

## **Mission Travel Fund Guidelines**

*draft reviewed by Missions Committee 9/28/2014; updated and finalized 10/31/14*

Hyde Park Mennonite Fellowship (HPMF) seeks to support the mission work that its attenders and members do at a distance through counseling and advice, prayer and financial support. The Mission Travel Fund and Sister Church Travel Fund were created to manage the latter.

Funds for Mission Travel are provided partly through the budget and partly through Special Giving. We no longer have a regular month for Special Giving for Mission Travel, but instead will undertake Special Giving for specific travel. If you would like to request a Special Giving for Mission Travel, you can make a request to any member of the Missions Committee and they will confer and respond.

There are two categories of Mission Travel Funds – those for Sister Church Travel and those for other Missions Travel. In considering an application for use of those funds, the Mission Committee will take into account the following questions:

1. Are you, or have you been in recent years, a regular participant in church life at HPMF?
2. Are some of the funds for the travel coming from other sources (savings, family, e.g.)?
3. Do you require financial assistance to go on this trip and do this work?
4. Is the travel and work/learning tour associated with a specific mission of HPMF? (e.g. Sister Church in Colombia)
5. Is the travel and work/learning tour associated with a mission or work sponsored by Mennonite Church USA or Mennonite Church Canada? (e.g. MCC Learning Tour)
6. Is the travel primarily related either to a specific mission project, or is it a Learning Tour? (If the travel is primarily a tour or vacation, then it's not a match for use of these funds, but we support both specific projects and learning tours)
7. Is there a plan for action following the tour? Sharing with the congregation and community, or a follow-up work plan?
8. Is there a sponsoring organization for the travel? Is it a charitable organization (501c3 or similar)?

If you are able to answer several of these questions (including in almost every case the first) in the affirmative then you may speak with the Pastor or any member of the Missions Committee about the possibility of receiving some support from these funds. They will confer and respond. Our guideline is to provide matching funds of up to \$100 for domestic travel and up to \$250 for international travel. Those funds will match amounts the traveler(s) have raised from other sources.

Special gifts for Mission Travel cannot be designated for any particular individual and still be tax deductible to the giver, so gifts to either of the Missions Travel Funds must be given with the understanding that the Missions Committee will use the guidelines and its understanding of each situation to provide a fair amount for travel needs.

The Church (Meeting Room, Kitchen and Basement Area) can be utilized for Mission Travel fundraising if you answer at least three of the questions above in the affirmative. Requests for that use should be reviewed and approved by a majority of Missions Committee members and must be scheduled through the Church's Administrative Assistant. Past examples have included dinners, musical performances and showing movies.

In addition, you can always raise funds individually for Mission Travel from family, friends and church members. This has been done in the past through letters and personal discussion.