

MINISTRY INITIATIVE TEAM

RESOURCE BOOK

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CHURCH

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This resource book is designed to help the Ministry Initiative Teams (MIT) by explaining the responsibilities of the leaders, assistant team leader, and team players and to provide helpful information as you plan, recruit, and execute your MIT. You'll find practical information whether you are planning a project, event and trip. The resource book will continue to be updated and improved as we develop the MIT's. We welcome your input.

MISSIONAL OBJECTIVES

LIVE MORE SIMPLY

To focus our church on the accomplishment of the Great Commission by challenging her to "excel in the grace of giving (2 Cor. 8:7)."

Live More Simply; Give More Sacrificially; Accomplish the Great Commission.

Live More Simply

In our suburban context, one of the greatest challenges to spiritual growth is the demands of affluence. These demands generate distractions and busyness which erode spiritual life. Grace Venture calls the congregation to purposeful living by replacing the demands of affluence with the demands of serving God.

GIVE MORE SACRIFICIALLY

Give More Sacrificially

Since the spiritual discipline of giving frees us from the tyranny of affluence, Grace Venture calls the congregation to purposeful habits of giving money and time to God instead of to personal consumption.

ACCOMPLISH THE GREAT COMMISSION

Accomplish the Great Commission

Since Jesus Christ tasked us with discipling all the nations (Matt. 28:19), Grace Venture calls the congregation to participate in the Great Commission. Instead of living for consumption, let us live for proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ.

ACCOMPLISH THE GREAT COMMISSION

The following tactics are being utilized to foster a culture change in the congregation:

MINISTRY OF PRAYER

Ministry of Prayer

The staff, elders, GV Strategy and MIT leaders must commit to regular pray for the Holy Spirit to infect our congregation with an increasing spiritual maturity.

MINISTRY OF THE WORD

Ministry of the Word

The following are to be utilized to encourage our congregation to renew their thinking toward purpose, time, money and joy:

- Pulpits – every preaching/teaching venue
- Intensives
- Perspectives Course
- Small Group Studies

MOBILIZE

Mobilize

Opportunities to give money and invest time in Kingdom activities must be fostered and communicated to the congregation on a regular basis.

MISSIONAL STRATEGY

GOAL

Goal

Develop, implement and maintain an overarching strategy for Grace Evan's missional involvement. Where and how will Grace Evan's money and people be focused in order to participate in the accomplishment of the Great Commission?

MEMBERS

Members

This 16 person committee will be made up of the following:

Ezone Elders - 3

Missions Pastor - 1

Lay People - 12

Depending upon Elder assignments and length of serving on the session, the actual Ezone Elders serving on the GV Strategy Committee may change each year. The commitment for Lay People will be for 3 years. After serving and rotating off for 1 year, an individual may serve on this committee again. An individual serving as an MIT leader may not serve on the GV Strategy committee. A GEC member who is a monthly supported missionary may not serve on the GV Strategy Committee.

Each year, 4 lay people will rotate off the GV Strategy Committee and 4 new lay people will rotate on. The yearly selection of lay people for the GV Strategy Committee will be approved by the session. The mission pastor will poll the Sr. Pastor, ministerial staff and GV Strategy Committee for suggested GEC members to serve. These names will be submitted to the session for approval in the fall of each year. A term will begin in January and continue for 3 years. When this committee is first established, 4 lay people will serve for 1 year, 4 will serve for 2 years and 4 will serve for 3 years. Therefore, the rotation schedule will begin upon the inception of the committee.

Each member of the GV Strategy Committee will vote on all decisions. A majority of the GV Strategy Committee members with at least 2 of the 3 elders will constitute a quorum, and a quorum is required for the conducting of business (i.e. 9 members minimum with 2 of the 9 being elders).

REQUIREMENTS

Requirements

In order to serve on the GV Strategy Committee, an individual must attend the Missions Intensive or preferably, the Perspectives Course. They also must be a member of Grace Evan.

MISSIONAL STRATEGY

RESPONSIBILITIES

Responsibilities

Develop Strategic Mission Plan for GEC

Determine Focus Areas

Manage Mission Funds

Approve New Monthly Supported Missionaries

Evaluate Monthly Supported Missionaries

Approve MIT projects/trips

(all mission trips will be approved by the entire session of GEC)

Approve scholarship requests

(this will be handled by a sub-committee consisting of at a minimum the mission pastor and 2 elders)

Recruit MIT leaders

Note:

Jeff Simons will be a voting member of the GV Strategy Committee until his retirement. Additionally, he will be allowed to act as an MIT leader for Basketball Central America while being on the GV Strategy Committee until his retirement. Upon his retirement, he will roll off the GV Strategy Committee.

MISSIONAL STRUCTURE

GV STRATEGY COMMITTEE

GV Strategy Committee

This body will meet at least once a month with additional meetings if necessary. The two main objectives of this body are to establish strategy and MIT oversight. With three Ezone Elders sitting on the committee, it is anticipated that a smooth flow of information will develop between the Session (policy making body) and the GV Strategy Committee (strategic and oversight body).

MITs

MITs

Each MIT will meet as needed. MIT leaders will communicate with GV Strategy on a regular basis.

FOCUS AREAS

Focus Areas

Six Focus Areas are proposed to assist organize and evaluate GEC missional involvement. To distribute the oversight task, 1-2 GV Strategy laypeople will be assigned to each Focus Area. (See next page)

GV MESSAGE

Grace Venture Message

The GV Strategy Committee, the missions pastor and all MITs will participate in the communication of the GV message – Live More Simply; Give More Sacrificially; Accomplish the Great Commission. As a result, it is anticipated that an increasing number of the congregation will adopt the GV lifestyle.

MISSIONS FUNDING

SOURCES

Sources

The two existing mission funding sources will remain intact. Ten percent of every dollar given will be designated for missions. Sacrificial giving above and beyond regular tithes will be designated as Grace Venture giving.

ALLOCATIONS

Allocations

The GV Strategy Committee will have oversight regarding how the two funding sources are allocated based upon the following principles:

Maintaining Monthly Commitments

For the missionaries/ministries we have committed to financially support on a monthly basis, we strive to maintain this obligation by keeping an approximate 3 months reserve.

Congregational Involvement

Grace Venture is not merely a grant writing body, rather this is a cultural change within our congregation whereby our people own the Great Commission to a greater degree.

Conforms to GEC

Theologically, any partnership GEC has with a missionary/ministry must agree on doctrinal essentials. Additionally, GEC is part of the Church and any partnership must further the mission of the church – “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.”

MISSIONS TRAINING

Biblical knowledge and current missional knowledge are important factors in developing wise strategy and effective teams. To foster a missionally educated congregation, the following will be offered congregation-wide and required for certain committee and team positions.

PERSPECTIVES

Perspectives Course

A seminary-level study program designed to provide a Biblical understanding of the Great Commission along with a current scope of the task. GEC is investigating partnering with Central Church to regularly offer this course in Memphis.

INTENSIVE

Intensive

God's Master Plan for Missions – the 4 week/1 day Intensive offered regularly at GEC.

RETREAT

Retreat

Annually, hold a retreat at GEC for all MIT leaders and GV Strategy members. The goals will be twofold: strategic evaluation and planning (short range, 1 year and long range, 5 year).

HANDBOOK

Handbook

Teams involve more people and in order to equip MIT leaders, players and GV Strategy Committee, a handbook outlining policies and procedures will be made available.

MINISTRY INITIATIVE TEAM

TEAM LEADER

Team Leader

For every Ministry Initiative Team (MIT), there will be a team leader and a leader-in-training. Each leader and leader-in-training must be a member of GEC and approved by the GV Strategy Committee. The team leader is the driving force behind GEC's involvement in a particular focus area. The leader-in-training is positioned to assume responsibilities if the team leader ever steps down. There is not a time limit to a team leader serving.

TEAM PLAYER

Team Player

For every MIT, there will be projects and/or trips to participate in by the congregation. A team player is anyone involved in an MIT project/trip at least once, but the involvement could span years. A team player does not have to be a GEC member.

TEAM LEADER RESPONSIBILITIES

Team Leader Responsibilities

Develop vision for MIT
Gain approval for vision from GV Strategy
Request funds needed from GV Strategy
Recruit a leader-in-training
Recruit additional team players
Execute project/trips
Maintain communication with monthly supported ministries involved with MIT

TEAM PLAYER RESPONSIBILITIES

Responsibilities for Team Player

Assist Team Leader execute project/trips
Assist Team Leader recruit additional team players
Assist Team Leader develop and implement vision for MIT

STEP TO BEGIN A MIT

Steps to Begin a MIT

1. Team Leader must complete the vision plan.
2. Schedule meeting with Grace Venture Strategy Committee by contacting Johnathan Todd at 756-7444 or email Johnathan@graceevan.org.
3. Prepare to present your plan (15-30 minutes).
4. Include request for funds for all annual projects, events and trips.
5. If additional funds are needed at a later time, request can be made at a regular monthly meeting of the Grace Venture Strategy Committee.