



Hope Church Network

Mission Support Policy

Policy creation date: February 2026

Policy adoption date: 4 March 2026

Adopted by: Trustees

Last review date: -

Next review date: March 2029

Revision: 1

Signed by: Duncan Burchell (on behalf of
the Trustees)

Hope Church Network is a Registered Charity – No. 1182733

Registered Office: Antrobus House, 18 College Street, Petersfield, GU31 4AD

Index

Summary	3
Part 1: Our View of Mission.....	4
1.1 What does God call us to?.....	4
1.2 What is mission?	4
1.3 Six aspects to mission:.....	4
1.4 Who is to do mission?	5
1.5 Where are we to do mission?	5
Part 2: People and Processes Roles and Opportunities to Serve.....	7
2.1 Oversight	7
2.3 The MPS Oversight Team (MiPSOT)	8
2.4 Link Persons	9
2.5 Church Members and Regular Attendees	10
Part 3: Mission Partner Support Process	11
3.1 How to Request Support.....	11
3.2 What the MPST will do:	11
3.3 Accountability	12
3.4 Annual Review	13
3.5 Reporting to the Church	13
3.6 Budget setting principles and constraints	14
3.7 Withdrawal of Support.....	14
3.8 Means to encourage the whole congregation to actively support Mission Partners	15
Glossary.....	16

Summary

Hope Church's mission is being part of God's mission in first sending Israel as a light into the world and then sending Jesus' followers out as witnesses.

We are all 'called' and 'sent' by God to be part of his mission to redeem the whole of his creation and we encourage every member to see their life as part of God's mission.

This Policy document explains

- our understanding of, and approach to, mission
- the process of identifying - and evaluation of whether and how we could support potential new Mission Partners
- Keeping in touch with our portfolio of Mission Partners and reviewing our ongoing support.
- Communicating with the members and congregations of the Network Churches about our Mission partners and how they can be involved in supporting them – or potentially become one.

Part 1 of this document highlights six aspects of mission as we understand and seek to apply it. We also identify eight areas of challenge (or interfaces) of mission in our time and culture, where we see the borders for the growth of both our church and the global church. These will focus our efforts in carrying out God's mission both near at hand and worldwide.

We will use these to help make strategic decisions about the allocation of resources, and in consideration of whether and how to support existing and/or prospective new Mission Partners.

Parts 2 and 3 of this document describe roles, responsibilities and processes Hope Church has put in place to help us to listen, encourage, respond, enable, challenge and steward resources in Mission Partner Support.

Part 1: Our View of Mission

1.1 What does God call us to?

Our mission is entirely centred on the Lord Jesus Christ. Since the Fall of mankind, God has been on a mission to redeem his creation, establishing Israel as a light for the nations and a preparation for the coming of Jesus. In the fulness of time Jesus was sent into the world to provide for our redemption and the purpose of God now is to bring all things together under him (Ephesians 1:10).

Jesus is the one who defines our part in this mission, through the following:

1. Genesis 1: 28 - *God blessed them and said to them, 'Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it'.*
2. Mark 12:30–31 (the "Great Commandment") *'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul with all your mind and with all your strength' and 'Love your neighbour as yourself'*
3. Matthew 28:19–20 - the "Great Commission" *"As you go, make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you"*

We are enabled to obey these commands through the presence, promised to us by Jesus, of his Holy Spirit.

1.2 What is mission?

This world is God's world. Mission is joining God in his caring for, sustaining and transforming his world, with the goal of re-establishing harmony between God and his creation, including humankind. This will finally be achieved when Christ returns to fully establish the kingdom that he proclaimed was near during his earthly ministry and that was inaugurated at Pentecost. The scope of mission is therefore much broader than individual salvation. This is in line with the Old Testament's worldview in which God rules over all creation, including humanity. We are called to be concerned in the redemption of every aspect of nature and culture.

1.3 Six aspects to mission:

We see six particular aspects to mission:

1. Building and supporting opportunities for the good news of the kingdom to be received, whether through proclamation or other demonstration of God's love.
2. Reaching, teaching, discipling, nurturing and enabling people to encounter Christ, come closer to God and mature in faith.
3. Demonstrating the Lordship of Christ over all of life.
4. Responding to human need by loving service and practical support

5. Understanding the times and culture(s) we live in and responding to them.
6. Safeguarding the integrity of creation and sustaining and renewing the earth.

These aspects often overlap and complement each other.

1.4 Who is to do mission?

We encourage everyone in the Hope Network Churches to develop their part in God's mission.

We have an interest in encouraging some to go out from Hope Church to help fulfil that mission. We also have an interest in linking with other churches and organisations working in God's mission.

Although, in an important sense we are all called to be partners in mission, we use the term 'Mission Partners' for those in receipt of extra prayer, administrative, financial and/or personnel support needed to carry out their role.

1.5 Where are we to do mission?

In the task of witnessing to Christ, we discern eight 'areas of challenge' where faith and unbelief most clearly meet. The progress of God's mission depends on effective challenge in these areas:

1. Where God's truth challenges relativism, we must be able to show that the truth God revealed in his word is true for everyone. It doesn't depend on our opinions or beliefs, and it remains true whether we believe it or not.
2. Where God's rule meets secularism, we must live for God moment by moment in practical ways that close the perceived gap between what is considered "sacred" and "secular" in our culture.
3. Where the gospel enters cultures shaped by other religions or worldviews we aim to honour all that is good and encourage the cultural transformation and growth of a church that is shaped by the message of the Kingdom of God and made up of all peoples.
4. Where God's mercy meets human need, we will show His goodness through practical actions.
5. Where God's values challenge consumerism, we must show that real worth and happiness come from our relationship with Christ and not from accumulation of possessions.
6. Where the Trinity confronts individualism and communalism: we need to demonstrate the reality of being unique persons living in community.
7. Where Kingdom values confront technology (AI, media and economic forces that de-humanise) we need to demonstrate a biblical understanding of being human, made in the image of God.

8. Where biblical stewardship of creation confronts human misuse of it: to demonstrate that caring for creation is the godliest response to believing in the Creator God.

Our current priorities in prayer and practical support for mission are focused on pushing back these areas of challenge as, by God's grace and enabling, we seek to extend Christ's rule.

Part 2: People and Processes

Roles and Opportunities to Serve

2.1 Oversight

Mission Partner Support is a joint activity across both congregations within the Hope Church Network. Similarly, all aspects of church finance are jointly overseen.

Spiritual and pastoral oversight is exercised by the elders of each church separately. Church finances are managed jointly by the Trustees at the Network level. Mission Partner Support involves both these aspects and it is vital that there is clear and open communication and consultation between all parties.

2.2 The Mission Partners Support Team (MPST)

2.2.1 Purpose of the MPST

The Mission Partners Support Team (MPST) is responsible for promoting, gaining agreement to and organising support for our partners, whether individuals or organisations. We see "support" in a broad way; encompassing for example: prayer, money, administration and personnel.

2.2.2 Role of MPST

The MPST shall be accountable to the Trustees (NLT) and

- Act as the first port of call for those feeling guided to ask for mission support of any kind (see 2.2.1 above).
- Assess whether the church should offer such support, and the level of such support to offer and make recommendations to the NLT in consultation with the elders or exercise delegated authority.
- Similarly, make recommendations to the NLT in consultation with the elders about any reduction or withdrawal of support.
- Be the primary point of contact with Link Persons (see 2.4 below)
- Ensure that MPs are providing sufficient information to ensure confidence they are operating as Hope Church would expect.
- Promote awareness of the MPs in the churches through all appropriate means.
- Facilitate the Prayer for People and Projects Partnering with Hope Church (PPPP) quarterly prayer meeting and compile the supporting written updates.
- Report at least annually to the congregations via the network AGM.
- Make recommendation – after consultation with the elders through the process outlined below - to the NLT regarding any improvements or changes to policy or other guidance and practice.
- Actively encourage Hope people from any age from 18 upwards, whether individually or as a part of a team, to consider participating in short or longer-term projects or visits to existing MPs. (see 2.5 below)

2.2.3 Membership of MPST

Membership of the MPST, and particularly the MPST Chair, is a highly important role. The Chair will be appointed by the Trustees in full consultation with the elders of both churches (see 2.3.3 below).

The Chair must be a church member from either congregation. The Chair role is not contingent on being an appointed officer such as a deacon or trustee, although anyone already holding those roles could be appointed if willing to also serve as Chair or member of the MPST.

As far as possible, the membership of the MPST should be reasonably balanced between the congregations.

The minimum number of members including the Chair should be five and the maximum should normally be nine. There can be discretion around the maximum - for example during any transition between retiring and new members.

There should be an expectation among the members, on appointment, that the Chair will require their active support to undertake the extent of the role outlined in 2.2.2 above.

Link Persons may be members of the MPST but must declare an interest and not participate (in any way inside or outside the team) around any decision regarding support to that MP.

2.3 The MPS Oversight Team (MiPSOT)

2.3.1 Purpose of MiPSOT

To ensure we have end to end oversight and consensus across Spiritual oversight and pastoral roles (elders) and financial/legal implications (NLT). The objective is to ensure clear awareness of MPS across both congregations at an appropriate level without an onerous extra level of governance. In this regard most interaction between the team is expected to be informal.

2.3.2 Role of MiPSOT

MiPSOT shall meet (in person or online) at least annually to review Mission Partner Support at a strategic level. The agenda will be agreed in advance by the Chair of MiPSOT and the Chair of the MPST. This will include any aspect of MPS, including but not limited to:

- Appointment of MPST Chair
- Policy and Process
- Portfolio of MPs
- Strategic Funding
- Effectiveness
- Communications

In addition, MiPSOT may meet to consider individual applications where any member (see 2.3.3. below) makes a request to do so or should there be any lack of consensus in the application approval process or any proposal to

withdraw funding or other support from a MP. The latter is regarded as a very low risk but one which can be mitigated through this pre-agreed process.

2.3.3 Membership of MiPSOT

The MPS Oversight Team shall consist of the MPST members, all elders from both congregations and all members of the NLT. A quorum at any meeting shall consist of:

- The Chair of the MPST (or her/his nominated deputy) plus at least two other members of the MPST.
- At least one elder from each congregation, who is not also a member of the NLT.
- The Treasurer (or his/her nominated deputy) and at least one of the following:
 - NLT elder (from either congregation)
 - Member Trustee (from either congregation)

2.3.4 Chairing and Record Keeping

MiPSOT shall be chaired by an elder appointed by the elders. Chairing may be rotated as required.

Minutes, including a record of all decisions, shall be taken in accordance with sections 18 and 24 of the Constitution.

2.3.5 Declarations of Interest

Any member of the MPST, eldership or NLT must, at all meetings, declare any interest if they, or any individual or organisation they represent in some capacity, is the beneficiary of MPS. This shall be recorded in the minutes.

They must withdraw from any specific discussion concerning any such MP. Similarly, if the MP is a relative, or any relative is employed by a MP, the same exclusion applies.

2.4 Link Persons

2.4.1 Purpose of Link Persons

We are a relational church and those individuals and organisations that we support will normally have well developed links with current members and/ or be past members themselves of either Hope Church or the churches from which it emerged. Individuals and organisations will only be supported as mission partners if a member of Hope Church or regular Hope Church attendee agrees to act as "Link Person" for them as the liaison and communication link with the church.

2.4.2 Role of Link Persons

The Link Person shall be a member or regular Hope Church attendee who is willing to take responsibility for the following:

- Maintaining a close relationship with the MP and oversight of their work
- Advocating the MP and their mission to the MPST and wider church

- Updating the church on the MP through various channels including the Prayer for People and Projects Partnering with Hope Church (PPPP) (see 3.5 below)
- Assisting the MP with their annual report to Hope Church
- Advising the MPST of any opportunities, issues or risks

2.4.3 Profile of Link Persons

The Link Person may be a friend or relative of the MP or, if the MP is an organisation, someone with responsibility within it such as Trustee or volunteer. To avoid conflicts of interest, the Link Person should not normally be an employee of the organisation supported.

Link Persons may be members of the MPST but must be subject to the requirement about conflict of interest in 2.2.3 above.

2.5 Church Members and Regular Attendees

As described in Part 1 of the Policy above, mission is an imperative of Hope Church and, as members of Hope Church, all are encouraged to be committed to some part of MPS. This may include:

- Maintaining awareness of the range of mission supported and or deeper awareness of one or more MPs
- Commitment to pray for MPs and their mission
- Regular financial giving to support the work of the church and its partners (and from time to time additional giving to MPs if able to do so)

In addition, for some this might also include being willing to:

- Undertake a role as a Link Person or as a member of the MPST
- Be open to the possibility of closer involvement such as volunteering with a local MP organisation or taking part in a project or visit to MPs further afield
- Be open to the possibility of becoming a MP

Part 3: Mission Partner Support Process

3.1 How to Request Support

Any member of Hope Church may propose a potential new MP. They are encouraged in the first instance to read the policy documents and have an initial, exploratory discussion with the Chair (or other delegated member) of the MPST.

If the proposer wishes to proceed, they should submit an application in writing or similar.

This should be followed by a formal conversation with the MPST (usually the Chair plus at least one other member) to ensure the proposal is clear and in accordance with criteria for support (see below).

We indicate our criteria for support and requirements for mutual communication in the interview schedules for long-term and short-term support of individuals or organisations. These are in a separate document which will be reviewed from time to time and subject to the approvals process in Part 2 above. These need to be completed for each project; whether it involves personnel, prayer, administrative or financial commitment, or a mix of any of these resources.

This provides a consistent starting point that will enable the MPST to weigh up requests for the church's resources. Objectives will be discussed and this process may also assist the annual review process (see 2.4 below). While the agreed criteria are helpful in terms of clarity and transparency, it is recognised there is a need for the MPST to exercise wisdom and discernment alongside the policy framework.

Any existing MP, through their link person, may also make a request for further support to the MPST.

3.2 What the MPST will do:

3.2.1 Initial Response

Having been approached for support either initially or with a developed proposal, the Chair of the MPST may take soundings on any proposal with the full MPST and/or elders before inviting a formal application.

Part 1 of the Mission Policy identifies eight areas of challenge in carrying out God's mission. Proposals that meet our areas of challenge for mission will normally be given priority in any applications for support.

The assessment as to whether financial, prayer, administrative and/or personnel support will be granted in principle will be based upon the criteria set out in this policy document and in the interview schedules in the Appendix. In some cases, where it makes best sense, the team might use secondary documents to assess evidence that the criteria are being met.

3.2.2 For short-term / relatively low-cost proposals

- This applies to short term (i.e. not exceeding three years) or proposals with a total cost (over the duration of support) not exceeding £1000.

- Subject to the available “*short term mission projects*” budget, the MPST have delegated authority to invite, assess (against the policy) and approve without automatic referral to the NLT / Eldership.
- However, the MPST have discretion to consult with the Eldership /NLT before making a final decision and should do so if there are likely to be pastoral or other implications for the individual(s) concerned or in terms of setting any precedent.
- If a further application worthy of support is received after the available “*short term mission projects*” budget is already committed, the further application should be referred to the NLT using the process below:

3.2.3 For longer term / higher cost proposals

- This applies to applications which exceed £1000 and/or have potential longer-term implications
- The application will be assessed by the MPST against policy and criteria, with a recommendation to the NLT and Eldership.
- The Elders should initially consider the recommendation and pass any comments to the NLT
- The NLT should then, taking into consideration the views of the Elders, make the formal decision on whether to support.
- In the event of lack of consensus between the elders and the NLT, a meeting of the MPS Oversight Team (MiPSOT) shall be convened in person or on-line.

3.2.4 Proposals to discontinue funding

The same process as described above should apply, except the MPST will not have delegated authority to withdraw funding without consultation with MiPSOT (see below).

3.3 Accountability

3.3.1 Spiritual Oversight

It is vital to ensure that any individual MP is accountable to an elder or other person of appropriate standing before God. If the clearly identified overseer is not in one of the Hope Network churches, then they should be from another church or under the sponsoring mission organisation, ideally with a link a back to Hope from that overseer.

3.3.2 Good Governance

A formal written agreement with each MP should be drawn up. This should include a statement of their main objectives and why the Hope Church Network is supporting them (financially or otherwise). This can serve 3 purposes:

1. Something to check against in the annual review (see 3.4 below)
2. Compliance with Charity Commission guidelines that agreements should be in place with those we support financially (especially if overseas).

3. Assistance with clarity, consistency and appropriate confidentiality when we communicate to the congregations about our mission partners.

3.4 Annual Review

To build and maintain the necessary trust, commitment and accountability, the MPST will carry out an annual review and appraisal process. The MPST will always be mindful to avoid placing an unnecessarily high burden on the organisation or person. The emphasis should normally be, subject to language and the availability of IT connectivity, on relational face to face updates rather than asking the partner to fill forms.

The method of gathering feedback for the annual review will be determined by the MPST in consultation with the Link People. It may be felt appropriate that the Link person has an annual meeting (in person or online) to gather feedback to inform the annual review process.

In agreeing to support a Mission partner, particularly over the longer term, we recognise that individuals might need continuing or additional support during a period of sickness, bereavement or incapacity, further study or training, or a sabbatical for refreshment.

Hope Church Network would always want to assure MPs of our intention to sustain financial support at (as a minimum) the agreed level. The annual review therefore does not involve consideration of any *downward* adjustment to the level of financial support given.

Financial support is, by default, inflated annually (see 3.6 below). As part of the annual review a partner may indicate where they may benefit from *additional* support. This possibility shall be considered by the MPST who may then make a recommendation to the Trustees, in consultation with the elders, through MiPSOT.

In the event that the MP's objectives change, or there is other valid reason why financial support might be reduced, the MPST will report the circumstances to the NLT and Elders through MiPSOT.

The confirmation of continuing support should be provided either in writing or otherwise formally conveyed through the MPST or, by agreement, the relevant Link Person.

3.5 Reporting to the Church

Accountability and visibility to the church is important and the MPST will therefore:

- Present an annual report at the Hope network AGM.
- Assist the respective Church Leadership Teams to schedule-in Mission Partner updates, usually on a monthly basis, at Sunday morning services.
- Encourage Link Persons to provide quarterly updates to the Prayer for People and Projects Partnering with Hope Church (PPPP) co-ordinator (see 2.8 below)

3.6 Budget setting principles and constraints

Financial support to MPs forms part of the Hope Network's annual budget. Budget requests for financial commitments for the coming year will normally be considered during January and February, in time to allow for the new budget to begin in the new financial year in April.

Financial commitments will, unless otherwise agreed, be increased in line with the CPI annual rate of inflation in late January each year. However, for overseas MPs the use, by default, of a UK inflation index may have little bearing on the local value of our contribution. Local inflation and exchange rates are likely to have a much greater bearing. This should be taken into consideration during annual review of contribution. In accordance with 3.4 above, any proposal to *reduce* financial contribution (even if instigated by the MP themselves) must be referred to the NLT in consultation with the elders in the same way as any proposal to withdraw support (see 3.7.2 below).

We *encourage* all prospective MPs to seek to spread their support across more than one source. The MPST will offer help in this if requested. For long-term financial support we normally *require* that partners to have more than one supporting organisation. As a general principle we would not normally provide more than 40% of the individual or project's ongoing finance needs, although exceptions could be considered.

A further principle is that no one project or partner should normally take up more than 25% of the network's budget allocated to MPS. Any proposal that might exceed this must be cleared by the Trustees on the recommendation of MiPSOT.

Payment of all financial commitments is to be made, as promptly as possible, through the church administrator subject to approval of the treasurer. All payments are visible to the other Trustees who are signatories to the church account.

The MPST will also review and record commitments to other forms of support, such as prayer, administration and personnel and record commitments simultaneously with the budgeting process.

3.7 Withdrawal of Support

3.7.1 Retirement

Hope church will not fund mission partners in retirement. The implications of retirement for an individual MP will be discussed, if appropriate at the outset and, at the latest, during the annual review in the year before any declared target retirement date.

3.7.2 Withdrawal of Support – Other

There is also need for a mechanism for withdrawing support whenever appropriate. Grounds for withdrawal include - but are not limited to –

- the church no longer agreeing with the partner's goals or any change of emphasis from the original agreement (or vice versa)

- continued failure to respond to requests for information
- Moral failure or relational issues within the mission partner organisation.
- loss of faith – or deviation from the basic tenets of faith or expectations of conduct held by Hope Church - on the part of the partner
- lack of church funds
- lack of continuing interest in the project.

Withdrawal of support to any individual MP could mean the loss of a substantial part of personal income. It could also, if handled without care, signify withdrawal of commitment and emotional support which might also have a huge impact on their wellbeing. Accordingly, this would only be done after discussion with the partners involved (preferably face to face), and their Link Person, so that they have ample opportunity for questions and, if the work is continuing, time to plan how to replace the support. Barring any proven serious misconduct on the part of the partner, it should never be presented as a 'fait accompli'.

The MPST may bring a recommendation to – or seek the advice of MiPSOT around - any proposal or question related to withdrawal or reduction of support. The burden of any decision to withdraw or reduce support will fall to the NLT after full consultation with the elders through MiPSOT.

Clear and timely communication - and appropriate confidentiality throughout the process of withdrawal is vital.

3.8 Means to encourage the whole congregation to actively support Mission Partners

In addition to the expectations on church members and regular attendees outlined in section 2.5 above, detailed support mechanisms may include small-group adoption of partners; family or House Group "adoption" of partners; regular, frequent updates or visual aids in our Sunday gatherings or General Meetings; prayer in our Sunday gatherings; circulation of news and invitations to support suppers, prayer meetings and Bible studies.

In addition, current practice is to produce a quarterly compendium of prayer points relating to all MPs through the Prayer for People and Projects Partnering with Hope Church (PPPP) process.

This role is managed separately and outside the remit of the of the MPST and but close links to the MPST are maintained to ensure consistent understanding and communication.

There is also a monthly Mission Prayer Meeting which is informed by the PPPP and any other updates.

The MPST will provide information about our Mission Partners to our members and congregations. The format and method used will be decided by the MPST, taking into account any confidentiality issues that apply.

This Mission Policy supersedes the policy first adopted in 2009 and subject to major reviews in 2015. The continuing intention is to review every 3 years. Please contact the MPST with any suggestions for future revision.

Glossary

In this document the following abbreviations are used after an initial mention in full.

Abbv.	In Full	Meaning
CLT	Church Leadership Team	Both Hope Greatham and Hope Petersfield have a CLT made up of elders and deacons who lead and manage that congregation.
HCN	Hope Church Network	The formally constituted Charitable Incorporated Organisation which encompasses Hope Church Greatham and Hope Church Petersfield
	Link Person	See section 2.4
MP	Mission Partner	An individual or Organisation supported under this policy.
MPS	Mission Partner Support	The formally agreed support which may encompass any or all of: prayer, money, administration or personnel provided to Mission Partners.
MPST	Mission Partner Support Team	The Team responsible for promoting, gaining agreement to and organising support for our partners. See section 2.2
MiPSOT	Mission Partner Oversight Support Team	The Team responsible for oversight and consensus across Spiritual oversight and pastoral roles (elders) and financial/legal implications (NLT) See section 2.3
NLT	Network Leadership Team	The team of Trustees, made up from both churches, responsible for oversight of legal and financial matters under law and the Hope Network Constitution
PPPP	Prayer for People and Projects Partnering with Hope Church	Quarterly Hope Network prayer meeting supported by updates from all MPs.