

**Policy Guidelines for Overseas Ministry
of the Board of Trustees of William H. Dunlap Orphanage
March 23, 2005**

Foreword

The Purpose of each board and agency of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian denomination is to carry out a specific ministry of the church. The ministry committed to the Board of Trustees of William H. Dunlap Orphanage ("Dunlap") is to provide care, support, maintenance, and education of orphaned, or fatherless, or helpless, or needy children, and to support projects related to their care.

Our ministry then is to those made vulnerable by unfortunate circumstances and whose vulnerability is compounded by their youth. Our purpose is to assist those providing all the following:

basic physical necessities
spiritual, mental and emotional well-being; and
assistance toward greater self reliance.

The most vulnerable of human conditions is that of one who has no advocate (understood Biblically as "one who comes alongside to help"). The death or inability of one or both of a child's natural advocates (i.e., parents) frequently sets the child at a distinct disadvantage in gaining those things necessary for survival and advancement.

It is the policy of Dunlap to consider in its deliberations the various factors contributing to a child's vulnerability. These factors would include such things as:

- (a) The degree to which unfruitful, unnecessary, unhealthy or dangerous circumstances attend the child's situation.
- (b) The amount of effort necessary to lift the child above these circumstances.
- (c) The degree to which the child can provide for his own basic necessities.
- (d) The amount of assistance coming from other sources, etc.

In short, this Board attempts first to determine the degree of disadvantage (or the vulnerability) in which a child is placed by the loss of (a) parent(s), or by the inability of (a) parent(s) to provide for the child's needs.

Secondly, this Board considers the category of need. These are, by priority:

- (a) Basic necessities of life.
- (b) Spiritual, mental, emotional necessities.
- (c) Educational necessities.

First priority is given to the most vulnerable individuals whose needs are basic to survival.

Policy Guidelines

The primary purpose of Dunlap is to provide (and/or support homes which provide) comprehensive physical, educational, emotional, and spiritual care in a Christian environment for a child or children when the parent or parents are unable to do so.

The following shall be used to guide Dunlap as it seeks to assist the church in fulfilling its biblical challenge of ministry to children:

- (a) Dunlap, through the General Synod, its presbyteries, and congregations, shall consider existing residential care programs which might need financial assistance and which are providing comprehensive physical, educational, emotional, and spiritual care in a Christian environment. Notarized documents of the charity registration must be submitted with application. Grants shall be made only to those projects/organizations that, in the Board's judgment, have a financial likelihood of success. Except as might be approved for those homes and projects with which Dunlap has formulated a formal relationship, funding for such projects shall not exceed five years and if continued shall be on a declining basis.
- (b) Applications must be received by March 15, to allow for independent on-site evaluation of the ministry in order for a grant to be considered in November. Included in the application shall be names, addresses, phone numbers, or contact information of churches and/or individuals in the United States that are contributing to and are familiar with the ministry.

- (c) Dunlap shall seek to work cooperatively with World Witness to establish programs for orphans.
- (d) Dunlap shall be open to ministry opportunities in areas of the world outside Associate Reformed Presbyterian mission fields where we might work cooperatively with other denominations and/or non-profit organizations to provide comprehensive care for children.
- (e) Dunlap shall be open to the establishment of ongoing relationships with a home (or homes) that fulfill all objectives for which William H. Dunlap Orphanage was established. Consideration of such relationships shall be in accordance with the Policy Guidelines for Ongoing Relationships and shall be governed by an agreement approved by the governing boards.

Definitions

Care: Attention to the needs of another with the aim of providing that which is wanting.

Support: Provision of the basis for existence or promotion of the interest or cause of someone.

Maintenance: Perseverance in the effort put forward in one's behalf.

Education: Instruction intended to enhance one's spiritual, mental, and moral development.

Child: A person from infancy to maturity, but not beyond 25 years of age.

Orphaned: The condition of being deprived of one or both parents, either by death, desertion, or other condition which prevents a person from having access to normal parental care.

Fatherless: The sense of this word comes from an age in which the father was the primary (if not exclusive) provider. This term is understood to indicate the loss of the primary provider, father or mother.

Helpless/Needy: These criteria are taken together because both describe a condition of vulnerability. A helpless person is one with no advocate. A needy person is one whose physical and developmental needs are met either not at all or inconsistently.

Concerning Other Matters

Grant applications shall be received for review at the fall meeting of Dunlap for funding in the subsequent calendar year. With the unanimous consent of Dunlap, grant applications may be considered at other regular or called meetings.

Applicants shall be given a copy of these Policy Guidelines, a copy of General Policy and Instruction for Applicants and a copy of the Dunlap Statement of Biblical Christian Belief. These Policy Guidelines shall be reviewed on an annual basis.