

PRINCIPLES FOR SERVICE TRIPS

EBIC Elizabethtown BIC Church

Global Mission Team

Elizabethtown Brethren in Christ Church (EBIC) is passionate about God's work locally, nationally and internationally. In recent years the number and variety of ministry opportunities has expanded significantly. Due to this reality, the Global Mission Team decided to articulate some characteristics the church values in organizations and the trips themselves. Please find these below, along with information about financial support.

A. The Sending Organization Should:

- 1) Share a core theological framework and practice of faith that is compatible with Brethren in Christ theology and values.
- 2) Demonstrate financial responsibility and integrity.
- 3) Have a good track record of positive interaction with participants and in-country personnel and organizations.
- 4) Clearly communicate reasonable and achievable goals for each participant.
- 5) Partner with local (indigenous) labor, and should not provide services which the local church and/or community is able to provide.

B. The Trip Should:

- 1) Partner with identified in-country organizations which have a sustaining presence.
- 2) Be explicitly Christian in nature, purpose and function.
- 3) Be substantially service-oriented.

C. Overseas Experiences Which Are Not Service-Oriented

There are trips that may provide positive experiences and exposure for individuals, but they fall in categories outside the scope of the Global Mission Team. We do not offer financial support for these trips. Some examples include:

- 1) Programs for academic credit.
- 2) Programs which are essentially tourism in nature, even if they may include some elements of service.

D. Financial Support for Qualified Service

- 1) EBIC will provide financial support of up to 10% of an individual's annual budget when serving one year or longer with Brethren in Christ World Missions or other related Anabaptist mission organizations.
- 2) EBIC will provide financial support of up to 7.5% of an individual's annual budget (the amount that needs to be raised) when serving one year or longer with an established ministry in the US or abroad
- 3) Cross-cultural service trips that last less than one year serve both as opportunities to serve and as learning experiences. The benefits of these trips, especially for first-timers, may include:
 - a) an expanded global viewpoint
 - b) an increased understanding of needs around the world
 - c) awareness of cultural differences that may impact missions
 - d) planting the seeds of future mission service
 - e) ongoing financial support of missions

Service and mission serve as goals of these trips, but by nature the greater impact may be on the individual who goes. EBIC may provide up to \$300 per person for trips such as these.

- 4) Persons may also seek financial support from friends within the congregation or small groups of which they may be a part, according to congregational guidelines. Please contact the Global Mission Team for information about how to go forward with this, including completion of the application for service which is available at: etownbic.org/globalmission

February 25, 2015

Affirmed by church board on March 17, 2015