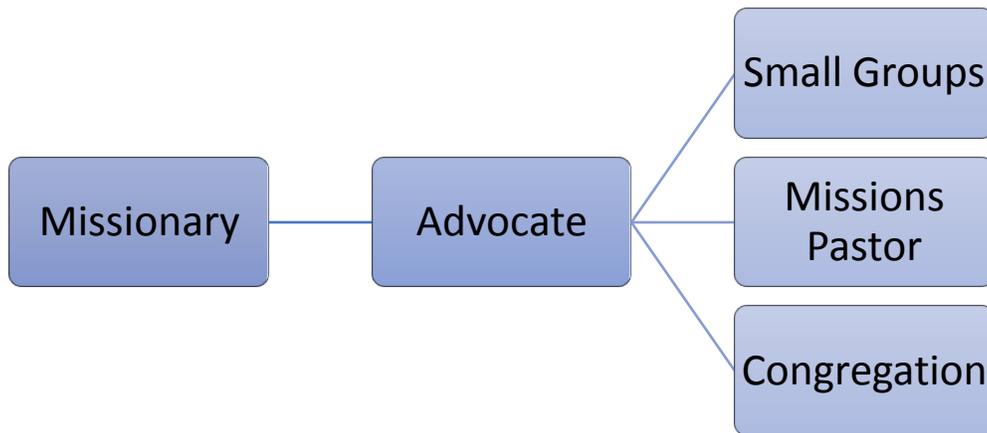


## MISSIONARY SUPPORT:

### *Job Description for* **Advocate**

#### Program Description

The Advocacy Program is the collective effort between advocates, church staff, and small groups (or Sunday school classes) to provide member care for missionaries and church planters sent from the local church. The program is facilitated by the missions pastor who identifies and trains advocates. The advocate serves as an extra set of eyes and ears, helping the congregation to be aware of the missionary's health and needs.



#### What is an Advocate?

Advocates are individuals within the church who serve the mission of God by being conduits to connect the church to the missionary and the missionary to the church. They are the point people that lead the support for missionaries on the field.

Advocates must:

- Be a member of the church.
- Have a love for missions and a deep, personal, and prayerful interest in the well-being of their missionary.
- Have at least one voice-to-voice conversation with their missionary per month and maintain regular email communication, including reading and responding to the missionary's regular updates.
- Recruit at least two small groups to aid in providing support.
- Communicate clearly and regularly with supporting small groups about needs.
- Maintain contact with the missions pastor to ensure adequate support, including the completion of a [monthly report](#).



- Assist in coordinating support for the missionary on stateside visits.
- Assist with other needs as they arise for the missionary.
- Be responsible for identifying a replacement advocate if one must give up this position for any reason.

### **Responsibilities as the Leader of the Missionary Receiving Process**

If the Lord calls the missionary back home, the advocate's job isn't done quite yet. As the missionary prepares to leave their country of service, the advocate should:

- Create and maintain [receiving process document](#).
- Identify and organize the missionary care team, compiled of 4-8 people, who are taking primary responsibility for caring for the returned missionary.
- Plan for the day that the missionary lands stateside and make sure immediate needs are covered and proper receptions are in place
- Coordinate Care Team meetings (described in the description of the Receiving phase).
- Coordinate with church staff to ensure that the church hosts a celebration/reception for the missionary within the first month of return, as well as a time of recognition during corporate worship.
- Coordinate with care team around the 60 day mark of return for the missionary to address spiritual life, life direction, church assessment and personal flourishing.
- Wrap up the process by planning one last care team gathering in the third month of return to address areas of struggle for the missionary and to offer ongoing care outside of a formalized process.