



# ASHLAND

## COMMUNITY CHURCH

### **MISSIONS CONVICTIONS**

**WE EXIST TO TREASURE AND SPREAD A PASSION  
FOR THE SUPREMACY OF CHRIST IN ALL THINGS  
FOR THE JOY OF ALL PEOPLES**

**Our Main Missions Motivation Is the Glory of God and the Joy of all Peoples  
Follows Inseparably**

- God is preeminent in missions because God is preeminent in all things.
- Mankind was created in God's image to enjoy Him and glorify Him forever. Mankind's greatest joy is found by fulfilling this purpose.

**The Local Church Is the Primary Means and End of the Great Commission**

- The command found in the Great Commission to make disciples is ultimately fulfilled through planting churches.
- Disciples are made and grow best in the context of a healthy local church.
- We plant churches where they do not exist and serve local churches where they do exist in order to plant churches where they do not exist.
- Parachurch organizations (e.g. campus ministries, sending agencies, etc.) are subordinate to the local church and exist to serve the local church.

**The Bible Is the Sufficient Authority and Foundation for All our Mission  
Work**

- The Bible is our final authority for all our beliefs and practices.
- The Word will do the work. As we proclaim God's Word in the power of the Spirit it will accomplish God's purposes (Isaiah 55:10-11).
- Expository preaching of the Bible is God's appointed means for gathering and building His church (Rom 10:14-15).

## **Prayer Is Essential to all We Do**

- Prayer expresses our submission to and dependence upon God for all we do as a church for the sake of His glory amongst the nations. Apart from Him, we can do nothing (John 15:5).

## **The Local Church Is the Missions Team**

- The Great Commission is not an option for some Christians to consider, but a command for the entire church to obey.
- While God calls some Christians to long-term missionary service, all Christians can participate in international mission work through various means including praying, giving, and going short-term.

## **Unreached Peoples and Places Are our First Priority**

- Local ministry is absolutely necessary, but to this day the unreached remain tragically neglected. The heartbreaking reality is that forty percent of the world's population of 7.7 billion people live where there is little to no access to the gospel.
- While acknowledging that there is important ministry to do all over the world, we will prioritize faithful mission work amongst the unreached.

## **We Care About all Suffering, but Especially Eternal Suffering**

- Gospel proclamation must saturate all our mission work.
- Mercy ministries (such as disaster relief, food pantries, etc.) can serve the mission of the church, but must be engaged in a careful, strategic way that does not hinder or separate the display of the gospel (through acts of sacrificial love and service) and proclamation of the gospel (through evangelism).

## **Faithfulness to God Is our Measure of Success**

- We must be faithful to obey God's will as revealed in His Word and leave the results up to Him.
- While we long to see many disciples made and many churches planted quickly, we will not evaluate success primarily by pragmatic measures such as speed or numbers. Instead, we will evaluate our success primarily by obedience to Christ over the long term.

## **We Are Committed to Finishing the Task No Matter the Cost**

- We will intentionally focus our mission efforts on select places where God has called us and where we can invest deeply over the long haul until the task is accomplished.
- Sacrifice is required to fulfill the Great Commission, but not all sacrifice is strategic. Faithfulness to God demands that we prayerfully, carefully, and deliberately evaluate all mission efforts and opportunities regularly.
- The task of church planting is not finished until a church has biblically qualified elders (1 Tim 1-7, Titus 1:5-9).

## **Strategic Partnerships Can Advance the Great Commission**

- We strategically partner with like-minded local churches and parachurch organizations for the sake of the fulfillment of the Great Commission.
- The degree to which we partner with others will depend upon the amount of theological and missiological alignment.

## MISSIONS DEFINITIONS

**Church** - a local gathering of Christians who covenant together to glorify God by submitting to the preaching of His Word and by practicing the ordinances of baptism and the Lord's Supper.

**Church-planting** - the Spirit-empowered work of establishing new churches.

**Disciple-making** - intentionally helping another Christian become more like Christ.

**Evangelism** - the proclamation of the gospel in the power of the Holy Spirit with the aim of persuading people to repent and believe in Christ. (Luke 24:47, John 16:8–11, Acts 1:8, 2 Corinthians 5:11)

**Gospel** - the good news that the one true God has made a way for sinners to be reconciled to Him through the life, death, and resurrection of His Son Jesus Christ who suffered the wrath we deserve on the cross and rose again on the third day so that all who repent and believe in Him will be saved.

**Missionary** - a qualified Christian sent by a local church across cultural, geographic, and/or linguistic boundaries to fulfill the Great Commission by making disciples of all nations through planting local churches.

**Missions** - the Spirit-empowered work of the local church to fulfill the Great Commission by making disciples of all nations through planting local churches