

## The NGC Missions Network

Missions partnerships within the multi-church ethos at NGC

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### Introduction

This document is about *missions*. For our purpose here, *missions* are distinct from *mission* definitionally. The *mission* of the Church could be summarized: “[T]o go into the world and make disciples by declaring the gospel of Jesus Christ in the power of the Spirit and gathering these disciples into churches, that they might worship the Lord and obey his commands now and in eternity to the glory of God the Father.”<sup>1</sup> This is our *mission*.

*Missions* grows out of the biblical imperative of *mission*. We could define *missions* as “The strategic initiative(s) and intentional structures and partnerships developed by a local church for the purpose of engaging biblical mission.” *Mission* is why *missions* exist. *Mission* is the biblical imperative, *missions* is how we get it done in our cultural moment, locally and globally. *Mission* is the theological foundation; *missions* is the methodological and functional application of *mission* in a specific local church family.

*Mission* and *missions* are intimately related, but not equivalent. They fit together hand and glove, but *mission* is the hand, *missions*, the glove. The *mission* is God’s, we’re just responding to his call and proclaiming the good news of His kingdom: our King, Jesus. *Missions* is the way we engage this call, empowered by God’s Spirit, and equipped by God’s word.

NGC *Mission* Values:<sup>2</sup>

*We engage the mission of God in response to God’s mission in our lives.*

- We want to replicate gospel-centered churches.
- We go and send to the ends of the earth in response to the Great Commission.
- We engage the community around us with the gospel.
- We welcome unbelievers to hear the truth in our gatherings.
- We participate in God’s mission through biblical financial stewardship.

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<sup>1</sup> This definition is taken from Greg Gilbert and Kevin DeYoung in *What is the Mission of the Church* as articulated in the review by John Starke at <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/reviews/mission-church/>

<sup>2</sup> These values are taught in detail in *NGC 101: Mission*

### **The NGC Missions Network:**

Our mission's strategy is **to plant and build the church**. The NGC Missions Network is the global and local trellis that supports the vine work of our mission's strategy.<sup>3</sup> We execute this strategy through both our centralized multi-church dynamic and our decentralized local church campuses and leadership teams.

Our centralized multi-church dynamic refers to the things that all NGC local churches partner together to accomplish. This includes partnership and support through the NGC Missions Network. Our decentralized local church campuses refer to the local NGC churches that engage and contextualize gospel mission through their specific people and in their specific place.

Altogether, all NGC churches fund and engage the NGC Missions Network. Separately, each NGC church engages the mission in their local community.

There are four specific functions of the NGC Missions Network:

1. Direct Global Missions Partnerships
2. Empower Local Missions Partnerships
3. Facilitate Financial Partnerships
4. Authorize New Partnerships

### *Direct Global Missions Partnerships*

Global Missions Partnerships will be a centralized aspect of NGC's multi-church ethos. By that we mean that all partnerships, initiatives and funding will flow through the DLT for approval by the LC and affirmation by the FCE as seen in the flowchart below.

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<sup>3</sup> *The Trellis and the Vine*, by Colin Marshall and Tony Payne is an essential read on the dynamics between the "vine" work of gospel ministry and the "trellis" of support provided by organizational and administrative functions.



Our global mission’s emphasis and focus is **planting gospel-centered churches**. Our primary partnership in this endeavor is the church-planting network Acts 29.

Acts 29 “is a diverse, global family of church-planting churches characterized by theological clarity, cultural engagement and missional innovation”.<sup>4</sup> Partnership with Acts 29 is much more than supporting a missionary agency. Partnership with Acts 29 includes contributing to a network of like-minded churches with a common goal “to encourage, resource, facilitate, support and equip churches to plant churches that will plant church-planting churches”.<sup>5</sup>

Any global mission’s partnerships with specific missionaries or mission’s groups outside of Acts 29 will be carefully evaluated to determine if they fit within our overall strategy and focus.<sup>6</sup>

### *Empower Local Missions Partnerships*

Our local missions work is a decentralized aspect of NGC’s multi-church ethos. By that we mean that all partnerships, initiatives and funding will flow through the local campus lead pastor and the LET (Local Eldership Team) with affirmation by the LC and or FCE.

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.acts29.com/about/> - what we are

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.acts29.com> - why we exist

<sup>6</sup> See below for more on the evaluation process for authorizing new mission’s partnerships.

Our local mission's emphasis and focus is **engagement in gospel mission**. In other words, the work being supported must be anchored in either

1. The mission of the gospel in the already planted work of Christ (i.e. Navigators Responders equipping Christian men and women who work in emergency response to share the gospel and disciple their co-workers).
2. The gospel call to engage in holistic service in our local community (i.e. Open House Ministries serving homeless families in Clark County with gospel-centered programs and services).

All local missions work will be **NVWVS**<sup>7</sup> in form and function. NVWVS is the ecclesiological guidepost of our local mission's work. **Non-Vocational With Vocational Support** means the driving force behind a local missions initiative (aka Community Partnership) will be initiated by, championed by, and executed by non-vocational deacons and members of NGC with the structural, directional, and financial support of NGC vocational staff. This is how we practically live out Ephesians 4:12 *"to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ."*

Each campus will have a deacon over Community Partnerships. This deacon will help recruit, train, and mobilize members of the church (ideally within the framework of Community Groups) to serve alongside local community partnerships where they are particularly gifted and passionate. The vocational leadership of the campus and NGC as a whole is right there alongside the deacon(s) with organizational, promotional, and administrative support.

*For example:*

Open House Ministries has an "adopt-a-room" program<sup>8</sup>. Each time a family moves out of the program they are allowed to take all the furnishings from their apartment with them. Before the next family moves into the apartment, local churches and volunteers fully furnish and decorate the room.

When Open House reaches out to NGC to let us know a room is ready for new furnishings, our vocational staff will reach out to the campus deacon of community partnerships who will then reach out to their local community

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<sup>7</sup> We enjoy creating acronyms that are pregnant with meaning but relevant to NGC alone.

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.sheltered.org/adopt-a-room-program/>

groups to mobilize a team of people to serve the needs of Open House. This is NVWVS in action.

Short-Term Missions trips will also be guided by the NVWVS framework on the campus level.

### *Facilitate Financial Partnerships*

The NGC Missions Network will facilitate the financial aspect of our mission's partnerships for both global and local missions.

Historically, prior to the multi-church model, NGC treated all mission's income and expenses in the Missions Fund. With the inauguration of this new mission's framework, it is time to restructure our concept of missions giving. Instead of giving to a separate "missions fund", all giving will be treated as regular "tithes and offerings" to the general fund of each respective campus. There will no longer be a specific designation for the NGC Missions Fund. All giving will be through the general fund tithes and offerings for each campus.<sup>9</sup>

NGC will set an annual financial target for mission support for each campus and for NGC as a whole. The target is a percentage of the expected tithes/offerings income for the fiscal year for that campus.<sup>10</sup> The budgeted allocation for each campus will be transferred from the general fund to the missions fund on a monthly basis. All spending will be tracked by each campus in sub-categories for global and local missions, initiatives and partnerships. Requiring each campus to allocate funds for future church plants will allow a reserve to be built in the mission's fund and essentially "self-fund" our next NGC campus.

This structure will allow us to celebrate giving in the context of total giving to each campus and NGC as a whole. It allows our giving engagement to be focused on a single NGC-wide mission rather than dividing the interest with confusing phrases such as "above and beyond your normal tithes" in an effort to drive up missions giving. That phrase will be reserved only for very specific short-term initiatives.

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<sup>9</sup> The exception will be an NGC wide initiative such as "One Day to Feed the World" or "Clothing 500" which will have its own unique designation applicable to our entire family of churches.

<sup>10</sup> The minimum starting point for each campus is 3% for A29. The amount of funding expected by each campus depends on where the campus is on the "life-cycle" of new plants. Established churches will be expected to meet the 10% annual allocation whereas newer plants will scale towards that mark based on growth and giving capacity.

### Example of Missions Allocation Funding:<sup>11</sup>

Campus	% of T/O allocated to A29 Partnership	% allocated to missions support (local & global)	% allocated to future church plant	Total T/O budget allocation
East Vancouver	3%	2%	5%	<b>10%</b>
Camas/Washougal	3%	2%	5%	<b>10%</b>
Future Campus #1 (brand new plant)	3%	0%	2%	<b>5%</b>

#### *Authorize New Partnerships*

Before any additional partnerships are added to the NGC Missions Network they will be vetted through our evaluation process. The basis for this vetting process is our emphasis on the word “support”. For the NGC Missions Network “support” is so much more than just a monthly check. Our heart for missions support is rooted in 1 Thessalonians 2:8 - *we were ready to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you had become very dear to us.*” Our goal is to partner with our missions network. By partner we mean build a relationship that goes beyond financial support but is anchored in gospel-centered relationships within and through the church body.

The vetting framework for new mission’s partnerships will include questions such as:

- Is there a known relationship? There must be a high level of personal advocacy and strong relationships already established.
- Is there active gospel engagement? What is the foundation for their work? The gospel nature of our mission’s partnership must be explicit and known and active.
- For global partnerships - is their work truly focused on church planting? If there is not an active church yet what is their plan to plant a church in the future?
- Is there missional and theological alignment?
- Who else are they aligned with and what are the core values of their other partnerships?

<sup>11</sup> This is merely an example of how this will work, not the current allocation of funds at the publishing of this document.