

ON EVANGELISM

Adopted by the Session – December 2020

Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. – Mark 16:15

Evangelism is the ministry of the great commission - making disciples of all nations. At Christ Covenant we come together for worship each Lord's Day, and then we go back out to our various communities and vocations where God gives us opportunities to share Christ during the week. There is a rhythm of coming together to worship and then going back out to share salt and light with the world. We call it "gather and scatter." Thus, much of our evangelism takes place quietly and informally. But while God calls all of us to the ministry of individual evangelism, some among us are called to full-time evangelism either in our country or abroad. Thus, we recognize and support three different areas of evangelism whole-heartedly!

At Home: This happens primarily through the weekly Lord's Day worship services and other discipleship events in our church building – We believe Worship is our primary duty as a church and therefore where we invest most of our resources. From that gathering, individual members scatter out in personal evangelistic endeavors in our spheres of engagement both as we go about our everyday lives serving those around us, and as we intentionally share the gospel with those who are lost among us.

Our Nation: This is the evangelism of planting new churches where they are needed in our own country. We delight in training and sending men and their families out to plant and pastor fledgling churches in America. These church plants are carefully selected, and we love and support them wholeheartedly with our finances, resources, and prayers.

Our World: This is the evangelism of going across continents to reach unreached people groups for Christ and to minister to them in His name. As part of the great commission, we want to see the gospel of Jesus Christ proclaimed to every tribe, and tongue, and nation. We partner with our own members and others who are called to be abroad investing in peoples who are largely unreached. These partners are also carefully selected, and we intentionally love, support, and pray for them from afar.

EVANGELISM PRINCIPLES WE ASPIRE TO EMBRACE

1. **Partnership** - We endeavor to have deep authentic relationships with the evangelism partners that we support. While financial support is one aspect, we believe that prayer and congregation-wide ownership of our partners vision is of upmost importance. This means that our strategy will be to support a relatively fewer number of partners very well and with intentionality.
2. **Directed Mission** - We believe that ordinarily the means God uses to make disciples is through the work of the local church in preaching the Word, prayer, and the administration of the sacraments. Therefore, our partners whether local, national, or international will be working on a path toward the formation and thriving of a local church. This can be in the very early stages of reaching an unreached people group, later in the work of a local church, or anywhere in between. We also believe that it is critical in this effort to invest in the training, education, and encouragement of pastors and elders to lead these churches and to preach the gospel.
3. **Mercy** - Our proclamations of the Gospel will be accompanied by appropriate acts of love and service. As followers of Jesus, empowered by His Spirit we aspire to act in accord with the same sacrificial, life-giving love and service that Jesus modeled for us as He met people at their point of need (physical, emotional, mental and spiritual), exhibiting integrity in both word and deed.



OUTREACH LIAISONS: The Session has appointed individual members called to a specific ministry as Outreach Liaisons. These key leaders in the congregation are responsible for rallying support among our members for service and evangelism working directly with Session-approved local mercy and ministry organizations. These members work within these existing organizations to show the love of Christ and share the gospel with those in various levels of need in our community.

MISSIONS SUPPORT MINISTRY LEADER: The Session has appointed the Missions Support Ministry Leader to organize and coordinate volunteer members in the congregation primarily for the purpose of representing our missionaries and church planters to the congregation and for the purpose of representing Christ Covenant to existing missionary and church planting partners. This key leader is responsible for developing and encouraging deep authentic relationships between the congregation and our partners (Evangelism Principle #1 above). Activities will include communicating about needs – especially relating to prayer and progress toward specific ministry goals. The Missions Support Ministry Leader and volunteers will also communicate regularly with the congregation giving updates, organizing video calls with individual partners, and organizing special support activities (care packages, gifts, etc.) – leading the congregation in mission’s awareness.

SUPPORTING NEW MISSIONARIES AND CHURCH PLANTERS: While suggestions for new opportunities are welcomed, the Session will have the primary responsibility of interviewing prospective missionaries and church planters to determine philosophical and strategic alignment especially in the area of theological conviction, philosophy of ministry, and specific ministry goals. The level of financial support is decided by the Session considering the whole ministry of the Church. Once a new partnership is established, the Session will entrust non-financial support activities to the volunteers in the congregation organized by the Missions Support Ministry Leader.