

Missions Fest Vancouver - Mission, Vision and Values

We define mission as a work of God through Christ, a work we are invited into, to redeem and reconcile all creation to God and bring flourishing, fullness and peace to the earth.

Vision

We envision a vibrant transformative Church where all Christians takes their place in the body of Christ and contribute to mission, according to their calling, skills and gifts.

Mission Statement

Our mission is to serve the church by acting as a catalyst, helping people to realize how their unique skills, gifts, knowledge and physical bodies can be used to bring flourishing, fullness, and peace to creation, in the power of Christ. We do this by creating spaces where people interact with Spirit filled change agents virtually and face to face throughout the year. These encounters are directed to partnership development, so that together, the good news of Jesus is proclaimed and spiritual and physical needs in the communities around us are met.

In each space we want to:

1. **Inform** people about needs (physical, spiritual) around the world and opportunities to serve,
2. **Educate** people to meet needs intelligently and with excellence,
3. **Celebrate** what God is doing through His people around the world, and
4. **Challenge** people of all ages to get involved in God's mission by going, sending, praying, and giving.

Theological Values

As a non-profit Christian organization we desire that all that we do be Christ centered. We believe that "mission by us' in Christ is a continuation of 'mission by Christ' in the Father."¹ Thus through the Spirit we are enlivened to, by word and deed, minister compassion, justice and forgiveness and to disciple others in a journey towards Christlikeness. Essential to this ministry is the truth that our usefulness in the "expansion" of mission (width) is dependent on "the extent to which" we live "into the depth of the triune communion of love by the Spirit."²

The implication of this is that while our predominate interest is in activities that support the accomplishment of the 'Great Commission' we need to be diligent to actively acknowledge God's mission in the broadest possible sense of bringing his shalom to all of creation. Our goal, as Ross Hastings notes is that "the telos (end) of Christian mission is thus human beings becoming humans fully alive. However this equally asserts the ecclesial nature of the new humanity. God's mission was to be carried out by the church – the church as a signal of the new humanity, the church as the sign and servant of the kingdom of God, for the re-creation of the cosmos."³ Because the church is central to mission our goal is to make

¹Hastings, Ross; *Missional God, Missional Church*, p249

²ibid, p272

³ibid, p31

the church a key partner in Mission Fest Vancouver, the key beneficiary of the work that we do. We need to reflect the interest of the local church in mission and meet needs relationally and through partnership.

Philosophical Values

Mission Fest Vancouver believes that the mandate for mission rests on the people of God who make up the church. The church as an organism needs to be engaged through relationship and partnership, not just programs and structure. If we, at Mission Fest Vancouver, exist to be a reflection of the local churches' interest in mission then we need to be advocates for relationship and partnership between the local church, communities and agencies. A conscious decision needs to be made to avoid promotion of a consumeristic relationship between attendees and agencies. We need to be advocates of a servant posture with agencies so that when they engage the church of Vancouver that they come to listen to the stirrings that the Holy Spirit has placed in the heart of the church as much as we (attendees) come to hear about what God is doing in the world.