

**PANANIA ANGLICAN CHURCH
POLICIES AND PROCEDURES
MISSION POLICY¹**

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Panania Anglican Church (PAC) Mission Statement

Growing together as we know Jesus Christ and make him known to others.

By God's grace, we achieve this by providing opportunities for members to grow together (eg regular services, prayer times, growth groups and age or purpose related groups) to share, learn, admonish and encourage each other. In addition, we support local evangelism, leadership training and other churches and groups involved in outreach and cross-cultural mission.

Making Jesus known to others is a central part of taking the gospel to all nations (Acts 1:8) for individuals and as a church. Local and global mission make up the two halves of this goal. To achieve this there needs to be a growth of mission awareness, support, and recruitment amongst our own people. Support for mission occurred in the scriptures. Paul thanked the Philippians for the support of his ministry through a "partnership of giving and receiving" (Phil 4:15,16) and he suggested that the church in Rome may help to support his missionary journey to Spain (Rom 15:24).

This policy is designed to guide us as we partner and support individuals and organisations outside our local community.

Challenges for PAC

PAC thanks God that it is a well-resourced church with many talented members and good facilities. PAC has the following challenges as we seek to use these gifts wisely:

- Ensuring that church members see mission as part of their walk with God
- Growing an interest in partnering with overseas and Australian mission/outreach
- Encouraging more prayer for mission
- Having more organisations and missionaries seeking support than we can partner with
- Increasing the number of members seeking missionary or full-time ministry training

¹ PAC acknowledges Holy Trinity Anglican Church Wentworth Falls Missions Policy in developing this policy document.

Policy Statement

Panania Anglican Church will support the gospel outreach beyond our local community through increasing knowledge about mission and outreach, prayer and partnering with individuals, other churches and organisations that accord with our evangelical theology. Priority will be given to individuals and organisations that are directly involved in outreach, leadership development and partner with local churches.

Goals

PAC seeks to promote mission by:

- Growing our members' sense of engagement, prayerfulness and financial commitment for mission
- Keeping the church aware of current and future activities of our mission partners
- Facilitating stable and growing financial support for our mission partners
- Encouraging potential new missionaries or full time ministry leaders who can be trained and sent out for mission.
- Evaluating new opportunities for mission partnership

Evaluating New Partnerships

From time to time a potential mission partner will approach the church for support or the ministry we support may undergo substantial changes warranting our review. The Parish Council will assess any request or review according to the following criteria:

The Mission Partner will:

- Satisfy the definitions of being a 'missionary' or 'mission partner' (see Appendix 1)
- Preferably have some personal connection with our church or church members
- Be part of a sending mission organisation with a network of support or church organisation
- Preferably be committed to long-term mission work
- Not change the basic nature of their mission work without a review of the partnership
- Be able to update the church on their work with regular prayer points
- Be willing to make a deputation visit during home assignment

PAC will:

- Commit to praying for the partner monthly in a public worship service
- Promote private prayer and support of the partner by members
- Commit to financially or otherwise supporting the partnership for a set period of time with review at the end of the period or when that is a significant change in the partnership (eg resignation of the missionary/partner)
- Administer fundraising through the church accounts and distribute to the organisation
- Arrange accommodation/activities for deputation when on home assignment
- As an evangelical Anglican church, PAC will give priority to other like-minded Anglican partners
- Parish Council will monitor the total number of mission partnerships, up to a total of eight partnerships

APPENDIX 1 - DEFINITIONS

For this policy document we make the following definitions:

- Mission is the sending out of and partnering with those who will take and share the gospel in places beyond the reach of our local evangelistic activity and strategy
- Missionaries are the individuals or families directly involved in the evangelistic work of mission and/or equipping/facilitating the evangelistic work of others in that region
- Mission organisations are the organisations and networks that send, train, and support missionaries in the field, including similar organisations working in Australia
- Mission partners are the specific missionaries, individuals or organisations PAC has agreed to partner with

A number of clarifications are required here to maintain the biblical sense of mission in our portfolio of partnerships, while allowing for the diverse organisations, individuals, and strategies that make up world mission.

- Although we support missionaries whose work is facilitating the evangelistic work of others, we will never want to find ourselves without mission partners whose primary work is the sharing of the gospel
- Although there is a great fit between works of welfare and evangelistic work, we will maintain a majority of mission partners whose activity is evangelistic in nature
- Although mission should include reaching cultures similar to ours, we will always want to have mission partners who are crossing geographical, cultural, and linguistic barriers to the gospel
- Recognising the lack of trained Christian leaders in many parts of the world, we support mission partners who are training future leaders.