

How to Determine Missions Giving for Alliance Churches

by Richard A. Borg

Due to the global missions focus of The Christian and Missionary Alliance (C&MA), its local churches attract believers who have an interest, if not a passion, for Great Commission (GC) ministries. They often have friends or family members who are engaged in GC ministries either Alliance (C&MA) or non-Alliance. Alliance pastors and church leaders are wise to establish criteria to assess the many appeals for funds to be contributed/raised by their congregation. By establishing objective criteria, the focus for giving is narrowed and potential tensions reduced. The scope for giving can be broadened as the church's capacity for funding grows.

The following criteria are expected as a reasonable beginning for the small Alliance church. It is also suggested that pastors and lay leaders/elders together craft a Missions Giving Criteria policy for their congregation. Such a criteria may seem tedious at first, but sooner or later its value will become evident. The following criteria are also stated in the order of priority.

- I. Alliance Missions – National and International Ministries
The first priority for missions giving in every C&MA church is the support of our own global ministries. (See: *10 Reasons Why I'm Committed to Alliance Missions* by Dr. Peter Nanfelt—available at: www.cmalliance.org/resources/missions/Biblestudies&missionspapers/missionspapers)
- II. Alliance Individuals – Engaged in C&MA National and International Ministries
Along with Priority I, are those individuals or couples who have been sent by or are known personally by the local church into C&MA missions ministries.
- III. Alliance Church Members – Engaged in Non-C&MA Ministries
These are committed members “in-good-standing” of a local C&MA church and are engaged in non-Alliance ministries that meet the criteria established by the church in the following priority IV.
- IV. Approved Non-Alliance Ministries
Each local Alliance church must determine and prioritize the types of non-Alliance ministries it will fund, the level of funding, the term or duration of funding, the expectations of people and organizations it funds, and who has the privilege of making an appeal for funding. Better to narrow these categories at first and then broaden them later incrementally.

Keep in mind that not all mission ministries are effective. Not all ministries steward their resources well. Not all ministries provide good communication to their donors. Keep in mind that fairness in funding is not a criterion. Keep in mind that accountability must be a criterion for the continuation of funding. It is also appropriate to determine what the church will not fund. A one-time love offering may be an appropriate alternative to a 12-month commitment. Remember also, membership has its privilege.