God Our Source and Guide

Assemblies of God U.S. Missions (AGUSM) recognizes that all true missionary activity ultimately begins and ends with God, the sovereign Lord of the universe. It is every individual’s responsibility to seek the will of God in all matters and to ask Him for wisdom and guidance in the conduct of our daily affairs, both great and small. Our primary motivation must be the glory of God. Earnest, sincere prayer and worship are to be the hallmarks of our ministry.

We believe that God desires people of all ages and in all circumstances to be saved making it vital that we exercise our priesthood as believers, fervently interceding for the lost so they will accept Christ as their Lord and Savior. Ministry that is attempted without the daily discipline of worship, prayer, and intercession is certain to be marked by barrenness. It will rest upon the false promises of human ability and knowledge rather than upon the power and wisdom that come from above.

The Holy Spirit’s role in this age of grace is to empower, guide, discipline, and encourage the believer. We must seek His help to understand and apply the Word of God to each situation and to receive direction for our responsibilities.

Without deprecating the value of human reasoning, we believe in the superiority of the guidance of the Spirit. When possible, individuals should seek confirmation from other Spirit-filled believers, especially those who are leaders. Though not infallible, this biblical practice will minimize the possibility of mistaking other voices for that of the Holy Spirit. We believe that the Scriptures teach that "in the multitude of counselors there is safety.”

Ministry Relationships

While Assemblies of God U.S. Missions has the authority to exercise control over ecclesiastical aspects of the relationship between itself and U.S. missionaries—including selection, placement, discipline, termination, and finances—missionaries have discretion to select the means and methods of performing their missionary activities in consultation with Assemblies of God U.S. Missions and the missionary’s work and home district.

Authority and Accountability

AGUSM was created by and as an integral part of the General Council of the Assemblies of God, U.S.A. It is subject to the Constitution and Bylaws of the General Council and to all of its rules, regulations, and procedures. Structurally, AGUSM is responsible to the Executive Leadership Team, the Executive Presbytery, the General Presbytery, and finally, the General
Council in session. It may not make rules or establish policies which are contrary to the letter or spirit of its parent body, nor may it direct its representatives to do so.

AGUSM administrators and missionaries act as agents of the General Council in ecclesiastical matters. All missionaries and leaders must ensure they are acting in accordance with established policies and with the full permission of the higher authority to which they are accountable. Within the AGUSM structure, the vertical line of accountability is from the missionary to the department director, the U.S. Missions Executive Committee, and the U.S. Missions Executive Director.

AGUSM provides as much freedom for individual creativity, innovation, and responsiveness to opportunity as possible while giving equal importance to our basic values, philosophy of operations, and statement of purpose. Sensitivity to the immediate guidance of the Holy Spirit is a hallmark of Pentecostal ministry. Wherever possible, we have made a deliberate attempt to minimize organizational structure and the encumbrances of minute rules and regulations. Nevertheless, ecclesiastical decisions and actions must be compatible with established philosophies and guidelines.

Planning

Responsible leadership requires the establishment and regular review of objectives, goals, and strategies to accomplish the purpose for which we exist. Such planning must always concur with biblical principles and be subject to the guidance and intervention of the Spirit of our Lord. We must not, however, abrogate our responsibility for determining God's will and obeying it.

Missionary Selection

God's principal means of achieving His ends in the earth is His sovereign choosing, equipping, and sending forth of people as His representatives at the right place at the right time. AGUSM selects and places missionary personnel according to what seems best “to us and to the Holy Spirit.” The choice of the right people is of greater importance than the seeking of right methods.

While general criteria are established as guidelines for the selection of missionary personnel, it is the desire and practice of the U.S. Missions Executive Committee to remain open and attentive to the direction of the Holy Spirit in each individual's life. To that end, the presentation of a candidate’s experience in ministry and his (her) personal walk with the Lord serves as strong indicators of God's purpose and blessing.

Missionary Training

Missionaries should be adequately prepared for the ministry to which they are assigned. Our Lord first selected and then trained His disciples for the ministry to which they were called. Some training is received informally through life's experiences; other may be received through formal education. In most cases AGUSM expects that an undergraduate degree or its
equivalent plus adequate experience in the missionary's anticipated field of ministry will have been attained prior to appointment. AGUSM looks favorably upon requests of its missionaries for additional formal schooling which will enhance their ministries and can be achieved within acceptable limits of time, expense, and field needs.

**Discipline**

The intent of AGUSM is to seek the welfare and personal development of its missionaries while at the same time maintaining scriptural standards of operation. From time to time, it may be necessary to formally discipline a missionary. In such cases, there must first have been a written statement of the perceived problem from those who possess firsthand knowledge of it, a full examination of the facts, and the opportunity for the missionary to respond to those accusations and present such evidence as may be appropriate to the case. Further, the missionary has the right of appeal. The procedures outlined in the AGUSM policy of "Missionary Discipline" shall be followed. Even though dismissal from missionary service may be required, all prescribed discipline shall be in accordance with the biblical principles of redemption and restoration.

**Ministry Relationships**

The General Council of the Assemblies of God, U.S.A., consists of a cooperative fellowship of local churches which adhere to a common statement of faith and polity. Its pastors hold credentials with the district councils of the geographical areas where they reside and minister. The local assembly is the primary vehicle for the corporate evangelization of the world, edification of believers, and worship of the Lord. We seek to establish local ministries that are associated with the local church, district, and national offices. We pledge to work in partnership with that ministry to accomplish the three-fold mission of the Church: the worship of the Lord, the edification of the Body, and the evangelization of the world.

**Prayer and Financial Support**

One of the founding purposes of the General Council of the Assemblies of God was to encourage a broad base of corporate prayer and financial support for our Fellowship's missionary enterprise. According to the New Testament pattern, all believers are called by God to support the task of evangelization through these means. This is best achieved through local congregations. Missionaries have both the privilege and the responsibility to seek prayer and financial support from churches.

People are much more inclined to pray for and financially support individuals they have met in person and with whom they can identify. For this reason, AGUSM missionaries itinerate among our churches to raise their support. By faith, they trust God to supply their needs through fellow Christians on a consistent and regular basis. The missionary's financial need is defined by a mutually acceptable budget which the missionary is responsible to raise.
The monies are raised on behalf of and in the name of Assemblies of God U.S. Missions and are so receipted. They are not the property of the missionary. Special personal gifts, such as birthday and Christmas gifts, are excepted.

Because these funds are given as unto the Lord for His purpose of evangelization, AGUSM and the individual missionary are charged with the highest of responsibility in their handling. They must be expended wisely and prayerfully for the glory of God. Ultimately, it is to Him that we must give account.

**Missionary Reporting and Financial Responsibility**

U.S. Missions requirements:

- General Council Bylaws require that missionaries send ½ of their tithes to their department.
- AGUSM retains 5% of all cash receipts as an administrative fee. The funds cover the cost of maintaining the missionary’s account. If paid through an source other than U.S. Missions, the missionary must submit 5% of all salary and benefits to AGUSM to cover the fee.
- The Financial Services Policy Manual requires that missionaries submit monthly reports.

It is AGUSM policy that the funds raised by its missionaries through monthly faith promises and offerings are the property of Assemblies of God U.S. Missions and the General Council of the Assemblies of God. Due to AGUSM appointment, missionaries are entitled to a monthly personal allowance as established by U.S. Missions policy and as designated monies from donors are sufficient for the allowance. U.S. Missions evaluates the allowance on a regular basis and adjusts it as considered appropriate.

A missionary’s personal allowance can be withheld for any of the following reasons: delinquency in submitting financial reports to AGUSM as outlined in the Financial Services Policy Manual, moral failure, or at the request of the district for unresolved issues. AGUSM will hold the funds until the resolution of the matter(s).

Any funds received into the missionary’s account by the General Council or received by the missionary during deputational work, in excess of the personal allowance, will be available to the missionary only as work (ministry) funds, not as personal income. AGUSM requires that missionaries report the use of work funds to U.S. Missions on an itineration or ministry report, whichever is applicable.

Should a missionary resign his (her) appointment or should U.S. Missions cancel the appointment, all funds remaining in the missionary’s account are the property of U.S. Missions to use at their discretion, exclusive of any personal allowance to which the missionary may be entitled. If there is a deficit in the account, the missionary will reimburse U.S. Missions for the amount of the deficit as soon as possible.
Conclusion

Assemblies of God U.S. Missions exists to be an agent of our Lord for witness, redemption, sanctification, and spiritual growth. Our intent and purpose is to manifest the principles of the kingdom of God within the organization, in our relationships with those outside it, in our working among the staff, and in our witness to the world. May God help us achieve that end.