

Revisiting and Rewriting the Missions Program of The Living Christian Church

By

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Capstone Proposal**Name:** Wenci Don David Labajo**Student ID#:** 20198003**Expected Graduation Date:****Working Title of Project:** Revisiting and Rewriting the Missions Program of The Living Christian Church**Faculty you have consulted for this project:** Dr. Boyet Lisbe and Dr. Lowell Tallo**List the courses you've taken at CGST that you will be integrating into this capstone project:** World Missions, Principles of Leadership and Management, Organizational Behaviour and Development, Emotionally Healthy Discipleship and Spirituality.**Capstone Description (350 words):**

The Bible gives us the mandate, message, model, and power for world evangelization—missions. The church was commissioned by our Lord Jesus Christ to carry the gospel to the ends of the earth (Matt. 28:18–20; Jn. 20:21). We go and do missions because we want our Almighty God to be worshipped. Worship is the ultimate goal of the church. Missions exist today because there are many who forget and reject worshipping God. As a young pastor and a local missionary of the church, it is my joy and passion to write missions program in my local church to reach out to the lost and bring them into the loving presence of God, holy and full of grace and mercy.

TLCC has been supporting a lot of mission work outside, but only a few in terms of on-hand missions in the church. God blessed the church with resources that could be used for missions. The church has been there for more than three decades already, with one daughter church in Barili. There were many opportunities for the church to help some government establishments and the people in the community, like giving school supplies to all the students in a specific school, opening a medical operation for free, donating something to the hospitals, and more. These were good programs and missions for the church. It is much better when the church can help with both physical and spiritual needs. Thus, revisiting and rewriting TLCC missions program would be a great help in bringing efficient and effective results, by the grace of God.

This project may bring the call into action, and God will use TLCC to reach out to the unsaved and make disciples for Christ. Through missions and DMD, or disciples making disciples, it is our joy to respectfully introduce the truth to the people, whether they live across the street or across the world, Filipino, Chinese, or whomever; everyone is subject to salvation. All is connected to missions: reach out, build up, train up, and send out people for the glory of God.

The purpose of this project is to revisit and rewrite the missions program of TLCC and to go missions, preach the gospel, and make disciples. The coverage will cover the missions of the

church, its mission statement, missionaries, the management of missions and its finances, and mobilizing missionaries to be on the mission field.

Approach and/or Methods (350 words):

The first and primary approach to completing this capstone project will focus on the survey methodology, which targets a series of practical interviews from the previous and current administration of missions in The Living Christian Church, followed by various procedures for revisiting and rewriting missions program. Under this approach are time, cooperation, a series of meetings, brainstorming, and analysis, either physically or through the use of online and internet tools. It is very challenging in a way because of the expectation that this project will really help and may be the missions policy manual of the TLCC's mission.

The following approach may require teamwork in revisiting and rewriting mission statement, mission programs, mission activities, and budgeting with approval from the church administration and senior pastor, thus, I am encouraged to rewrite one. If found well, it will be efficiently used as the Missions Policy Manual of TLCC. While the church has been there for three decades and has done and supported a lot of missions, the mission statement, programs and all are dependent upon the church constitution and by-laws. Simply put, the church doesn't have its own written organizational chart for mission, mission programs, mission statement—the missions' policy manual. It has unwritten mission structure traditionally, but without a written missions' policy manual.

Timeline

| Stage | Description | Timeline |
|----------------------|--|----------|
| Planning Stage | In this stage, all required interviews, meetings and procedures are done. | 1 month |
| Proposal Stage | During this stage, I will propose the capstone project to the Board Members, Pastoral Staff, and Church Admin and will be waiting for the approval. | 2 weeks |
| Implementation Stage | After the approval, this stage will focus on making a written mission statement, objectives, mission funding, mission personnel, and mission partnership with cooperation from the mission team. | 4 months |

| | | |
|------------------------------|--|--------|
| Evaluation Stage | In this stage, the capstone project will be evaluated by the Board Members, Pastoral Staff, and Church Administration. | 1 week |
| Presentation and Application | This is the stage in which I will know whether or not the capstone project is good enough to be used as a missions' policy manual of TLCC. | 1 week |

Outline

- 1. Introduction** – The capstone project will be about revisiting and rewriting the missions' policy and program of The Living Christian Church. TLCC is a mission church that actively supports a lot of mission work outside its congregation. The church has been blessed by God with resources that could be used for missions. TLCC has been there for more than three decades already, with one daughter church in Barili, and while doing this project, I personally committed myself to intentionally plant another church somewhere in the Mactan area by God's grace.

There were good programs and missions at TLCC, like giving school supplies to all the students in a specific school (mainly schools in the islands), opening a medical operation for free, supporting religious organizations, donating something to the hospitals, and more. We see no problem with it, and on the good side, with the use of written missions' policy manual, it can be more organized and biblically inclined with the purpose of mission. Hence, revisiting and rewriting the TLCC missions program or missions policy manual would be the most prudent action to take in this situation. This mission project is answering the call into action, and TLCC can be humbly used by God to reach the hearts of the unsaved Chinese, Filipinos, and all races, tribes, cultures, and ethnicities and make them disciples of Christ. All is connected to missions: reach out, build up, train up, and send out people for the glory of God.

The purpose of this project is to revisit and rewrite the missions program of TLCC and to go missions, preach the gospel, and make disciples, covering the missions of the church, its mission statement, the missionaries, the management of missions and its finances, and the written missions' policy manual of the church.

- 2. Background** – It was God who established The Living Christian Church more than three decades ago. It is also His great commission that compels the church to go on mission. Mission is nothing new in the lives of Christians. No one is exempt from this God-given task. The main focus of missions is to bring people back into the loving presence of God, and since the ultimate purpose of humanity is to glorify God, and unfortunately a lot of people are not doing so, missions exist to remind, rebuke, and guide people to come to God and find their ultimate purpose in life again. TLCC is responding to this call to mission.

Even in ancient times, the believers were doing missions. Paul has had a series of missionary journeys, and even in the earthly life of Jesus, he was on a mission. After his death and resurrection, he also commanded the disciples to share the good news, the message of his redemption. Thus, mission becomes the heartbeat of all followers of Jesus. Obeying God's mission brings joy, not burden. Missions are done out of love, not mere duty. Mission: proclaiming Christ as the only Lord and Savior.

As a church, we are indeed called to go on missions, and it is more organized if the church has its own written missions' policy manual. Aside from highlighting the idea of accountability and responsibility, servanthood, and stewardship, making it more clear to the congregation, community, and missionaries that it would be visible to the naked eye what we believe, why we believe, and how to be part of the mission team following the ordered process to be efficient, effective, and sustainable for a longer time.

So now, I am revisiting and rewriting the missions program of The Living Christian Church. With that being said, it is crystal clear that the purpose of this project is for TLCC to have its own missions' policy manual visible both to the leaders and members of the church. While this project is ongoing, the church decided to appoint me as their local missionary just recently, on February 12, 2023.

- 3. Body** – This project is implemented according to five stages as planned – the planning stage, the proposal stage, implementation stage, presentation and application, and evaluation stage.

Planning Stage –In this stage, all required interviews, meetings and procedures are done.

Scope and Limitations. This project is exclusive to the missions program of The Living Christian Church. It is connected to the TLCC Constitution and By-Laws, but it will not cause alteration (unless necessary) but rather support what is already there. It covers all programs, statements, and policies related to the mission.

Creation of Project Team. A Project Team was created not only to help with this project but also with the making of the missions program. The P-Team, or Pastoral Team, is composed of four pastors helping each other to revisit and rewrite TLCC missions' policy manual.

Textbook and References. The main textbook for this project is the Holy Bible. In addition to the TLCC Constitution and By-Laws, there are books about mission and leadership (see Bibliography) and some missions' policy handbooks from different churches (see Bibliography for the links).

Interviews and Meetings. Since there were no materials available of the missions program and manual, I interviewed those from the previous administration, especially the previous and the current head committee of the TLCC Mission Team, and met with some of them who were available. I'm so sad about some of their comments.

Table 1: Interviews

| Position | Statement |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Previous Mission Committee Head | “Annually, we have mission exposure at our church plant in Barili, Cebu. Before, the mission team usually went every summer to Inabanga, Bohol, Ormoc, Leyte, and Barili, Cebu, for missions, |

| | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| | conducting DVBS (Daily Vacation Bible School) or feeding program. Pero bawlang naunsa nana karon kay dugay-dugay naman wala nabalik ug dili na ako ang head sa mission, si current mission committee head na. Pangutan-a siya. (But, I don't know what happened now; it's been a long time since it wasn't resumed, and I'm no longer the head of mission; ask the current mission committee head)." |
| Current Mission Committee Head | "Wa ko kabalo ana tanan. Di ba si previous mission committee head man to? Naa niya ang records. Wala gane gi-turnover homan ilisi". (I don't know all of that. Isn't it, the previous mission committee head? He has all the records. He didn't turnover it after he was replaced in the office). |
| Senior Pastor | "Well, it's been there already. That's the common problem that we have with the mission team of our church. So far, we still don't have a written policy manual for our church missions. However, it's good that we can openly discuss it with the mission team so that we can have a proper arrangement, plan, and write a missions' handbook." |

After the discussion: Our senior pastor, Rev. Albert Ong, and the rest of the mission team saw the need that the head of this committee should reflect his heart and passion for mission. As a result, our senior pastor is now the "acting" head of the mission committee.

Table 2: Meetings

| Group | Situation |
|---------------|---|
| Mission Team | At this time, we are revisiting the mission activities of the TLCC mission and the programs we have from previous years. More so, we are looking at how we can improve and reconnect these activities to the suggested written missions' policy manual that the Pastoral Staff of TLCC committed to helping each other. |
| Pastoral Team | After I have informed the mission team and the pastoral staff, we, the pastors of TLCC, meet every Friday to add this to the agenda as a prior need to accomplish at this moment. |
| Board Members | On February 12, 2023, the Board, Mission Team, and Pastoral Staff encouraged me to rewrite a missions' handbook for TLCC. The Board united and approved the idea of revisiting and rewriting one and supported the necessary need for this activity. |

Reviewing the Available Materials. Since I got very little information from the interviews and meetings, I asked the mission team if they had available materials that I could see to check on the progress of the mission. I am glad to see that the mission team is doing well without a written missions program, as they continued their work in supporting some religious institutions and Bible students and did not neglect their call to help the church plant in Barili, pastored by Ptr. Hans Calunsag. Now, then, I decided to support another Bible student to help me, as I decided to start a church plant somewhere in Mactan as part of the mission.

Revisiting the Constitution and By-Laws. At this moment, I revisit the TLCC articles of incorporation of a non-stock corporation or the constitution and by-laws of The Living Christian Church. I am connecting fragments of biblical truths and statements of faith to the missions program in order to proceed with rewriting the outline of the missions' policy manual.

Rewriting the Outline. This outline is my guide in rewriting the missions' program and policy of The Living Christian Church.

Guide 1: TLCC Missions Policy Outline

- I. Missions Living Philosophy
 - A. Missions
 - B. Mission Statement from TLCC Constitution and By-Laws
 - a) Objectives
 - b) Statement of Faith
- II. Missions Living Principles
 - A. Task: Evangelism and Discipleship
 - B. Territory: Local and Global
 - C. Target: Chinese, Filipino, All
- III. Missions Living Program
 - A. Polity
 - B. Priority
 - a) Primary: Reaching out to the Unsaved
 - b) Secondary: Church Plant
 - C. Partnership
 - A. Commitment
 - a) Prayer
 - b) Support
 - i. Continuation
 - ii. Reduction
 - iii. Discontinuation
 - B. Membership
 - a) Qualifications
 - b) Term of Service
 - c) Responsibilities
 - C. Communication
 - a) Report
 - b) Refresh
 - i. Meetings and Conferences
 - ii. Medical and Vacation Leave
- IV. Missions Living Procedures
 - A. Resources
 - B. Participation
- V. Missions Living Amendments

Note 1: “*Missions program*” is the general proposed project, and part of it is the specific focus and the need for a written missions’ manual of The Living Christian Church, that is, “*missions’ policy*” (see the outline in *Guide 1*).

Note 2: The use of “*Living*” in the TLCC Policy Outline corresponds to active participation in the missions: biblical message, model, and mandate.

Proposal Stage – During this stage, I proposed this project to the Board Members, Pastoral Staff, and Church Administration and will be waiting for their approval (see above Table 2: Meetings—“Board Members”). It was approved and ready for the next stage.

Implementation Stage – After the approval, this stage focused on making a written mission philosophy, principles, program, personnel, partnership, procedures and amendments with cooperation from the mission team and pastoral staff.

Guide 2: The Living Christian Church Missions Policy Manual

AND WE HEREBY CERTIFY:

FIRST: That the name of said corporation shall be THE LIVING CHRISTIAN CHURCH, INC.;

SECOND: That the purpose/s for which such corporation are incorporated:

- a) To establish a church in which the members can exist as a Christian community with the celebration of that mighty act of God—the advent of Jesus Christ, His death, His resurrection and His second coming as its central activity;
- b) To promote the spiritual growth of its members and to develop the Christian character and cultivate Christian values among the members and to meet both the spiritual and physical needs of the members;
- c) To witness the world about the good news of Jesus Christ for the salvation of all men;
- d) To acquire by purchase, gift, donation, bequest, conveyance or otherwise, to hold, rent, lease, improve, manage and operate any kind of property as the church may consider to be desirable to carry-out its purpose, objectives and activities;
- e) To receive donations, and offerings and undertake activities to solicit and raise funds to support the church and accomplish its purpose, objectives and activities; and
- f) To perform all other acts necessary to accomplish its purpose and objectives, and to perform all other acts inherent and incidental thereto;

I. Missions Living Philosophy

A. Missions – The mission philosophy of The Living Christian Church is to glorify God (2 Cor. 3:18; Rev. 4:11) and to obey the Great Commission of Christ (Matt. 28:18–20) until He returns, for it is the only way unto salvation. TLCC is one local church with pastors, leaders, and members who, in unity as one body of Christ, love to go on missions that include different optional ministries that the church answers into action. Neither "mission" nor "missions", "missionaries" or "missional" we believe, are all part of God's mission "Missio Dei".

- a) The Living Christian Church believes that the local church is the channel for missionary work, as we see in Acts 1:8. We are therefore in full agreement with both local and global missions. We are accountable to be strong witnesses in the Kamputhaw area, in Cebu, in the Philippines, and in all nations.
- b) The Living Christian Church believes that there is a particular nature to missionary work. The Scripture clearly teaches that missionary work is evangelism, teaching, and discipling—in the establishment of churches (Acts 2:41–47; 16:5).
- c) The Living Christian Church believes that missions encompass mutual responsibilities between the missionary and the supporting church. Each missionary is accountable to the local churches that send him or her and is obliged to give a full report of his ministry when called upon to do so (Acts 14:27). TLCC is responsible for maintaining a supported missionary by means of prayer, finances, and relationships (1 Thess. 5:12–13).

B. Mission Statement from TLCC Constitution and By-Laws

Article I, Section II: **OBJECTIVES**

Other than the Purposes mentioned in the Articles of Incorporation, the following are the objectives of the church:

- a) to spread the Gospel and love of Jesus Christ;
- b) to propagate the doctrines of the Christian faith as embodied in the Holy Bible;
- c) to establish self-administrative, self-supporting and self-propagating churches in the name of Christ;
- d) to equip its members in living the Christian way and in manifesting Christ-centered lives; and

- e) to coordinate with other Evangelical Christians in the propagation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Article I, Section IV: **STATEMENT OF FAITH**

The Living Christian Church and all its Members abides, adheres and believes in the following Statement of Faith:

- a) that there is One God, the God of the Holy Trinity, the Holy Father, the Holy Son and the Holy Spirit; that God is the Supreme Ruler of the universe;
- b) that JESUS CHRIST is the Head of the Church, the Savior of all mankind and the only Mediator between God and men; that we believe in His virgin birth, sinless life, atoning death, bodily resurrection, ascension into heaven, and personal, visible return to earth;
- c) that all men are sinners and that salvation from sin is a free gift from God, and accepted by faith in Jesus Christ alone;
- d) that the Holy Spirit who came forth to convict the world of sin, and to regenerate, sanctify, and empower all who believe in Christ;
- e) that the Holy Spirit indwells all believers and is their abiding helper, teacher, and guide; that the Holy Bible (39 Old Testament and 27 New Testament books) is the Word of God, fully inspired and without error in the original manuscripts; that it was written by the Holy Spirit and is the highest standard of our faith and conduct.

II. Missions Living Principles

A. Task: Evangelism and Discipleship

Our Lord Jesus Christ commanded the church to go and make disciples (Matt 28:19–20). Evangelism and discipleship go hand in hand. Every tongue that confesses, believes, and accepts the Lord Jesus Christ and is saved by faith, sanctified, and justified has been born again in the family of God. He is now a new creation called a Christian, a disciple, a follower of Jesus Christ, and a learner who abides in His Word (2 Cor. 5:17; Jn. 1:12–13; 3:3; 8:31) and faithfully preaches the Gospel (Rom. 10:5–17; 1 Cor. 1:18–2:15), empowered by the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:8), for the glory of God in Christ (Jn. 15:8; Rom. 11:36).

B. Territory: Local and Global

It is God's glory and design to gather people from every tribe, tongue, people, and nation (Rev. 7:9–12); thus, the mission is to be global in scope (Acts 13:47). Our Lord Jesus Christ intends for the witness of His church to share the Gospel geographically (Acts 1:8), and even Paul demonstrated this pioneering spirit in the series of his missionary journey (Acts 13–28; Rom 15:19–21).

God is perfectly glorious, and in His sovereign love, He has purposed to share the beauty of His glory with individuals so that they may joyfully know and worship Him (Acts 17:24–28).

C. Target: Chinese, Filipino, and All

Since TLCC originally was a Chinese church and is now a Chinese-Filipino congregation in a Filipino society with few Chinese migrants and a limited number of Chinese-speaking pastors and Christians, the church has Chinese as its prior target audience. However, it doesn't mean that the church stops reaching out to Filipinos. In its essence, the local church is the gathering of God's people. So, TLCC basically reaches out and accepts all kinds of people. It is in the context of the local church that believers are taught and grow into maturity (Eph. 4:1-16; Titus 2:1-15), are equipped for the ministry (Eph. 4:11–12), minister their spiritual gifts (Rom. 12; 1 Cor. 12), and fulfill the biblical "one another" principles (Jn. 13:34–35).

III. Missions Living Program

A. Polity – Mission From a Local Church

- a) In (Acts 13:1-4), it was the local church that was responsible for the sending of those who were "set apart" as missionaries.
- b) There are presence of faithful leaders, deacons, elders, and pastors who provide shepherding of God's people (1 Tim. 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9; 1 Pet. 5:1-3).
- c) Even though the church's missions is to be directed and overseen by the leaders, deacons, elders, and pastors, this missions work would necessarily involve the whole congregation.
- d) Those who were sent out returned to give a report and an accounting in their local church of what God had accomplished through them (Acts 14:26-28).
- e) The local church is entrusted with the privilege and responsibility to faithfully carry out Christ's mission for His church.

B. Priority

- a) **Primary: Church Plant** – The primary objective is church planting. We, therefore, give priority to the planting of churches among the unreached, "those who have never been told of Him," (Rom. 15:21), and other missionary work supports this mission.

Two Churches Planted:

- i. Barili, Cebu.
- ii. Mactan, Lapu-Lapu (House Church)

- b) **Secondary: Strengthening** – We aim for a healthy local churches, a major component of that aim is to strengthen churches that already exist.

C. Partnership – Coordinate with other Evangelical Christians/Churches in the propagation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

IV. Missions Living Personnel**A. Mission Team**

- a) **Composition** – The Missions Team shall be composed of not less than three members, with one chairman.
- b) **Purpose** – The Missions Team is "eyes and ears" of the Church to sense its biblical responsibility in fulfilling the Great Commission and to help the church practically and intentionally accomplish the task.
- c) **Qualifications**
- i. He or she has been baptized in an Evangelical church.
 - ii. He or she has been regularly attending TLCC's Sunday Worship service and is actively involved in some ministries of TLCC.
 - iii. He or she has good standing and reputation in church and society.
 - iv. He or she should be at least twenty Five (25) years old.
 - v. He or she should be a member of TLCC;
 - vi. His or her faith and personal conduct must conform to sound biblical doctrines.
- d) **Responsibilities**
- i. Attend faithfully in the Mission Team meetings.
 - ii. Participate as assigned.
 - iii. Pray regularly for missionaries who are supported.
 - iv. Study further on missions.
 - v. Be a source of mission information to the congregation

- e) Resignation – All resignations must be submitted in writing to the Chairman of Mission Team.

B. Missionaries – The missionary is not one who has merely gone out but one who has been sent out (i.e., commissioned) by a local church (Acts 13:1-3; cf. Jn. 20:21).

- a) Career Missionaries – are those who have committed themselves to a lifetime of missionary service, if God so wills.
- b) Non-Career Missionaries – are those who are serving in a missionary capacity, but whose missionary ministry is anticipated to be for a limited time. This designation includes such missionary service as short term missionaries, missionary internships, and missions trips.
- c) Sent Missionaries – are members of The Living Christian Church whom we have commissioned for missionary service, and for whom we are the home church. Because of our relationship with them, we have a greater responsibility for the influence of their ministry.
- d) Supported Missionaries – are not members of The Living Christian Church, but have been taken on for support by The Living Christian Church.
- e) Non-Traditional Missionaries – are people sent to restricted access nations where their ministries are limited.

C. Commitment

- a) Prayer – Praying constantly for the missionaries.
- b) Support
 - i. Continuation – the missionary must be faithfully doing his or her responsibility as well as providing regular reports to the Mission Team. Missionaries must understand that promised support will be sent only as God enables and provides the funds.
 - ii. Reduction – Lack of funds does not allow the continuation of the full support of all of the church's missionaries. The congregation and the missionary shall be notified with special prayer on this matter. Support will be adjusted according to the budget.
 - iii. Discontinuation – Immediate discontinuation of support may be implemented for any of the following reasons:
 - Abandoning the doctrinal position of the church.
 - Acts of immorality or a pattern of behavior that, in the decision of the pastor and deacons, is unworthy of a minister of God or at any church's position.
 - Withdrawal from missionary services.

- Inability of the church to continue support.
 - Change of ministry.
- c) Care and Concerns – the mission team shall provide care and concern to the missionaries and their families.
- i. Regular Updates – The mission team will humbly and regularly contact the missionaries and their families (with the use of technologies such as email, SMS, Viber, Facebook/Messenger, Zoom, and more), encourage them, and visit them, and will provide care and concern for special needs such as food, school fees, transportation, etc.
 - ii. The Spiritual Updates – The mission team and the local church shall see any opportunities for the missionaries and their families to be encouraged, empowered, and continue to grow in their knowledge of God and mission.
 - For the missionaries: Mission Conferences, Seminars, etc.
 - For the missionaries' family: is free to attend church camps, fellowship, retreats, training, and all church activities with proper consideration from the church budget.
 - iii. Special Updates – The mission team, the Board, and the local church shall and freely, considering the situations of the missionaries—provide special care for them and their families such as family vacations, time, reunions, etc.

D. Membership (Missionary)

- a) Qualifications
 - i. He or she should hold on to sound doctrine, of good moral character, and has the ability to shepherd.
 - ii. He or she should be at least twenty Five (25) years old.
 - iii. He or she has the heart of missions, and evangelistic zeal for souls, a heartfelt passion for missions, and personal suitability for ministry.
 - iv. He or she has a reputation above reproach, including financial responsibility.
 - v. He or she has appropriate Biblical education and sufficient practical experience in Christian services.
- b) Term of Service

- i. The term of the contract is two (2) years and is subject to review and renewal by the Mission Team, Board and Pastoral Staff upon expiry.
 - ii. Within the two-year term, the missionary cannot resign without prior notice, except for special and valid reasons;
 - iii. Should a contract be renewed, or terminated by either party, a written notice shall be given the other party at least three (3) months in advance;
 - iv. A two-third (2/3) vote of the Mission Team, Board and Pastoral Staff is required to terminate the contract of a missionary who has failed in his / her doctrine or moral conduct. A maximum grace period of three (3) months is given to the erring missionary to turn-over all his / her duties and accountabilities to TLCC.
- c) Responsibilities – Evangelism, Discipleship, Church Planting.

E. Communication

- a) Report – Missionaries are required to provide monthly reports.
- b) Refresh
 - i. Meetings and Conferences – Missionaries are required to be present at Board Meeting and Mission Team meetings, unless for some valid reason. The local church has to strengthen and empower their missionaries by supporting them to attend mission-related conferences.
 - ii. Medical and Vacation Leave – Missionaries can file for medical and vacation leave to be approved by the Mission Team, Board and Pastoral Staff.

V. Missions Living Procedures

- A. Resources – The support for the missionaries comes mainly from the mission fund.
- B. Participation – A person can support the missions work and missionaries through the giving of financial resources.

VI. Missions Living Amendments – Since changes happen frequently in many areas affecting missions, these policies shall be revisited and rewritten for need of amendment at least every two (2) years by the Missions Team. Any amendments that it proposes shall need the agreement of the Mission Team, Board and Pastoral Staff before going into effect.

Presentation and Application – This is the stage at which I will know whether or not this project is good enough to be used as a mission policy manual for TLCC. The TLCC Board, Mission Team, and Pastoral Staff approved this paper. There are still minor things to add in other areas. However, it is good to go.

Evaluation Stage - All the Board Members, Pastoral Staff, and Church Admin like this project. Though it is inevitable to have a lot of questions, but helpful one. I am amazed to the idea in using it together with the TLCC Constitution and By-Laws, by no mean, I took some statements from there and insert it in this project.

The project went through, but I am not totally satisfied and will polish it more. We, the pastoral staff, will help once again with this mission's policy.

4. Conclusion and Final Reflections

The church has been operating for more than three decades already, and I can see that there's nothing wrong in terms of doing mission. Indeed, they were doing fine. However, as I'm interviewing the previous and current chairman of the Mission Team, they can't give accurate information about their mission work. So here, I can clearly see that even though they did their part, in terms of accountability, it's hard to give proper information without documentation.

Indeed, the church is called to go and make disciples of all nations. My church is doing that, and your church is doing that, but these are the things I have observed while doing this project. First, without a written mission policy, it's hard to give clear accountability to the congregation. Second, the person in charge there can do almost anything without a limit. Third, it becomes a "parachurch" inside a local church. Fourth, without proper responsibility, the tendency will be to overshadow the other ministry groups, and their supposedly important duties will have been neglected without others knowing it, or no one can easily correct it since there is no policy. As is common in some churches, conflict will arise because of this. If some members of the worship team question the mission team, then the mission team will also find fault with the worship team. There are many reasons, but I will highlight the last. Maybe it is so hard for us to understand what happened to the churches in the New Testament, especially the churches included in Paul's missionary journeys, if the missions weren't documented.

In conclusion, I affirm that churches would have their own mission policy. There are a lot of resources that could be used to write one. Though I am not dying for this belief but if we can do something to for the mission in which God commanded us to do, why not make one? We are the church, and we must also be a mission church.

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6. Appendices

Annex 1: Mission Interview Questions

1.1 Mission Information:

A. Heart for Mission:

1. Have you read TLCC's Mission Philosophy in its entirety? Do you have any questions? What did you resonate with in the philosophy? Did you notice any areas where you might need additional training or experience?
2. Provide a detailed story of how and when you came to know Jesus Christ.
3. Share with us how you came to desire going to the mission field.
4. In what ministry do you desire to serve on the mission field (evangelism, church planting, discipleship, church strengthening, leadership development, theological and pastoral training, support personnel, mercy ministries, etc.)?

B. Called for Mission:

1. Expound how you understand the purpose of missionaries being sent out by the church? How do you see your role fulfilling that mission?
2. Do you have the affirmation of your church leadership in pursuing this call?
3. What mission board are you applying to serve with? Have you been approved by that mission board?
4. How have people affirmed your desire to go to the mission field? What have they said that has affirmed your desire to go?
5. What are your current immediate family members saying about going to the mission field?

C. Mission Competency:

1. Have you been on any short-term mission trips? If so, how many? What were your responsibilities?
2. Have you had any church ministry experience? If so, what kind? How long did you fulfill this ministry? Have you ever been a pastor or elder? If so, how many years have you served?
3. Have you had any formal or informal theological training? What level, if any, seminary training have you had?
4. Who have you recently shared the gospel with? Who are you currently discipling?

D. Mission Support:

1. What is the amount of your required monthly support?
2. What amount have you raised to this date? What is your remaining balance?
3. We request a copy of a yearly budget, reflecting all income and expenses, for the purpose of presenting it to our Mission Team and Board of Elders.

1.2 Questions for Missionaries/Ministries TLCC Currently Supports

Name of Missionary/Ministry: _____

Please help us better understand your current ministry:

1. What do you think the primary purpose of your ministry is?
2. In practical terms, how do you carry out this purpose?
3. Describe the types of resources (for evangelism, discipleship, etc.) you use in your ministry.
4. In addition to God’s word, what 3-4 books have been most influential in shaping your understanding of missions?
5. Explain your involvement in a local church.
6. Explain how your ministry fits into the work of the local church.
7. How do you define “success” in your ministry?

Please indicate your position on the following topics:

8. Are you in complete agreement with TLCC’s Philosophy of Missions?
9. If not, what areas would you question or disagree with?
10. Explain your view of the local church. What is its role in missions? How important is it for a Christian to be involved in a local church?
11. What is the best way for us to contact you (email, viber, fb/messenger, and phone)? Please provide your contact information.

Annex 2: Application for Short-Term Ministry Support

Name: _____ Birth date: _____.

Phone: _____ Email: _____.

Shortly describe the logistical details of your mission (i.e., location, dates, what you will be doing/nature of your involvement, name of sponsor organization, etc.):

I have been attending TLCC for _____ year(s) and have been a member since _____.

Please describe your areas of service within the congregation of TLCC:

What are your long-term vocational/career/ goals?

Please describe some of the reasons motivating your desire to participate in this mission:

Please describe ways that you think you are currently growing as a Christian:

Do you have concerns about participating on this mission (if so, please describe):

If this is an overseas mission, have you travelled overseas previously? If so, please briefly describe those experiences:

Do you have any medical conditions that might affect your participation (if so, please describe)?

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Student Signature

May 13, 2023

Date

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Date Received: ____/____/____

Approved by: _____