

→ **Key Verse:** 1 Timothy 3:1-15

Four essential aspects of a church-centered call to missions:

#1 Ministry _____ (3:1)

#2 Ministry _____ (3:2-7)

#3 Ministry _____ (3:2)

#4 Ministry _____ (3:10)

From CMC's Philosophy of Missions **CMC's Missions Priorities and Categories**

As we seek to be faithful to these biblical objectives, CMC is committed to pursuing missions in the following priorities:

- **Establishing Local Churches** (*Church Planting*): this refers to the work of planting new local churches. This includes the work of pastoral ministry: evangelizing the lost (2 Tim. 4:5), preaching the Word (2 Tim. 4:1-4), shepherding with great patience (2 Tim. 4:2b), and training qualified men to lead the church (2 Tim. 2:2).
- **Equipping Local Churches** (*Leadership Training*): this refers to the work of training local, qualified men to accurately handle and apply the Word of God for the purpose of faithfully shepherding the flock of God (2 Tim. 2:2, 15). This work provides training that focuses on exegesis, theology, and pastoral ministry.

These are the essential biblical priorities in missions. Furthermore, these are the priorities that the NT specifically mandates for financial support by a local church (1 Tim. 5:17-18; 1 Cor. 9:14; 3 Jn. 7-8). These priorities are distinguished from other valuable ministries that may aid them. CMC recognizes such ministries in the following category:

- **Support Ministries:** this refers to services that assist the work of those establishing and equipping local churches such as Bible translation, resource translation and publishing, medical services, and aviation. CMC may consider investment in such efforts as *missions* if they directly serve the two priorities above, are affirmed by the board of elders, and cannot be provided indigenously.

*From CMC's Philosophy of Missions: **Supporting and Sending Missionaries***

In our supporting and sending of missionaries, we want to value *quality* over *quantity*. Rather than support a large quantity of missionaries with small amounts, we desire to support carefully selected missionaries with greater amounts. This strengthens our ability to be familiar and relationally-involved with our missionaries in more meaningful ways.

- **Supported missionaries** are those our church partners with through financial support and prayer, but who are sent from another church.
- **Sent missionaries** are those our church trains, affirms, and sends to the field. Our responsibility to these will naturally be greater as their home-sending church, which would include the following objectives:
 - Identify qualified, gifted candidates within our local church.
 - Pray with them for humility, usefulness, and wisdom.
 - Determine a field for ministry (including exploratory visits).
 - Provide training (including exegetical/theological preparation and pastoral mentoring).
 - Shepherd the family, ensuring unity between the spouses and overall readiness (e.g., health, debt, extended family responsibilities).
 - Develop clear, strategic, long-term objectives for ministry.
 - Commit to a significant portion of the missionary's financial support.
 - Partner with like-minded churches and missions agencies to ensure financial needs are fully covered. Ideally, these churches would be concentrated within a geographic radius that minimizes the missionary's travel and fosters relationships.
 - Complete an ordination process if appropriate.
 - Launch to the field.
 - Remain closely involved with ongoing accountability and counsel.
 - Care for missionaries with ministry trips and pastoral visits.
 - Welcome them home during furloughs with lavish hospitality.
 - Help them prepare for ministry transitions and/or retirement.
 - Assist to bring them home once the task has been accomplished or upon retirement.

While more is involved than this brief overview, these are key elements in being a home-sending church. We are committed to promoting missions and praying that the Lord of the harvest would prepare qualified candidates from within our church to be trained and sent out as missionaries.

Qualifications for Elders from 1 Timothy 3:2-7 with Probing Questions

1. **"Above reproach"** – *does he seek to model Christ in his life? Would accusations have anything legitimate to fasten to in his life on the grounds of hypocrisy/secrecy?*
2. **"Husband of one wife"** – *Is he a one-woman-man, totally devoted and faithful to his wife, without areas of secrecy or shortcuts?*
3. **"Temperate"** – *Is he Spirit-controlled, rather than self-indulgent? Does he react according to biblical principles or does he lose control?*
4. **"Prudent"** – *Is he biblically-minded, so that he turns to God's Word for his answers to life's problems in balanced way? Is he marked by skillfulness in life that results from the fear of God?*
5. **"Respectable"** – *Does he live an orderly, disciplined life?*
6. **"Hospitable"** – *Does he share his home, food, finances, privacy with others as a means of ministering to them (without complaining, cf. 1 Pet. 4:9).*
7. **"Able to teach"** – *Is he able to teach God's Word to others effectively with faithfulness to the text and clarity in communication? Can he teach with authority, precision, exhortation, and personal example?*
8. **"Not addicted to wine"** – *is he free from a lack of self-control that would lead to excess and enslavement, or offending a weaker brother?*
9. **"Not pugnacious"** – *Is he physically or verbally abusive to anyone? Does he handle those who disagree with grace and patience?*
10. **"Gentle"** – *Does he care for the souls of others with humility, great patience, and long-suffering love?*
11. **"Uncontentious"** – *does he manage quarrelsome people without a personal agenda? Can he contend for the faith without being contentious? Does he spoil for a theological fight, or does he care for souls?*
12. **"Free from love of money"** – *Is he seeking his own personal security and prosperity in finances? Does he see himself as a "ministry professional" or as a slave of Christ? Is he honest in his business practices? Does he view finances as a responsible steward who will give an account before God?*
13. **"Manages household well"** – *Does his wife respect and trust him as a spiritual leader? Are his children under control? Do they admire and submit to his leadership?*
14. **"Not a new convert"** – *does he truly know the Lord and shows progress in spiritual maturity? Does he have credible 'mileage' in spiritual victory and purity? What tests and suffering has he weathered?*
15. **"Good reputation outside the church"** – *Is his life one of visible integrity, even to unbelievers?*