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## PRINCIPLES OF MISSION SUPPORT

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1. That in “missions,” God (Father, Son and Holy Spirit), according to his eternal and unfailing purpose, is gathering his elect, to the glory of His grace, and passing by others, leaving them to the judgment due their sin, to the glory of his justice;<sup>1</sup>
2. That the divinely appointed means to this end is the gathered Church, sending ministers (and those who assist them) into the world, that by the preaching of the Gospel, attended with the sovereign blessing of the Spirit, a people (professed believers and their children) might be gathered into a body, among whom the ministry of word and sacrament is established, to the glory of God’s grace;<sup>2</sup>
3. That such “sending” includes the approval of and accountability to the elders of the Church (Session, Presbytery or General Assembly), and the prayer and financial support of the Congregation;<sup>3</sup>
4. That those sent by New Hope should be committed to declare the whole counsel of God as summarized and set forth in our doctrinal standards (i.e., distinctively Reformed and Presbyterian in doctrine);<sup>4</sup>
5. That church-planting must be the primary focus, and all other works supported only as justified by some plain scriptural connection to this goal;<sup>5</sup>
6. That the person(s) supported should have the potential for a long-term relationship of support and accountability with the elders and the congregation (with priority given to someone from our own congregation, then Presbytery, then General Assembly; then to other Reformed and Presbyterian denominations);<sup>6</sup>
7. That works that have a relevance to the particular strengths/interests of our congregation (e.g., theological education, Reformed literature, etc.) should have a special priority for consideration.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> 2 Cor. 2:14-16; Acts 13:48; Eph. 3:10-11; Matt. 16:18; 1 Thes. 5:9; Jude 4; 1 Pet. 2:8; *CF* 3.3, 6-7.

<sup>2</sup> Mat. 28:18-20; Rom. 10:13-15; Acts 13:3; Eph. 4:4-16; *CF* 25.1-3.

<sup>3</sup> Acts 13:1-5; 2 Cor. 8:19, 23; 2 Thes. 3:1; Phil. 4:15-16.

<sup>4</sup> Acts 20:26-27; 2 Tim. 1:13-14; 2:2.

<sup>5</sup> Acts 15:36, 41; *CF* 1.6.

<sup>6</sup> Phil. 1:5, 7.

<sup>7</sup> *CF* 1.6.