PARACHURCH PARTNERSHIP GUIDELINES

The Church at South Mountain

1. Parachurch ministries are Christian organizations that operate outside of a local church's oversight. They come alongside the church to provide administrative and strategic support without taking over the spiritual responsibilities of the local church. They include local ministries that minister to the needy in our community, as well as international missions agencies and organizations that provide support and opportunities for short and long-term missionary work.

2. CASM will partner with parachurch organizations/ministries when the following conditions are met:

    a. We are clear about the major doctrinal similarities and differences we share with the ministry.
        - Does the parachurch ministry hold to the essentials of the faith?
        - Is their ministry purpose and strategy rooted in the Bible?
        - Do the local church and the parachurch ministry agree about the basic principles of the church?

    b. We are clear about our purpose(s) in partnering.
        - Is the local church in agreement on the methods/strategies of the parachurch ministry?

    c. We are reasonably certain that our involvement will not muddy the Gospel or glory of Christ.
        - Is their ministry strategy clear on the Gospel?
        - Is their ministry free of public sin/scandal?

3. CASM will partner with such an organization only after consensus is reached by the elders that the items in #2 above are true.

4. CASM will end a partnership when any one of the items in #2 above is negated as determined by a consensus of the elders.

5. A partnership with a parachurch ministry does not obligate CASM to any financial commitment to the ministry.

(Cf. 1 Tim 6:3-12, 20-21; 2 Tim 1:1-4, 2:14-26; Titus 3:8-11)

SECULAR ORGANIZATION PARTNERSHIP GUIDELINES

The Church at South Mountain

1. From time to time, CASM may temporarily partner with secular non-profits, governmental agencies, and the like as a means of helping or serving those in need locally or internationally.

2. CASM will partner with such organizations when the following conditions are met:

    a. We are clear about our purpose(s) in partnering and clearly communicate this purpose to the church.

    b. We are clear that a partnership with the organization will not negatively influence the church through worldly philosophy or values.

    c. We are reasonably certain that our involvement will not muddy the Gospel or glory of Christ.

3. CASM will partner with such an organization only after consensus is reached by the elders that the items in #2 above are true.

4. CASM will end a partnership when any one of the items in #2 above is negated as determined by a consensus of the elders.

5. A partnership with the secular organization does not obligate CASM to any financial commitment to the ministry.

(Cf. 1 Tim 6:3-12, 20-21; 2 Tim 1:1-4, 2:14-26; Titus 3:8-11)