

BGC's Global Missions Sending Process **(Revised 12/26/2019)**

BGC, as every local church, is called to be a sending church to the nations in some manner, though that may look different for every church. This means we need a “sending process” for the church to follow that will guide us, along with giving direction to any BGC Partner who feels a call to “go”/be “sent” as a missionary. However, there should not be an exact formula that is applied to every Partner who is in the BGC sending pipeline, as a one size fits all approach is not helpful. But some common steps are needed by any wanting to be sent by our church to the nations long-term (and likely mid-term also, meaning 6 months or more), and they fall into the following five phases: **ENGAGE, EVALUATE, EXPLORE, EQUIP, AND EXECUTE.**

*(NOTE: These phases may not be completely sequential, and two or more may overlap or happen simultaneously. Some steps may also fall into other phases than where listed. The steps in each phase may be flexible but should be discussed with the BGC missions pastor before they're assumed unnecessary. **On average, it is expected that moving through all five of the phases will take at least 2-3 years and maybe much longer, and in no case would this be a process that is completed in a year or less).***

I. ENGAGE: Missionary candidates (“candidates”) should first engage in BGC global missions activities and events planned by the church. This is vital for many reasons, such as giving the candidate a chance to learn and grow – AND to become known among the community they hope will one day send them.

STEPS IN PHASE I:

- Become familiar with the “BGC Missions Convictions”, “BGC Financial Sending Tiers”, and “BGC CARE Teams” documents
- Participate in (and lead if asked) at least two BGC short-term mission trips, such as Engage Global and International Project
- Attend the BGC global prayer meetings on a regular basis, while seeking to also personally develop a discipline of prayer for the nations
- Grow in being a sender of other missionaries, starting with those sent by BGC thru prayer, giving, etc.
- Join in other BGC equipping/outreach/learning events focused on missions, while personally also reaching out to the nations among us (NAU)

II. EVALUATE: Candidates should evaluate/assess themselves AND seek to have their own sense of calling evaluated by the church since it's vital that churches send only those who are affirmed and qualified in terms of spiritual maturity, character, gifting, skills, and cross-cultural aptitude/ability.

STEPS IN PHASE II:

- Plug into community at BGC as much as possible thru an MC etc. so they have a context for knowing others and being known by expanding their relational circle
- Meet with the BGC missions pastor (and other elders as helpful) to discuss their sense of calling and how God is working in their lives
- Create next steps with the BGC missions pastor and others to help move their evaluation forward, which may include regular meetings
- Grow in being a learner about missions, such as by taking the Perspectives course or other

III. EXPLORE: Candidates should learn about the many variables related to going/being sent, things such as where, when, how, with who, and what they might do on the field to actually make disciples in a cross-cultural setting, including how they themselves best fit into the missionary task.

STEPS IN PHASE III:

- Engage further in being a learner by reading suggested books, listening to podcasts, etc.
- Learn about the various platforms that might be used for going, and consider how marketplace missions, leveraging their career, BAM, etc. might be a good fit vs. a traditional approach
- Consider the possible benefit of taking a vision trip to a potential long-term location
- Explore the possible need to do a mid-term trip of 6-12 months to the desired long-term location to “test the waters”
- Consult with a BGC Preferred-Partner Missions Agency (currently Frontiers, Pioneers, and TEAM) or another agency if a better fit and vetted and agreed upon by both the church and candidate

IV. EQUIP: Candidates should work with the church to very intentionally continue their equipping, along with other entities such as a missions agency, while recognizing that the equipping process should not be outsourced to the missions agency and is ultimately the responsibility of the sending church.

STEPS IN PHASE IV:

- Grow in serving at BGC in roles that will help prepare them for future ministry on the field; this will include serving in both leadership roles and “behind the scenes” servant roles

- Develop a growing discipline of making disciples of the lost at home, training and leading others, extending hospitality to neighbors, and otherwise doing here what the candidate would hope to do on the field
- Determine the missions agency that will be partnered with and begin the application process, learning the steps of preparation, training, assessment, etc required
- Discern with the church if BGC should send the candidate to a training program like IP's Equip or other training based on several factors

V. EXECUTE: Candidates should create and execute a plan to be sent in partnership with their selected missions agency, thereby enabling the church to “send them well” and the candidate to “go well”, and setting in place a mutually healthy, long-term sending partnership.

STEPS IN PHASE V:

- Finalize agreement with a missions agency and take the required steps that will be necessary to launch them to the field
- Begin support raising efforts per the timing required by the missions agency
- Form a CARE Team in accordance with the BGC document on this topic, seeking prayer and other support from this team well in advance of their departure
- Help plan the commissioning of the candidate and other activities before departure