

Alabama District
United Pentecostal Church
Home Missions
Two Tier
Policy

Adopted at the 2003 Alabama District Conference
Montgomery, Alabama April 26th, 2003

ALABAMA DISTRICT UNITED PENTECOSTAL CHURCH HOME MISSIONS

MISSIONS CONCEPT

The United Pentecostal Church International considers itself a missionary organization. The Missions endeavors of the Alabama District shall be operated under the following concept:

- A. According to Jesus, “The field is the world” (Matthew 13:38). We must “pray ... the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest” (Matthew 5:38).
- B. Our world vision includes both the home and foreign fields.
- C. The ability of the church to reach the whole world with the gospel is in direct proportion to the strength of the church at home. **To that end the Alabama District Home Missions Department will operate under a two-tier system.** Tier Number One will consist of approved new churches and Tier Number Two will consist of established churches desiring assistance.
- D. The Home Missions Department and District Board will be involved in an ongoing process of developing a system that will work best for the District of Alabama.

TIER NUMBER ONE

Tier number one will consist of new churches approved by the District Board and will have two categories.

Category #1. Home Mission Church Desiring Financial Assistance.

Category #2. Home Mission Church without Financial Assistance.

Category #1. Home Missions Church Desiring Financial Assistance
From the Alabama District.

- A. Any licensed minister who desires approval of location to start a church must be in good standing with the United Pentecostal Church International and must make application with the District Home Missions Director.

- B. The Home Missions Church application must be approved according to the procedure specified in the Alabama District By-laws, Article 3, Section C, number 7, which reads as follows:
- Applicants desiring to start such a work should have proper application in the hand of the Home Missions Director at least sixty days prior to the meeting of the District Board. However a committee of the District Superintendent, Home Missions Director, and the Presbyter of the section in which the church is to be started shall have the authority to present an application to the District if the application is in the hands of the Home Missions Director thirty days prior to the next District Board meeting. Failure to have said application submitted as stated shall result in the postponement of any action by the District Board until said requirement is met.
- C. If after six months services have not started or the pastor is not actively working the city the pastor must meet the District Board for continuation of Home Missions Church.
- D. Home Missions status shall be retained for five years. The Homeland Missionary will only receive financial support and assistance from the District Home Missions Department for the first three years.
- E. A Homeland Missionary is defined as a licensed Minister who has been approved by the District Board to start a new church in the District of Alabama.
- F. Each Homeland Missionary pastor must submit a monthly progress report (MPR) to the District Superintendent, District Home Missions Director, District Home Missions Secretary and Sectional Presbyter for the first three years. Any Category 1 missionary who fails to file reports for three shall forfeit all District financial support and assistance and status shall revert to the non-support and assistance category. A letter will be sent after the second month is missed encouraging the m to submit the monthly progress report. If they miss the third month then they will revert to the non-support and assistance category. They must resubmit an application and meet the Home Missions Board to be reinstated to the support and assistance status.
- G. Each Homeland Missionary pastor is encouraged to not accept any position on the district level for the first three years of status, and to support all programs of the United Pentecostal Church International.
- H. Each Homeland Missionary pastor is encouraged to attend the Christmas For Christ seminar sponsored by the General Home Missions Division. To assist the Home Missionary the District Home Missions Department will give each couple \$150.00 travel expense to attend the seminar for the first time. The General Home Missions Division will pay for food and lodging once they have arrived at the seminar.

- I. The following materials are available upon request from the United Pentecostal Church:
1. First quarter Word Aflame Sunday School literature.
 2. Twenty-five "Let Us Praise Him" songbooks.
 3. "Exploring God's Word" home Bible study chart.
 4. "My Father's House" new convert's course, all three levels, ordered according to procedure.
 5. All tracts used during the five years of Home Mission status ordered from the General Home Missions Division. Order small amounts, but order often.
 6. Know The Truth Literature (P.O. Box 6565, Huntsville, Al 35824-0565) will donate one thousand evangelism tracts to the Homeland Missionary. Order form will be provided.
- J. A Homeland Missionary pastor must be approved for Home Mission status and the church must be affiliated before receiving any funds from the Home Missions Department. No money can be received or channeled through the Home Missions Department prior to this approval.
- K. The Alabama Call To Souls (ACTS) program is a system by which individuals or churches sponsor a particular Homeland Missionary with a monthly contribution. Upon becoming an ACTS sponsor the church or individual will receive a certificate recognizing their support. The minimum support to receive a certificate is \$10.00 each month. The partnership will continue throughout the duration of the three years of District status unless the sponsor cancels it. Time will be allotted during the District Camp Meeting to promote the ACTS program and other programs of the Home Missions Department.
- L. During the first five years of Home Missions status each church is eligible for a Christmas For Christ grant from the General Home Missions Division. All requests must be made through the District Home Missions Director
- M. A Sheaves For Christ grant is available to the Home Missions church during the first five years. All requests must be made through the District Home Missions Director with the approval of the District Youth President.
- N. An attachment or lien to the property deed must secure all loans and grants from the United Pentecostal Church International. **No funds from a grant or loan will be released to said church until the lien is properly executed and recorded at the Probate office in said county where the church is located.** Whereas this lien is a second mortgage, under no circumstances will it be released upon the sale of the property until the lien is paid according to the terms of Article XIII Section 16 Paragraph 4 of the General Constitution.
- O. All Homeland Missionaries are expected to give full diligence to the stewardship for which they were commissioned. Any departure from this, such as preaching revivals in other churches, should only be with the consultation of the Sectional Presbyter, and District Home Missions Director.

- P. In the event a Homeland Missionary pastor resigns the pastorate, or is no longer licensed with the United Pentecostal Church International during the Home Mission status, then a new pastor is to be found for the Home Mission church. Meanwhile, the church will continue as an established place of worship and affiliated church. The District Superintendent will use the normal process in helping the church search for a new pastor.
- Q. In the event a church is to be closed while under Home Mission status the Pastor should notify the District Superintendent, District Home Missions Director and Sectional Presbyter before any public announcement. When a church closes the Home Mission Secretary will write all current sponsors within ten days of being notified, informing them of the closing and requesting that they transfer their support to another Home Mission church. Any designated funds received after a church closes will be returned to the sponsor upon request. If no request is made within sixty days the funds will be used as undesignated funds by the Home Missions Department.

Category #2: Home Missions Church without Financial Assistance from the Alabama District.

- A. Any licensed minister who desires approval of a location to start a church must be in good standing with the United Pentecostal Church International and must make application with the District Home Missions Director.
- B. The Home Missions Church application must be approved according to the procedure specified in the Alabama District By-laws, Article 3, Section C, number 7, which reads as follows:
Applicants desiring to start such a work should have proper application in the hand of the Home Missions Director at least sixty days prior to the meeting of the District Board. However a committee of the District Superintendent, Home Missions Director, and the Presbyter of the section in which the church is to be started shall have the authority to present an application to the District if the application is in the hands of the Home Missions Director thirty days prior to the next District Board meeting. Failure to have said application submitted as stated shall result in the postponement of any action by the District Board until said requirement is met.
- C. If after six months services have not started or the pastor is not actively working the city then the pastor must meet the District Board for continuation of Home Missions status.
- D. Each Homeland Missionary pastor is encouraged to not accept any position on the district level for the first three years of status, and to support all programs of the United Pentecostal Church International.
- E. Each Homeland Missionary pastor is encouraged to attend the Christmas For Christ seminar sponsored by the General Home Missions Division. The

Homeland Missionary will be responsible for all of their expense to the seminar. The General Home Missions Division will not pay for any non-supported District Missionary to attend the seminar.

- F. The following materials are available upon request from the United Pentecostal Church International:
1. First quarter Word Aflame Sunday School literature
 2. Twenty-five "Let Us Praise Him" songbooks.
 3. "Exploring God's Word" Home Bible study chart.
 4. "In My Father's House" new convert course, all three levels ordered according to procedure.
 5. All tracts used during the three years of Home Missions status ordered from the General Home Missions Division. Order small amounts but order often.
 6. Know The Truth Literature (P.O. Box 6565, Huntsville, Al 35824-0565) will donate one thousand evangelism tracts to the Homeland Missionary. Order form will be provided.
- G. Churches on Home Missions church status without Financial Support and Assistance will not receive any type of monetary support or assistance from the District Home Missions Department. However, they will be eligible to apply for a Christmas For Christ or a Sheaves for Christ grant from the National Home Missions Division. If the grant is approved the money cannot be released to the Home Missions church until said church is affiliated.

TIER NUMBER TWO

Tier number two will consist of established assemblies that are in decline or have never shown growth and desire assistance. This category will be called **Alabama Church Enhancement (ACE)**.

- A. The purpose of ACE is to renew and breathe new life into an established assembly that is in decline or has shown no growth or maturity but desires assistance for growth and renewal.
- B. The Alabama District Home Missions Board will take under consideration the appeal of any pastor that desires the church to be approved for ACE status.
- C. For a church to be considered for ACE church status it must have a documented decline or have shown no increase or maturity in membership and/or financial income for the previous three years. There must be a documented attendance of thirty or less in the Sunday School.
- D. A Home Missions church that has shown no substantial growth and development at the end of their five-year status may apply for ACE status.

- E. ACE church status will be for three years, or as established by the District Board and the Home Missions Board.
- F. Application for ACE church renewal status must be made to the Home Missions Director who will present it with all documented information to the District Board for final approval. The presbyter's input should be obtained prior to presentation to the District Board. With the application the pastor is asked to present his plans for church growth and revival
- G. A church may be considered for ACE church status following a change in Pastor. Said pastor should have been on site for a minimum of six months before applying for ACE church renewal status. With the application the pastor is asked to present his plans for church growth and revival.
- H. Each ACE pastor must submit a monthly progress report (MPR) to the District Superintendent; District Home Missions Director, District Home Missions Secretary, and Sectional Presbyter, for the first three years. Any ACE missionary who fails to file reports for three shall forfeit all District financial support and assistance. A letter will be sent after the second month is missed encouraging them to submit the Monthly Progress Report. If they miss the third month then they will revert to the non-support and assistance category. They must resubmit an application and meet the Home Missions Board to be reinstated to the supported and assistance status.
- I. When approved for ACE church status, the church will come under the guidelines of Alabama District Board and the Home Missions Department The ACE program may be changed from time to time to better serve the cause, with the approval of the District Board.
- J. The Alabama District Home Missions Department will not assume the responsibility of any bills or church indebtedness. The ACE church renewal status will begin upon District Board approval.
- K. An ACE pastor is encouraged to not accept any position on the district level for the three years of status, and to support all programs of the United Pentecostal Church International.

The Alabama District and Home Missions Department will offer assistance to the ACE church and Pastor in the following areas.

- A. **Resources:** In the work of the ministry through the Sectional Presbyter, Sectional Home Mission Director, and other ministers will offer their time and talents in revivals, special services and other areas without compensation.

- B. **Outreach Assistance:** The sectional Home Missions Director shall organize outreach endeavors involving the sectional and the district YET teams.
- C. **Mentoring:** In cooperation with the Presbyter the Home Missions Director will connect the ACE pastor with a pastor of a growing church for consultation and assistance in planning and implementation of a viable growth plan.
- D. **Training:** The ACE pastor will be included in the training workshops offered other Homeland Missionaries.
- E. **Financial:** The Home Missions Department will offer financial assistance in the following areas.
1. Pay for the lodging and food of the Pastor & his family at Family Camp if they stay in the dorms.
 2. Request that the ACE pastor's wife be exempt from paying the registration fee for ladies retreat. Also ask the Ladies Department to pay for one night lodging to the retreat. (Two ladies per room)
 3. The ACE pastor will be exempt from the registration fee for men's retreat. Also the District Home Missions Department will pay for one night lodging for Men's Retreat. (Two men per room)
 4. The sectional Presbyter will ask the District and Sectional departments for assistance to the ACE pastor in areas he and the mentor deem necessary.
 5. Know The Truth Literature (P.O. Box 6565, Huntsville, Al 35824-0565) will donate one thousand evangelism tracts to the ACE pastor. An order form will be provided.

Since the growth and renewal of these struggling churches will benefit the district in all areas, it is only fitting that the District as well as all the departments contribute to the renewal and restoration process.