



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH BLACKSHEAR

Don Waters Missions Fund Guidelines

The *Don Waters Missions Fund* (DWMF) is a designated fund established to educate, promote, encourage, and assist missions engagement by members of First Baptist Church of Blackshear. Missions funds are intended to further mission efforts in coordination, cooperation, and alignment with FBC Blackshear's mission and purpose, as well as FBC Blackshear's Missions Team goals and strategies. Resources from the DWMF may be made available only when the DWMF has resources available in the designated fund.

The DWMF may be used for missions that the Missions Team approves in consultation and coordination with the pastoral staff.

MISSIONS EDUCATION, PROMOTION, & EVENTS

DWMF resources may be used for FBC Blackshear missions education, the promotion of missions by FBC Blackshear, and FBC Blackshear missions events. DWMF resources may also cover the costs associated with bringing missionaries to our area (including lodging, meals, transportation, and honorariums) or communication with missionaries for FBC Blackshear sponsored or endorsed missions events.



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH BLACKSHEAR

Don Waters Missions Fund Guidelines

SHORT-TERM MISSION TRIPS

The DWMF designated fund resources may be used to support short-term missions (service of up to 20 days) participants who are members sent out by FBC Blackshear. The DWMF may be used for short-term missions participants where FBC Blackshear has sponsored or endorsed church planting/missions partnerships.

Qualifications for receiving DWMF support for short-term mission trips

Participants must be Christ followers who have placed their faith in Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Savior.

Candidates must complete, sign, and submit a DWMF application to receive DWMF resources.

DWMF recipients must affirm and agree with *The Baptist Faith & Message 2000*.

DWMF recipients 16 years of age and older must submit and clear a background check that is no older than 36 months from the start date of the trip.

DWMF must be used for mission trips that are FBC Blackshear sponsored or endorsed and/or a church-planting/missions partner.

DWMF may be used by FBC Blackshear active members in good standing.

DWMF may be used twice per calendar year by FBC Blackshear members as a mission trip participant.

DWMF resources will be made available with priority given to FBC Blackshear members participating on mission trips where FBC Blackshear has established partnerships.



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH BLACKSHEAR

Don Waters Missions Fund Guidelines

Support for short-term mission trips

The DWMF may support:

Up to the full cost of the FBC Blackshear member designated as the team leader (one team leader per trip).

Up to the full cost of the required chaperones for youth trips.

One adult female chaperone for every 5 female students

One adult male chaperone for every 5 male students

The full cost of each FBC Blackshear staff member.

Vision Trips - FBC Blackshear members who serve on vision trips may have the full cost of both domestic and international trips covered by the DWMF.

Domestic Mission Trips - FBC Blackshear members who are approved participants may request that up to half (1/2) of the cost of a domestic mission trip up to a maximum of seven hundred (\$700) dollars be covered by the DWMF.

International Mission Trips - FBC Blackshear members who are approved participants may request that up to half (1/2) of the cost of an international mission trip, up to a maximum of one thousand four hundred (\$1,400) dollars, be covered by the DWMF.

Non-member participants must meet all qualifications and will pay the full cost of the mission trip.

Candidates beyond FBC Blackshear's membership may be considered for DWMF support on a case-by-case basis upon approval from the FBC Missions Team.

Examples of non-member support from the DWMF may be considered for:

Participants who are invited to join the team that has specialized knowledge, skills, or training.

Minors actively engaged in FBC Blackshear ministries.

Former FBC Blackshear members who are in good standing with FBC Blackshear.



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH BLACKSHEAR

Don Waters Missions Fund Guidelines

SUMMER, SEMESTER, RESIDENCY, and INTERN MISSIONS

The DWMF designated fund resources may be used to support summer, semester, residency, and intern missions (service of 21 days to 12 months) participants who are members sent out by FBC Blackshear. The DWMF may be used to support summer, semester, residency, and intern missions participants where FBC Blackshear has sponsored or endorsed church planting/missions partnerships.

Qualifications for receiving DWMF support for summer, semester residency, and intern missions

Must be Christ followers who have placed their faith in Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Savior.

Must affirm and agree with *The Baptist Faith & Message 2000* (both husband and wife, if married).

Must submit and clear a background check that is no older than 36 months from the start date of the trip.

Must be used for mission trips that are FBC Blackshear sponsored or endorsed and/or a church-planting/missions partner.

May be used by FBC Blackshear active members in good standing.

Candidates beyond FBC Blackshear's membership may be considered for DWMF support on a case-by-case basis upon approval from the FBC Missions Team.

Support for summer, semester, residency, and intern missions

The DWMF may support:

One-time gift (the short-term trip maximum for domestic or international trips)

Base support of \$25 per day (for each day beyond 20 days) for the duration of the term of service.

An additional one-time or monthly amount with approval from the Missions Team.



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH BLACKSHEAR

Don Waters Missions Fund Guidelines

MISSIONARY, CHURCH PLANTER, and CHURCH-PLANTING TEAM MEMBERS

The DWMF designated fund resources may be used to support long-term (service of twelve months or longer) missionaries and/or church planters or those who serve long-term on a church planting team who are sent out by FBC Blackshear or have come out of the membership of First Baptist Church of Blackshear. The DWMF fund may be used to support missionaries, church planters, and/or church planting team members where FBC Blackshear has sponsored or endorsed church planting/missions partnerships.

Qualifications for receiving DWMF support for missionaries, church planters, and church-planting team members

Must be Christ followers who have placed their faith in Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Savior.

Must affirm and agree with *The Baptist Faith & Message 2000* (both husband and wife, if married).

Must submit and clear a background check that is no older than 36 months from the start date of the trip.

Must be used for mission trips that are FBC Blackshear-sponsored or endorsed and/or a church-planting/missions partner.

May be used by FBC Blackshear active members in good standing.

Candidates beyond FBC Blackshear's membership may be considered for DWMF support on a case-by-case basis upon approval from the FBC Missions Team.

Support for missionaries, church planters, and church-planting team members

The DWMF may support:

One-time gift (calculated at \$200 per month of expected duration on the mission field).

Monthly base support of \$200 per month per family for the duration of the partnership.



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH BLACKSHEAR

Don Waters Missions Fund Guidelines

An additional one-time or monthly amount with approval from the Missions Team.

Ongoing support will be evaluated annually, and continued financial support is contingent upon compliance with the partnership agreement, alignment of the missionaries', church planter's, or church planting team member's work with the mission and purpose of FBC Blackshear's current missions goals, efforts, strategies, and partnerships.



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH BLACKSHEAR

Don Waters Missions Fund Guidelines

KEY TERMS

Actively engaged - A Christ follower who has placed their faith in Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Savior and has been led by God to use their talents and spiritual gifts by regularly engaging in various ministries through FBC Blackshear but has not formally joined FBC Blackshear as a member.

Active member - A Christ follower who has placed their faith in Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Savior and has been led by God to formally join FBC Blackshear as a member to use their talents and spiritual gifts by regularly engaging in various ministries through FBC Blackshear.

Chaperone - An adult who accompanies youth teams in the absence of their parents or a legal guardian.

Clear a Background Check - The candidate's background check reveals they have not been engaged in offenses that would endanger the witness or the safety of the team or those the team is going to engage or otherwise encounter during the mission trip. This does not mean there has never been an offense.

Domestic Mission Trip - A mission trip to a people group or place in the USA or a US territory that does not require a passport.

Endorsed - An event or trip that is not under the full leadership and direction of First Baptist Church of Blackshear but approved by the FBC Missions Team and leadership of FBC Blackshear. (see addendum)

Good Standing - An active member of FBC Blackshear or an actively engaged person who demonstrates a cooperative spirit and the fruit of the Spirit as described in Galatians 5:13-25 and is not disruptive of the unity and order of FBC Blackshear as indicated in 1 Corinthians 14:40.

Intern Missions - Mission trips designed to provide mission field experience with a missionary or church planter, generally between 1 and 3 months in duration.

International Mission Trip - A mission trip to a people group or place outside of the USA or a US territory that requires a passport.

Ministry - A service rendered to people or God.

updated March 2026



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH BLACKSHEAR

Don Waters Missions Fund Guidelines

Minor - A person who has not attained their eighteenth birthday.

Missionary - A disciple of Jesus, set apart by the Holy Spirit and sent from the church, who crosses geographic, cultural, or linguistic barriers to make disciples for Jesus and multiply churches where Jesus is not yet known (*IMB Blueprint*, p. 47).

Missionary Task - The function of missions teams, which includes entry, evangelism, disciple-making, leadership development, healthy church formation, and exit (*IMB Foundations Magazine*). One or more of these functions need to be incorporated into every FBC Blackshear mission trip.

Missions - Using biblical methods of disciple-making and strengthening that result in reproducible, healthy church planting.

Mission Trip - Onsite engagement of unreached people or places to implement the missionary task.

Partnership - When a people group or place is identified and approved by the FBC Missions Team and FBC leadership, FBC Blackshear will continue an ongoing relationship through praying, giving, going, and sending.

Residency Missions - Mission trips designed to provide long-term mission field experience with a missionary or church planter, generally between 4 and 12 months in duration.

Semester Missions - Mission trips designed to provide extended mission field experience with a missionary or church planter that coincides with a semester of post-secondary education, generally, between 3 and 4 months.

Short-term Missions - Mission trips designed to provide a brief mission field experience with a missionary or church planter, generally with a maximum duration of twenty days.

Sponsored - An event or trip that is under the full leadership and direction of First Baptist Church of Blackshear and approved by the FBC Missions Team and leadership of FBC Blackshear.

Staff Member - A member of FBC Blackshear's staff of ministers and ministry directors who receives financial compensation from FBC Blackshear.

updated March 2026



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH BLACKSHEAR

Don Waters Missions Fund Guidelines

Summer Missions - Mission trips designed to provide mission field experience with a missionary or church planter that coincides with the summer break, generally with a duration of 21 to 90 days.

Team Leader - A member of FBC Blackshear who is responsible for leading or designating responsibility for every aspect of a mission trip. This includes assembling the team, approving DWMF applications, equipping, travel, logistics, and operating within the approved trip budget.

Vision trips - An initial, on-site visit to unreached people or places to explore possible missions engagement and compatibility with FBC Blackshear's mission, goals, efforts, strategy, and partnerships.



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH BLACKSHEAR

Don Waters Missions Fund Guidelines

Addendum

To provide clarity and streamline decision-making related to "endorsed" mission trips that FBC Blackshear and the *Don Waters Missions Fund* (DWMF) may support, the FBC missions team must identify and maintain clear mission partners and partnerships. We have done this with our signed partnership agreements. It has been assumed for other ongoing FBC Blackshear partnerships.

FBC Blackshear gives generously through the Cooperative Program (CP) of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) each year. Cooperative Program dollars support the Georgia Baptist Mission Board (GBMB), the North American Mission Board (NAMB), and the International Mission Board (IMB). Each of these is doctrinally baptistic, affirms the Baptist Faith and Message 2000 (BF&M2000), and FBC Blackshear considers these as partners in ministry and missions. Any mission trip hosted, sponsored, or organized by the GBMB, NAMB, and IMB can be considered as endorsed by FBC Blackshear, and therefore, DWMF resources may be used to fund members who desire to participate in these trips. This assumes the trips meet other DWMF criteria.

These mission trips may be endorsed by FBC Blackshear, as long as the doctrinal foundations of being baptistic and adherence to the BF&M 2000 continue to be adhered to at each entity (SBC, NAMB, IMB). Each of these entities is autonomous.

In addition to the above partnerships, FBC Blackshear partners in ministry and missions with the Piedmont Okefenokee Baptist Association (POBA), a regional association of Southern Baptist churches. The POBA is baptistic and has the BF&M 2000 as its statement of faith. POBA is autonomous. Any mission trip hosted, sponsored, or organized by the POBA is one that FBC Blackshear can consider endorsed, and therefore, DWMF resources may be used to fund members who desire to participate in these trips. This assumes the trips meet other DWMF criteria.

FBC Blackshear members who apply for a mission trip organized by POBA, GBMB, NAMB, or IMB qualify as an FBC Blackshear endorsed trip with the assumption that other DWMF criteria are met.

Any mission trip that DWMF is used to support must be in accordance with the DWMF guidelines. Ultimately, the FBC missions team must approve or not approve any properly submitted DWMF application.