

Biblical Standards for Mission Team Participants

At Hunter Street Baptist Church we expect every member to model what we believe about our faith. There is an expectation that *all* members will abide by the Hunter Street Membership Covenant to do the following:

Belong: We belong to the Lord Jesus and to each other.

Grow: We will grow to be fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ.

Serve: We will serve one another, the community, and the world for the sake of the gospel.

Tell: We will tell others about the redemptive work of Jesus Christ.

Worship: We will seek to worship the Triune God in spirit and in truth.

Participating in a short-term mission team is a privilege. With this privilege comes a greater level of responsibility and accountability. As we serve Christ through missions, we model before our church and community where we are serving, what we really believe about our faith. Therefore mission team participants place themselves into a role of Christian leadership by serving on the mission team. Therefore, mission team participants are those, who by their service, are viewed as having the opportunity to influence others for the sake of the Gospel. For this unique and specific reason, it is essential that every team member is faithful to biblical principles and standards.

It is important, that while we stress biblical principles and standards, we understand that all of us have sinned with failings both public and private. It is not our desire to be judgmental but to hold up a standard that is faithful to biblical instruction.

There are several New Testament passages that address the issue of Christian leadership:

I Timothy 3:1-13

Titus 1:5-9

Titus 2:1-8

I Peter 5:1-11

Ephesians 4:11-13

Philippians 2:1-11

From these and other passages we have formed the following spiritual and personal standards for every mission team participant.

Spiritual Standards:

- True to the Word of God: The team member must affirm the inspiration and authority of the Word of God. Their life will reflect this standard.
- Lordship of Christ: The team member will submit to the lordship of Jesus Christ in all areas of their life.
- Personal Faith: The team member must have a maturing and Christ-centered faith. This includes an ongoing relationship with Christ, rooted in prayer, with obedience to scripture, and a commitment to grow in love, holiness, service and fellowship.
- Commitment to the Church: The team member will be a member of Hunter Street Baptist Church, regular in worship and bible study attendance, and faithful to the extra commitments their position requires.
- Stewardship: The team member will have a growing commitment to progressive and disciplined giving, proportional to resources. They are to be generous in giving of their time, talents, and financial resources. The “tithe” is the biblical standard for financial giving. The tithe is to be given to the work of the Lord through our local church.
- Servant Leadership: The team member is to be the servant of others, and be willing to help those in need.
- Prayer: The team member is committed to intercessory prayer, and will pray out loud in cooperation with other team members for the needs of others.
- Holy Spirit: The team member will submit and depend on the Holy Spirit. They will be flexible in the leading of the Holy Spirit and recognize that success is obedience to the Holy Spirit. The team member further acknowledges that the Holy Spirit will never lead a person to do something outside God’s word, the Bible.
- Scripture: The team member affirms that the Holy Spirit uses scripture to change the hearts of people, therefore they will look for opportunities to share scripture through storying, casual conversations, prayer, and the reading of the Bible.
- Discipleship: The team member is committed to the biblical concept of “disciple-making.” It is the process of building relationships with others to assist in their spiritual growth to be a disciple of Jesus and make disciples of Jesus.
- Evangelism: The Christian Leader will look for opportunities to make Jesus’ name famous and share the gospel with those who are yet to know Jesus Christ.

Personal Standards:

- **Distinctive lifestyle:** The team member will demonstrate in lifestyle what is consistent with the “fruit of the spirit”: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.
- **Self-Control:** The team member will exercise self-control in speech, action, and attitude. The team member will abstain from addictions and the abuse of drugs, alcohol and other dependencies.
- **Integrity:** The team member will be committed to the highest standard of ethical and moral conduct, both personally and professionally.
- **Unity:** The team member will seek the unity of the team. The team member will speak the truth in love and is not quarrelsome or argumentative. Their speech should reflect their commitment to Christ and their love for others.
- **Sexual Conduct:** The team member is committed to fidelity in the covenant of marriage between a man and a woman, and chastity in singleness. The team member will avoid all sexual immorality (including pornography) and will be certain to avoid the appearance of any impropriety.
- **Dress:** The team member will dress in such a way that ones’ body is properly covered and is not a distraction to others. One must err on the side of extreme caution and care.
- **Social Media:** The team member will use social media with great care and caution. Comments, posts, pictures, etc., must reflect the values and standards consistent with this document.

As a short-term mission team participant, I affirm, accept and agree to abide by the Hunter Street Biblical Standards for Mission Team Participants. I understand that my role as a team member requires me to protect the unity and harmony of the mission team. I further agree to willingly submit to the ministerial staff and my short-term mission team leader for accountability to the above standards.