or project, or for the Board's operational expenses (undesignated).
- B) All offerings should be sent directly to the District North American Missions Secretary or the District Secretary with clear instructions as to any designation. If such instructions are not given, or if they cannot be deciphered, they will be dispersed as the District North American Missions Board sees fit. All offerings will be dispersed faithfully as designated by the donor.

Section 3 – North American Missionary Assistance

- A) These funds, given by the faithful saints across the MA/RI District for the benefit and support of our NAM Missionaries, are to be allocated by the District North American Missions Board subject to the approval of the District Board and disbursed in accordance with District Board and Centralized Bookkeeping Policy. The funds are to be used for the intended purpose – to strengthen the hands of missionary families committed to establishing self-governing churches in our district.
- Financial assistance is available to our North American Missionaries for needs such as personal or church emergencies, revival assistance, attending district meetings and conferences as funds are available at the discretion of the District North American Missions Board up to \$3,000.00 per year. Application for this assistance is to be made by written request or email request to the missionary's Sectional NAM Director, the District NAM Secretary, or the District NAM Director, who will promptly forward it to the other Board members for immediate consideration. Such request must include an explanation of the reason for the request, and must be justified by supplying receipts or other supporting documentation to the District NAM Board. In cases where the exact cost of a project is not known at the time of a request, a fair estimate is to accompany the request, and receipts are to be supplied after the project is completed. Any of the funds extended in advance not supported with receipts or documentation is to be returned. If receipts and documentation show a cost greater than the extended funds, the difference will be issued to the missionary.
- B) It is our desire to create an environment that is inviting to prospective Home missionaries. To that end, funds are available from the District NAM account to assist approved North American Missionaries in relocating to their chosen field of labor within our district. The Missionary receiving these funds may be either a couple moving in from outside our District, or a couple already living here. The amount available for a missionary couple shall not exceed \$4,000.00. Exceptions to that limit may be made at the discretion of the District Board, at the recommendation of the District North American Missions Board. The actual amount available will depend on funds available in the District North American Missions account.
- C) Financial assistance in any form will be available to missionaries only after they have completed and filed an Affiliation Form with the District NAM Board, to be forwarded to the District Board for review and

forwarding to UPCI Church Administration.

D) As funds are available, District North American Missions will help with finances to enable our Missionaries

3

to attend other meetings deemed to be supportive of their church planting efforts across our national fellowship. Such meetings may be instructional and afford training, or spiritually uplifting and encouraging (such as, but not limited to: Because of The Times, Winterfire, The Apostolic Conference, Landmark Conference, etc).

E) Attendance at the annual Methods For the Mission missionary retreat, or absence for good reason, is required in order to qualify for any district North American Missions funds. Any request to be excused from attending the retreat will be reviewed by the district North American Missions Executive Committee to determine if it's to be considered "good reason". Except in cases of unexpected, emergency situations, such requests should be submitted to the District North American Missions Board at least 30 days before the start date for Methods For the Mission retreat.

Article 4 – Collection & Disbursement of North American Missions Funds

Section 1 - Applicability of the General Constitution of the United Pentecostal Church, Int'l

Those portions of the North American Missions Policy in the current General Constitution of the United Pentecostal Church, International that pertain to Raising, Holding, Allocation of Funds are incorporated into this Policy statement as if they were reprinted here in their entirety. (See Article 12, Section 14, Paras 5, 6, 7, General UPCI Constitution)

Section 2 - Property Owned by Individuals

No District North American Missions Funds shall be available for loan or grant for purchase or improvement of real property for which title of ownership is held in the name of an individual or individuals. Title of ownership must be held in the name of the local incorporated North American Missions church.

Section 3 – Funds to be Dispersed as Designated

Any offerings received will be faithfully dispersed as the donor has designated.

Article 5 – Preaching Points and Daughter Works

Section 1 – Purpose

In an effort to facilitate an environment of cooperation and effective use of available resources – both personnel and finances - the following policies are adopted. The primary purpose of these is to foster clear communication amongst the pastors of the MA/RI District by providing a structure by which all involved ministers will be informed of developments that could affect them in some way, while, at the same time, promoting the planting of new churches across our district. The goal is that these policies would accelerate the evangelization of our district, while not hindering the mission with overly burdensome requirements and procedures.

Section 2 – Mother Church

A Mother Church is defined as an established church that desires to develop men for ministry and evangelize neighborhoods, communities and/or cultures by starting Preaching Points and Daughter Congregations, and, ultimately, making new church plants possible.

Section 3 – Preaching Point

A) A Preaching Point is defined as a regular service or meeting which is operated under the legal and

4

administrative oversight of the mother church, and is:

1. Distinct from the mother church as to location or language
2. Designed to reach people who are currently un-churched
3. Seen as a first step toward possibly starting a daughter work

This definition of a Preaching Point does not include a church having a service in a prison, nursing home, jail, on a college or high school campus or in any other institutional setting.

- B) The timing by which a Preaching Point evolves into a daughter work is to be determined by the pastor of the Mother Church in consultation with the Preaching Point leadership.
- C) With approval of the District North American Missions Executive Committee, an existing church can establish a Preaching Point in any city or town. It is important that other nearby pastors are aware of the new work. Communication-with that Committee may be directly with any member of it. Preferably, initial communication will be with the Sectional NAM director. Approval is obtained by submitting a completed “Mother – Daughter Church/Preaching Point Application” to the District NAM Board, and District Board.
- D) In the event there is a United Pentecostal Church congregation in the city or town under consideration for the Preaching Point, the notice is to be given to the District Board and the pastor of any nearby church is to be advised.
- E) The existence of a Preaching Point in a city or town does not preclude another church from applying for approval to start another Preaching Point or Daughter Congregation in that city or town. It also does not preclude someone from applying for approval to start a new North American Mission church plant in that city or town.
- F) Preaching Points may be listed in the Directory of the United Pentecostal Church by submitting a completed “Request to List Preaching Point/Daughter Work in Directory” form. The completed form is to be submitted to the Sectional North American Missions Director for the section in which the Mother Church is located, or the District North American Missions Secretary or Director. It is, then, to be circulated amongst the District North American Missions Board for referral to the District Superintendent or District Secretary for signature and forwarding to UPCI Church Administration.

Section 4 - Daughter Congregation:

- A) A Daughter Congregation is a congregation which has met at least three months with at least one service a week apart from the Mother Church, whether at the same or a different location, and is the result of concerted efforts by an established Mother Church to plant a new congregation. A Daughter Congregation operates under the sole supervision of the pastor of the Mother Church. The Mother Church assumes all legal liability that may arise out of any actions or omissions of the Daughter Congregation, its leaders or its members. The daughter work is a ministry of the mother church, and as such it functions under the incorporation, bylaws, tax-exempt status, and affiliation of the mother church. The Mother Church pastor, alone, is responsible for the development of the Daughter Congregation and is answerable to the District Board in regards to any of its activities or the conduct of its leadership.
- B) A Daughter Congregation effort may be listed in the UPCI Directory with the approval of the District North America Missions Executive Committee or the District Board. The same procedure used to have a Preaching Point listed in the Directory applies to having a Daughter Work listed using the same form, “Request to List Preaching Point/Daughter Work in Directory”.
- A pastor desiring to establish a Daughter Congregation is to submit a completed “Mother–Daughter Church/Preaching Point Application” to the District NAM Board for review and submission to the district NAM Executive Committee. The appropriate Sectional Presbyter(s) will make sure neighboring pastors are aware of the new effort. The Mother Church pastor should receive a response within 30 days.

D) In the event there is a United Pentecostal Church congregation in the city or town under consideration for the Daughter Church, the approval of the District Board is required.

5

- E) The Mother Church assumes full financial responsibility for the Daughter Congregation. No financial assistance shall be available to the Daughter Congregation from either District or National funds until the Daughter Congregation becomes a self-governing North American Missions United Pentecostal Church. Until that time, the Daughter Congregation is considered strictly to be an outreach ministry of the Mother Church. The Daughter Congregation shall not solicit funds from any church other than the Mother Church.
- F) Any change in status of the Daughter Congregation (to a North American Missions church, for example) is to be undertaken at the discretion of the pastor of the Mother Church, and the District Board will accept an application for any such change only if it bears that pastor's signature.
- G) The existence of a Daughter Congregation in a community will not prevent the start of a North American Missions church in that community. Should a North American Missionary apply to start a church in a community where a Daughter Congregation exists, the Mother Church will be given opportunity to apply for North American Missions status for the Daughter Congregation. Final review and approval of one or both of these applications is to be made by the District Board, with recommendations received from the District North American Missions Board.
- H) Should the pastor of the Mother Church choose not to apply for Home Missions status for the Daughter Congregation, and should a North American Missionary come to the community and start a North American Missions church, the Mother Church will still have the opportunity to apply for North American Missions status for the Daughter Congregation when the pastor feels it is appropriate to do so.
- I) If the Daughter Congregation is located in a section other than that in which the Mother Church is located, for administrative purposes the leader of the Daughter Congregation will be under the jurisdiction of the presbyter of the section in which the Mother Church is located. If the leader of the Daughter Congregation is qualified to vote, he will vote as a member of the section in which the Mother Church is located.
- J) As much as possible, the leader of the Daughter Congregation and its members are encouraged to participate in functions occurring within the section in which the Daughter Congregation is located.
- K) Should the Mother Church choose to end a Daughter Congregation effort, the pastor of the Mother Church is to notify his Sectional North American Missions Director or his Presbyter as soon as possible. That Presbyter is to notify the North American Missions Director, or Secretary, of the closure, as well as the full District Board.
- L) The pastor of the Mother Church shall strive to develop and maintain positive ethical relationships with surrounding advising another pastor of attendance at any service of the daughter work by a member of his/her congregation.

Article 6 - The North American Missionary

Section 1 – General

Few areas of ministry are more trying and stressful than that of the North American Missionary committed to a new church plant. It is understood that Massachusetts and Rhode Island can be fields of evangelism that require much faith, prayer, persistence, and sheer determination. Raising up a new work can be stretching for an individual's, and the family's, emotional state of mind. As such, it is expected that the applicants have carefully sought the Lord in prayer and fasting, and come with an assurance that God has called them to this effort. It is strongly recommended that the applicants have a network of friends and ministers who are available to link with them in prayer, and to listen and encourage them, and their children.

Section 2 – Application

Any minister seeking North American Missions status is to complete an application and submit it to his/her pastor, for approval and referral to the District North American Missions Director for review and action by

6

the full District North American Missions Board, and referral to the District Board. Such application must be accompanied by a fully completed Affiliation Form. Upon approval of both these bodies, the minister will be invited to begin a ministry towards a church plant in the district. There are additional requirements should the missionary desire financial support through Christmas For Christ – see the North American Missions Policy of the General Constitution of the United Pentecostal Church, Int'l.

Section 3 – establishing the church as a self-governing church:

- Select members of the Board of Directors
- Prepare and file Articles of Incorporation with the Secretary of State
- Complete Application for Affiliation with the United Pentecostal Church
- Prepare church bylaws – adopt sample bylaws in the manual of the UPCI, or amend those as needed to suit the church vision, to be submitted to the NAM board and to the district board with the affiliation form and application for approval. If the sample bylaws in the UPCI Manual are adopted, they do not need to be submitted with the Affiliation form.

Section 4 – Missionary Qualifications

Certain qualifications will pertain to all applicants:

- A) Must hold license with the UPCI. This applies to any missionary – whether the plant is a fresh work, or the expansion of a Daughter Congregation or Preaching Point.
- B) Must have demonstrated a burden for souls by having been involved in soul winning activity, and having been a soul winner, as attested to by his pastor and others shown as references in the application.
- C) Must agree to abide by the various policies of the MA/RI District.
- D) Must agree to work in Christian harmony and cooperation with the other ministers in the district, and most especially with those in the general vicinity of his church plant. It is expected that such an attitude will be demonstrated in the relationships between the applicant and the ministers of his present district.
- E) The applicant's personal business affairs and personal relationships within his family must be in alignment with Biblical directives.
- F) The Missionary is to be fully familiar with the North American Missions Policy as stated in the General Constitution of the United Pentecostal Church, Int'l. That Policy is incorporated into this Policy as if reprinted here in its entirety. Nothing in this Policy shall supersede anything in that General Constitution.

Section 5 – Change in Status

Should the North American Missionary desire to change status in any way (e.g. terminate the work, assume a pastorate, leave the district, etc), notification is to be given to any member of the District North American Missions Board or the District Board so the decision and its repercussions can be discussed. The decision should have already been discussed with the missionary's pastor.

Section 6 – Missionary Development

In order to see our Missionaries encouraged to the accomplishment of their mission, to equip them with useful information and spiritual refreshment through fellowship with other

Missionaries - both those presently involved in a church plant and those who have successfully been involved in a church plant - District North American Missions will provide a

meeting to inspire, instruct and encourage our Missionaries at least once a year. In addition, as funds are available, District North American Missions will help with finances to enable our Missionaries to attend other meetings across our national fellowship.

Article 7 - Review of District North American Missions Policy

Section 1 – Scheduled Review

This Policy Statement will be thoroughly reviewed for needed updating at least every three years. Preferably, this Policy will be reviewed annually on an informal basis. The District North American Missions Director is responsible to see that this happens. He will involve the entire North American Missions Board in keeping this Policy Statement up to date, and will be sure the District Board is aware of any suggested changes.

Section 2 - Review As Needed

On an ongoing basis, when situations arise that demonstrate this Policy Statement is in need of revision, it is to be reviewed for potential alteration. Any changes are to be approved by the District North American Missions Board and referred to the District Board for approval and referral, when appropriate, to the District Conference. This is to be a document that serves a real purpose and provides real guidance to the North American Missions cause in our MA/RI District.