CCBFC Outreach Philosophy - General for Congregation

Definitions

1. **Outreach** - Any endeavor to evangelize, make disciples, plant churches, and relate to the whole need of mankind, both spiritual and physical. There are three major spheres included in CCBFC's outreach: Local Evangelism, Local Missions and Global Missions.

2. **Local Evangelism -** Those endeavors that are undertaken within our local congregation's normal sphere of influence aimed at our own north American cultural context. Evangelism involves all members of the CCBFC family sharing the Gospel with people similar in culture.

3. **Local Missions -** Evangelism and discipleship that involves crossing language and/or cultural barriers, but within our North American geographic area. In these cases, it is advantageous to learn the language and/or culture of the people one seeks to evangelize.

Convictions behind Outreach Philosophy

It is the desire of the Outreach Committee that the following convictions become embedded in the minds and hearts of each member of our church family to the point that they are life-impacting.

Conviction 1 – We believe Jesus Christ Himself in His self-emptying and in His identification with sinful humanity to the point of His substitutionary death on the cross is the perfect manifestation of the missionary heart of God. (Phil. 2:5-8)

Conviction 2 – We believe God is passionately committed to His fame. God's *ultimate* goal is that His name be known and praised by all the peoples of the earth and that the command of world missions is included in Isaiah 12:4: "Make known His deeds among the peoples, proclaim that His name is exalted."

Conviction 3 – We believe that worship is the fuel and the goal of missions and a God-centered theology in our fallen world must be a missional theology. Furthermore, we believe that love for the glory of God is evidenced by a love for the spreading of that glory among all the peoples of the world. Therefore, to worship Him is to share a passion to see His supremacy among the nations. (Rev.15:4)

Conviction 4 – We believe the Church has been commissioned by Jesus Christ to preach the gospel to all peoples (Matt. 28:19, 20) believing that He is the *only* way to God (John 14:6; Acts 4:12). Every believer bears responsibility to participate in carrying out this commission.

Conviction 5 – We believe that God's passion to be known and praised by all the peoples of the earth is not selfish, but loving, since God is the one and only being in the universe for whom self-exaltation is a loving act. The only reality that can fully and eternally satisfy the human heart is one in knowing God in His glorious persons. Therefore, God would not love

unless He upholds and displays and magnifies that glory for our everlasting enjoyment. (Psalm 67, Psalm 97:1)

Conviction 6 – We believe God's purpose to be praised among all the nations cannot fail and is an absolutely certain promise, as evidenced by Matthew 16:18: "I will build My church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it" and Matthew 24:14: "The gospel of the kingdom will be preached throughout the whole world, as a testimony to all nations—then the end shall come."

Conviction 7 – We believe the Great Commissioned is strategically focused on people groups, not just individual people, and can therefore be completed. We see the Great Commission being completed when the Church has a representation (i.e., a local assembly) amongst all the people groups of the earth, and God's elect have been gathered in from all the "tongues and tribes and nations". Therefore, the task of missions is planting churches among all the neighborhoods and nations of the earth where no viable witness is present—not the conversion of all peoples.

Conviction 8 – We believe that the New Testament example and teaching concerning the spread of the Gospel reveals that the establishment of local assemblies of believers is a primary aim of all Great Commission work. Therefore, we recognize the God-given priority of church planting especially where Christ has not been preached (i.e., among UPGs).

Conviction 9 –We believe it is the joyful duty and the awesome privilege of every local church to send out its own Gospel workers "in a manner worthy of God" (3 John 6). There is a big difference between a church that "has" supported workers (on the back of the bulletin or as a line-item in its budget) and a church that "sends" workers that have been identified, prepared and sent by the church.

Conviction 10 – We believe our aim should not be to persuade everyone to become a vocational Gospel worker, but to help everyone become a Great Commission Christian. Those who are not called to go out for the sake of the Name are called to send for the sake of the Name.

The Purpose of Our Outreach Policy

The purpose of this policy is to give clear guidelines within which the Outreach Committee and its sub-teams can freely carry out their responsibilities knowing what they are to do and the authority that has been granted to them. As with all committees at CCBFC, the Board of Elders may review any action of the Outreach Committee and its sub-teams, either to approve, to disapprove, to amend, or to clarify.

CCBFC's Purpose Statements

The mission: of Cedar Crest Bible Fellowship Church is to glorify the Triune God, by exalting Him, edifying and equipping His Church, and evangelizing the world with His Gospel.

The Vision: of Cedar Crest is to desire to be a biblically saturated, Spirit-filled church that is known for making much of Christ, its leaders and members being conformed into the image of Christ and declaring the gospel of Christ to our neighbors to the nations, especially unreached people groups.

Strategic Priorities in Outreach Ministries

The most measurable goal Scripture gives us for accomplishing the Great Commission is that of discipling "peoples." We are commanded to disciple all the peoples of the world (Matthew 28:18). We are promised that the gospel of the Kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a witness to all the nations and then the end will come (Matthew 24:14). It is revealed in God's Word that when all is said and done there will be men and women worshiping the Lamb from every nation and all tribes and peoples and tongues (Revelation 7:9); for Christ has purchased for God with his blood individuals from every tribe and tongue and people and nation (Revelation 5:9).

Therefore, although we must wholeheartedly continue to multiply churches within people groups and countries where an evangelizing church has already been planted, we must also be vitally concerned about planting churches in a culturally relevant manner where Christ has not yet even been named (Romans 15:20). Since we are specifically told that the Great Commission will only be fulfilled when some from every people are won to Christ, we believe a special focus on penetrating unreached people groups is warranted.

How we decide who to take on/drop/continue with

The Outreach Committee (comprised of the chairs of all of our sub-teams [e.g., Local Outreach, short-term missions, etc.]) completed a thorough audit of all CCBFC supported workers in cooperation with the Pastors/Elder Board and agreed on a budget and support plan to move forward with.
The five primary metrics to determine this relationship were the following:

1. Ministerial Effectiveness
2. Worker's stated needs
3. Worker's Communication/relational strength
4. Philosophical Alignment (based on survey results)
5. Overall budget restrictions*

These general considerations may be applied to organizations we partner with, especially #s 3&4. Which weighed most heavily regarding local ministries we support. Because we are not a philanthropic organization exclusively, but the body of Christ and commissioned to fulfill His Great Commission, we want to have relational and theological grounds for all we do. If we have no known tangible relationship with a ministry and their philosophy of ministry is not strongly aligned with where we are at theologically/philosophically then we will not maintain the relationship.

*This was a consideration this year, especially looking into the 2026 budget.