

ENGAGE

Summit Missions

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Introduction

Change. It defines us. It challenges us. It scares us. It excites us. It drives us. All around us we see and experience change. Often change is viewed as a negative and something to be avoided or distrusted. However, change is something of a paradox in the Christian context. Our tendency is to craft plans and visions for the future, but often change is merely a just-in-time revelation of the next step in God's grand design. (James 4:13-14, Proverbs 27:1) What we view as unexpected or unwanted is in reality exactly what was intended and planned by the sovereign Architect. (Isaiah 55:8-9, Isaiah 14:24, Psalm 33:11)

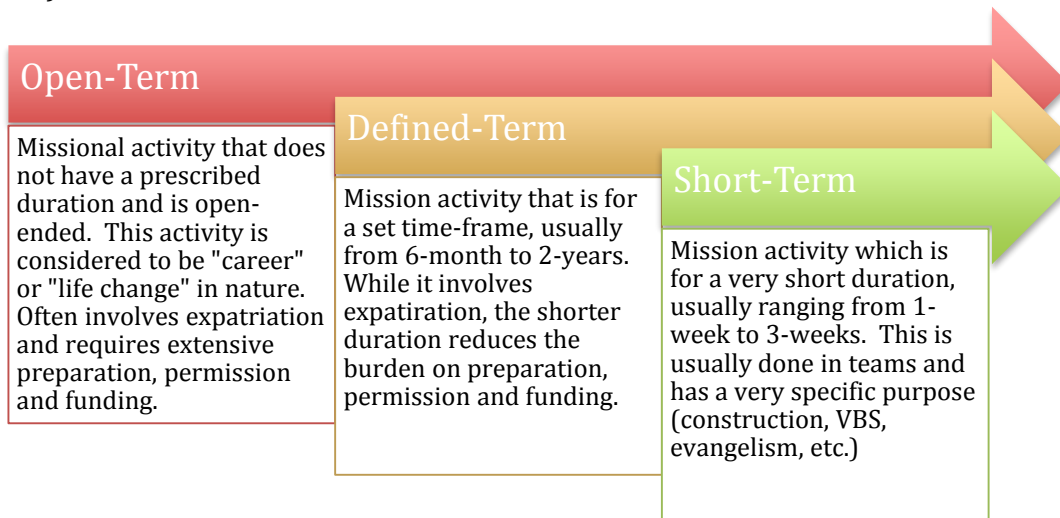
Such is the case with Engage, the Summit's missions ministry. As God continues to reveal His purposes for reaching the nations, our vision and understanding matures and refines. Often we see the Holy Spirit moving in people and circumstances long before we can crystalize a plan or strategy. The amazing thing is that despite our lack of clarity God is continuing to mobilize our people to serve!

We believe that our God is a god of order and structure. He does not want us to live in a manner that is haphazard or confused. But rather than our trying to devise plans and strategies on our own, it is His desire that we simply turn to Him and that through the guiding of the Holy Spirit (Proverbs 16:3, 16:9) and the counsel of believers (Proverbs 15:22) he will lay out plans for us. This document attempts to put structure and definition to that which we believe God is accomplishing at TSC. Our prayer is that God will continue to ordain, lead, and confirm our efforts to proclaim the Gospel and make disciples, and that He would continue to guide and enable us to follow His plans (1 John 3:22, Matthew 6:10).

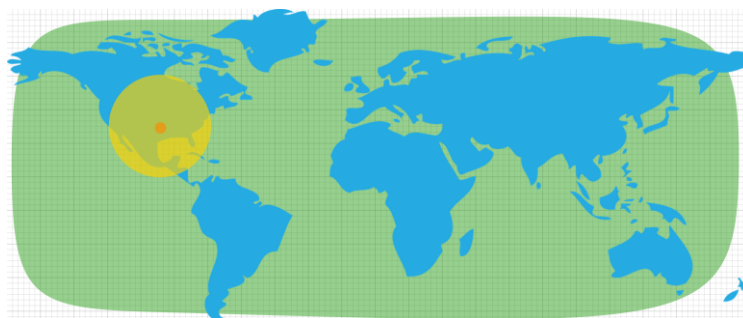
Engage Missionary Categories

There are different categories of missionaries being sent from the Summit Church. This is not an attempt to “box in” the Holy Spirit or to limit how we will engage the mission globally in the days to come. It is simply an effort to define expectations, both for the Summit Church and the missionary, thus limiting the amount of miscommunication or confusion. We fully anticipate that this structure will morph over time as new opportunities, needs and structures come into view.

The first dimension to consider in this multi-variant view of missionary categorization is the **term**, or duration of the engagement. The Engage ministry defines three term sub-categories: Open, Defined and Short. Each sub-category has it’s own parameters around the length and objective of the mission (see chart below).



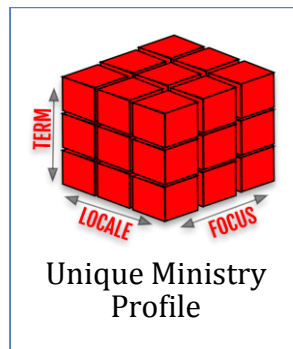
The category the missionary falls into is also determined by the **locale**. The Great Commission clearly calls out 3 distinct missional locations: Jerusalem (local), Judea and Samaria (national) and to the Ends of the Earth (global)(Acts 1:8). Engage believes that we are called to minister and evangelize in each of these locales, but that individuals will likely be called to one in particular. This calling may be to a specific geography or it may be to a particular people group.



Thirdly, the **missional focus** is a differentiator that drives categorization. While it is our ultimate mission to “cooperate with God in developing fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ” (Summit Church mission statement), Engage identifies three types of missional focus: Disciple-Making/Church-Planting, Para-Church, and Business-As-Mission (“BAM”). The missional focus distinctly drives leadership, financial and legal requirements and expectations. (see chart below)



Due to the multi-variant nature of the categorization process, it is most easily described at a high level through a series of 3-dimensional cubes known as the Unique Ministry Profile. The following illustration shows the total number of unique categorizations possible based on the 3 dimensional components each having 3 unique variants. A complete listing is available in Appendix A.



Once Engage and the missionary determine the value in each dimension, it is then possible to clearly define the expectations and responsibilities of both parties. For instance, if it is decided that a missionary has the following characteristics, then a unique and specific set of criteria will be pre-determined.

Missionary:	John & Jane Doe
Term:	Defined-Term
Locale:	Global
Focus:	Para-Church

The previous missional definition will involve a different engagement from TSC than a missional engagement that has the following parameters:

Missionary:	Bill & Sue Smith
Term:	Open-Term
Locale:	Global
Focus:	Church-Planting

The implications of the second missionary engagement is that the Summit Church would have a much higher burden of leadership support (Elder oversight, Staff direction), financial support (funding, fund raising), logistical support (shipping supplies) and spiritual support (pastoral care, prayer). It would be our expectation that the missionary be directly under the Summit Church’s oversight, even if the missionary is part of a mission sending agency (IMB, SIM, Pioneers etc.).

Lastly, but most relevant to expectations and commitments, are the **Sending Responsibilities** that The Summit Church agrees upon with the missionary. The Sending Responsibilities are critical to the health and success of any mission. The four identified areas of responsibility are Spiritual Support, Administration, Leadership and Funding. Even with all things equal in the other three dimensional components, the assignment of responsibilities has significant ramifications and ultimately determines the depth and breadth of the relationship between Engage and the missionary and therefore should be carefully decided upon.



Fund Raising: All categories of Summit missionaries are free to personally raise support within the body of TSC. We ask that missionaries limit their request to those with whom there are personal relationships. TSC will not provide mailing lists to missionaries.

Funding Categories

Based on the information given above, Summit Open-Term and Defined-Term Missionaries will fall into two funding categories. Each missionary will know from the outset which category they are in.

Summit Missionaries: These are Summit Missionaries who are part of a para-Church sending agency that sets the agenda, direction, focus of the missionary's work. In most cases, Summit has little input into these matters, other than personal care and financial support. These missionaries, having been approved through the Engage application process, will receive monthly support determined by the Engage Team. In the event of special personal needs, (vehicle, travel, housing, etc), Summit Missionaries are free to contact the Engage Team with these needs. However, there should be no expectation of funding for projects related to the strategy determined by the sending mission agency.

Summit Missionary Partnerships: These are Summit Missionaries who are working primarily in evangelism and discipleship with a specific goal toward church planting. These are missionaries who are working in sending agencies that desire more direct involvement by the sending church, and are seeking strategic philosophical and practical direction from the Engage Team. The personal support needs will be determined by the Engage Team, as well as the level of financial involvement for ministry related projects. Summit missionary Partnerships will be allowed to submit annual ministry funding requests. These requests should be submitted by March 1. Funding approved will be provided by May 1 and funding for ministry projects will begin Sept. 1.