**First Woodway**

***Scholarship Information for Short-Term International Mission Trip Volunteers***

**Five Guiding Principles:**

1. **Everything belongs to God’s and we are charged to be good stewards of his resources.** 
   * Job 41:11; Ps. 24:1; Deut. 10:14; Gen. 1:26-30; Matt. 25:14-30
2. **A person’s decision to join in an international mission trip should be in response to God’s call, discerned through diligent prayer and thorough self-examination.** 
   * Isa. 6:1-8; Matt. 9:37-38; Acts 13:3; Acts 16:9-10; Rom. 1:10; Eph. 6:18-20; Phil. 1:19; Col. 1:24-27; Col. 4:2-4; 1 Thes. 5:17
3. **When we are obedient to God’s call, resources will never lack.** 
   * Ps. 23:1; Phil. 4:19; 2 Cor. 9:8; 1 Kings 17:7-24
4. **Raising financial support is strongly encouraged; raising spiritual support is essential.**
   * Phil. 4:10-20; 1 Cor. 16:1-6; Rom. 15:20-24; Rom. 16:1-2; 3 John 1:5-8; 2 Cor.1:10-11; Eph. 6:18-20; Phil. 1:19; Col. 4:2-4; 1 Thes. 5:25; 2 Thes. 3:1-2
5. **“Fairness” is not a priority, but instead it is each individual’s responsiveness to God’s call that matters.** 
   * Job 38-41; Matt. 20:1-16; Acts 2:42-47

**Financial Assistance:**

* If a volunteer can self-fund through a combination of his or her own resources and raising support, this is the preferred means of financing a trip. In the spirit of good stewardship, financial assistance should not be sought if it is not needed.
* However, when financial assistance is needed, and the volunteer satisfies certain prerequisites (see below), First Woodway can provide financial assistance. Requests for financial assistance will be considered on a case-by-case basis. **In general, First Woodway can provide financial assistance for up to one-third (1/3) of the cost of the trip.**
* Prerequisites for financial assistance from First Woodway include that the volunteer:
  + Is a member of First Woodway or a regular attender,
  + Is actively involved in the life of First Woodway,
  + Has made a good faith effort to raise support through friends and family,
  + Has made a good faith effort to contribute his/her own resources, and
  + Will participate in pre-trip training and activities.
* Eligibility for and the amount of financial assistance will be evaluated based on the following considerations:
  + The overall cost of the trip,
  + The volunteer’s financial situation,
  + Whether the volunteer has recently been on an international mission trip with First Woodway,
  + Whether additional members of the volunteer’s family will be a part of the trip,
  + The volunteer’s efforts to raise support,
  + The volunteer’s level of involvement in pre-trip training and activities.
* **Requests for financial support from First Woodway should be submitted online.** Unless authorized by the volunteer, requests for financial support considered by the International Missions Committee will be received and reviewed anonymously.
* Additional notes regarding financial assistance:
  + Because financial assistance from First Woodway is not unlimited, good stewardship is expected of everyone – volunteers, supporters, First Woodway, the IMC, and our overseas partners.
  + It is understood and accepted in grace that people may pay differing amounts for the same trip. It is not a goal of the IMC to make trip costs equal or fair but instead to help individuals respond in obedience to the Great Commission.
  + Financial privacy will be respected.
  + A lack of financial resources should never prevent a person from answering God’s call to missions.

**Trips Costs:**

* Payment for a trip generally covers:
  + Transportation costs – air and ground
  + Lodging
  + Three meals per day
  + Scheduled side trips and activities
* Payment for a trip generally does not cover:
  + Souvenirs/snacks
  + Unscheduled events and activities
* Volunteers should communicate clearly with the trip leader to confirm what is and is not included in the cost of a particular trip.