

CBC MISSION SUPPORTS PRINCIPLES AND PROCESS

These principles and this process will be applied when determining the areas of mission to be supported by CBC. They will not apply to situations where the church supports an organisation through the Emergency Relief Fund, or where the church supports an individual for a short term and fixed period of theological study, mission, or social action.

PRINCIPLES

CBC will aim to donate 15% of its annual income to mission organisations.

CBC will support Baptist Home Mission and the Baptist Missionary Society World Mission on a permanent basis and five other organisations on a rolling basis. CBC will give 2.5% to Baptist Home Mission, 2.5% to the Baptist Missionary Society World Mission and the remaining 10% will be equally split between the five other organisations.

CRITERIA

The following criteria will be used to determine which five other organisations will be considered for support by CBC.

Theological integrity

This will be tested through an alignment of the organisation with the vision and values of CBC. For British organisations there is an expectation of theological agreement with the Evangelical Alliance Basis of Faith. For overseas organisations there is an expectation of theological agreement along the same lines as the Evangelical Alliance Basis of Faith.

Aims and objectives

There will be an expectation that the organisation will have clearly stated aims and objectives. For both British and overseas organisations there will be clearly articulated charitable objectives.

An established and respected track record with ongoing viability

This will be tested through an examination of the organisation's annual report and accounts over the past three years. There is an expectation of high reputation with no past or present known issues that may bring the organisation into disrepute or call into question the integrity of the organisation itself or the integrity of key individuals who represent the organisation. For start-ups or recently established organisations, project plans, structures and financial forecasts will be examined.

Transparency around how donations are spent

This will be tested through a clear articulation of how donations are spent with transparency around the split between administrative and operational spend and openness around the specific projects being supported.

The prospect of excellent partnership

There will be an expectation of an excellent two-way partnership between CBC and the organisation. The organisation should have a nominated and enthusiastic individual within CBC who will encourage the church to partner with the organisation through prayer, interest and, where possible, active engagement. The organisation should commit to keeping the church fully informed and interested.

A balance between local, national, and international organisations

There will be an expectation that CBC support will be balanced across a range of local, national, and international organisations.

A balance in focus between evangelism and social action

There will be an expectation that CBC support will be balanced across a range of evangelical and social action organisations.

PROCESS

A Mission Strategy Group of seven individuals (four from the leadership team (to include either the Senior or Associate Minister and no more than one other member of staff) and three drawn from the wider Church Partnership) will determine which organisations will be supported. The Leadership Team will make appointments to the group but, recognising the importance of this role, will bring a recommendation regarding the leadership of the Mission Strategy Group to the Church Partners Meeting.

To make support for the Baptist Home Mission and the Baptist Missionary Society World Mission meaningful, and to foster active prayer and participation, CBC will aim to partner with a named Home Mission supported church and a particular project or mission partner within the Baptist Missionary Society World Mission. CBC will have an expectation that these organisations will respond proactively to the desire for more specific engagement with named churches, people, and projects.

Of the five other organisations, each will be supported for three years, with an annual sense check to ensure it is appropriate for CBC to continue its support. At the end of three years, the organisation will come to the end of its period of support. Church partners will be invited to submit written proposals for organisations to receive future support for the following three years and these may include a fresh proposal for an organisation that has been supported previously, including those coming to the end of their three-year period of support.

The Mission Strategy Group will accept proposals in any written format and will not discriminate around the presentational quality of the written proposal. However, all proposals should address how the key criteria are met. The Group will undertake additional due diligence on the organisations proposed and may ask to meet with the proposer, particularly if the proposed organisation is relatively unknown to CBC or if it is a start-up or recently established organisation.

The Mission Strategy Group will only accept proposals for support for organisations, not for individuals.

Using the criteria above, the group will determine which organisations provide the best fit for support, using a score grid to aid objectivity, for example:

Criteria	Score 1 (poor fit) to 5 (excellent fit)					
	Proposal 1	Proposal 2	Proposal 3	Proposal 4	Proposal 5	Proposal 6
Theological integrity						
Aims and objectives						
Track record						
Transparency						
Partnership						
Geographical spread						
Focus						
Total						

When considering the balance between local, national, and international organisations and the balance in focus between evangelism and social action, the Mission Strategy Group will consider the distribution of those organisations already being supported and seek to achieve a balance across those areas. So, for example, if the Group is considering proposals as one organisation is coming to the end of its three years of support and the continuing four organisations are all focussed overseas, a proposal for a further overseas organisation may only score 1, whereas a local organisation may score 5.

To maintain regular refreshing of support and ongoing opportunities to consider new organisations, the review of support for organisations will be staggered so the either one or two organisations come to the end of their three-year period of support each year.

Once the Mission Strategy Group have determined which organisations will be supported, the Group will take a recommendation, with rationale, to the Church Partners Meeting for approval.

To allow for timely submission, consideration and decision making, the number and names of organisations coming to the end of their three-year period of support will be announced to church partners in early September each year. Proposers will be required to make their submission to the Mission Strategy Group by the end of September. During October the Group will meet to consider the proposals, carry out any additional necessary due diligence and determine which organisation(s) will be recommended to church partners. The decision will be made at the Church Partners Meeting in November.

TRANSITION ARRANGEMENTS

To transition to the new arrangements, the Mission Strategy Group will meet in October 2024 to consider those organisations currently supported by CBC and determine which five organisations (in addition to Baptist Home Mission and the Baptist Missionary Society World Mission) best fit the criteria. The Group will make a recommendation for approval at the church partners meeting in November. This will include approval of the pattern in which those five organisations will come to the end of their period of support, with one ending in 2025, two ending in 2026 and two ending in 2027.

MISSION MINISTRY TEAM

The Mission Ministry Team will comprise two individuals each advocating for Baptist Home Mission and the Baptist Missionary Society World Mission, five individuals each advocating for one of the other organisations (and so they will be part of the team for a three-year fixed period) and other individuals who have a particular interest in and passion for mission. The team will be led by the leader of the Mission Strategy Group.

The core purpose of the Mission Ministry Team will be to:

- advocate for the seven organisations across the church, encouraging prayer, interest and, where possible, active engagement.
- plan and coordinate a programme (in liaison with the ministers to ensure an even spread and fit with the wider service planning) which will typically include:
 - short opportunities (10 minutes) in a Sunday morning service. Each organisation will be offered one opportunity each year and this presentation can be made by the organisation advocate or by the wider Team.
 - longer opportunities (which may include leading a service or preaching) in a Sunday morning service. Each organisation will be offered one opportunity during the three-year period of support, and this may include, for example, someone from the organisation visiting the church to lead or preach.
- offer opportunities for regular updates on the supported missions, for example, using short promotional videos for use at the start of or during a Sunday morning service, or bringing events linked to the organisation to the attention of the church during the usual time for notices.
- put together the quarterly "Mission News" for dissemination to Church Partners and the wider church, which should focus mainly on the seven supported missions but may also include information on any support given through the Emergency Relief Fund and bring updates from any individual who is being supported through a short term and fixed period of theological study, mission, or social action.
- maintain and keep refreshed the mission noticeboards, focussing on the seven supported missions.
- encourage church partners and the wider church, particularly young people, to consider and participate in mission opportunities, primarily in the seven supported organisations, but also more broadly.