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# Quantifying the ask

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# Introduction

As a movement we are delighted that God has brought so many gifted and servant-hearted leaders together in the first ten years of our togetherness and enabled us to build what we currently have across the globe. And while we are grateful for the many lives and hours poured out, often without much clarity or definition in the ‘asks’ being made of different leaders, we are now convinced that as we mature as a movement, we need to work hard to include spouses and eldership teams in the ownership of sending their husband, lead elder or strengthener couple. We are also convinced that we need to create much greater clarity on quantifying the ‘asks’ being made on their time, leadership capacity and the local churches’ finances.

It is our hope that this document serves you in this regard.

## 1. THE ROLE TITLE

Over and above the leading of your local church, we formally ask you, your spouse and your eldership team to consider releasing / sending you to play the following role...

..... (role you are being asked to play)

## 2. THE ROLE DESCRIPTION

Here we aim to describe the basics of what this role aims to achieve...

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### 3. THE TIME COMMITMENTS OF THIS ROLE

The following investments of time will be generally required to fulfil this role:

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#### Current example: Global team members

- ▶ Annual Global conference or Strengtheners conference (4 days + travel) (early May)
- ▶ Annual pre-conference global couples time (1 day)
- ▶ Annual global team guys or couples' time. (5 days + travel) (Oct/Nov)
- ▶ Quarterly global team zoom meetings
- ▶ Ad-hoc global team zoom meetings to prep or deal with matters arising
- ▶ Time for overseeing a continent or hub (dependent on time and complexity)
- ▶ Time for overseeing and visiting churches that look to you for involvement in their churches (including being pastorally available to these churches)
- ▶ Being available for general participation in and timely response to ongoing emails, texts and calls, as matters arise.

#### Other time commitments

**Are there any other time commitments unique to you in this role, or unique to your work in your local church that are worth considering as part of this decision?**

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While participation in the above leadership role is clearly defined, there is recognition that your capacity for serving other local churches and/or accepting invitations to speak at conferences, will vary. It is therefore important that you, along with your local eldership team, agree on what time you can make available to serve beyond your local church.

**A suggestion would be that you agree on...**

Number of annual ministry days for travel beyond the local? (Including the travel time, prep time and rest time needed after these trips, which is often overlooked.)

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Hours in the normal week allocated to focus beyond the local on fulfilling this role (and when in the week is best to allocate time for this, so that it serves the local church well).

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How will the local elders respond if a crisis takes place in this area of responsibility, and you are required to step in? (It is worth having conversations about this before it happens, to help ease the tension that these moments create between the local and trans local.)

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**4. THE FINANCIAL ELEMENTS OF THIS ROLE:**

Often sending ministry comes at the cost of time, travel and leadership capacity from the local church. For this reason, historically, we have only had leaders who lead churches that can fund their travel and manage the home game well, even in their absence. However, we recognize how this may limit the breadth of our ministry going forward, so we have tried to make allowance for exceptions. (Depending on the region that you are leading in, there may also be funds available to help strengthen your ability to serve in this way.)

The local church will need to determine what they can gladly contribute annually to see their person/couple serving in all the above agreed upon ways.

Describe here the anticipated financial elements of saying 'yes' to this role, annually...

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**5. FURTHER CONSIDERATIONS:**

It is also important for you, along with your eldership team, to gain conviction on the following...

**Q1: Do you believe that you can meet the basic expectations of this role?**

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**Q2: If not, which elements would you see being beyond your current abilities in this season?**

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**Q3: Do you have other unique contributions that you would add to this list by way of what you carry, your presumed contributions or expectations that others may have of you specifically WITHIN the Advance movement?**

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**Q4: Do you have other unique contributions that you would add to this list by way of what you carry, your presumed contributions or expectations that others may have of you OUTSIDE of the Advance movement?**

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**Q5: How will your local church leadership time and leadership load be structured to make room for this leadership load?**

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## Conclusion

It is vital that each couple, and their eldership teams, take the time needed to work through this document and to have these conversations on the front end, so that you as a leader feel the joy and conviction that you are being sent to serve in this capacity by your local church and team and not just 'released', or being tolerated, as you take up this invitation.

We believe that the local church is the most important and exciting playing field of the gospel and we don't want other churches to be 'strengthened', at the expense of the sending churches being 'weakened'.

And so, with all of this in mind, we want to state, again, that this is an invitation and not an expectation: the couple and their eldership team may say 'no', or 'not yet' if they don't feel the joy of stepping into the proposed assignment at this point.

But we also know that sending and sowing our best is the pattern of the NT, and that the local church often benefits and experiences a stronger leader, a larger connection to the global church and the joy of being linked to larger mission, so we believe that this is a privilege for the local church and eldership to step into too.

May God lead us all in wisdom as we steward this important 'ask' and global mission!

Inviting leader: ..... Delegation: .....

Date: .....

