

## **Missions at Trinity Community Church**

**Purpose Statement:** Trinity Community Church, in strategic partnership with Gospel-centered ministries, is committed to glorifying God through making disciples among all peoples, with an emphasis in establishing and supporting biblically-based reproducing churches worldwide.

**Vision:** As a local body of believers, Trinity Community Church strives to fulfill Christ's commandments from Matthew 28:18-20 and Acts 1:8, by making disciples of all nations, starting with the Fresno area and reaching to the ends of the earth. We envision fulfilling this commission with the help of strategic partners (individuals, mission organizations, and other churches) that have a Gospel-centered theology, a high view of Scripture, and a passion for discipleship.

### **The Mission Leadership Team at Trinity Community Church**

What is the Mission Leadership Team (MLT)? The MLT represents and makes decisions on issues pertaining to missions on behalf of the Elders of Trinity Community Church (TCC). The MLT is authorized by the Elders of TCC to provide oversight, care, and direction for the different missionaries and mission organizations our church is supporting.

TCC formed the MLT to carry out the following duties:

- **Engage** the church in local and world Missions.
  - Through a comprehensive, prayerful, and intentional process the MLT selects the mission organizations or/and missionaries that TCC will support and partner with. The selection process is thorough and based on several criteria approved by the Elders of TCC (see the article on "Criteria for Missions at TCC")
  - Prayerfully prepare a budget for Missions that is submitted to the Elders of TCC for approval and then discern how to allocate funds to different ministries and missionaries
  - Provide biblical counsel for the missionaries to help them determine their calling to missions, including their application process to any missionary agencies.
  - When called upon by a mission agency to assist in a crisis such as marriage, spiritual, mental or even physical, the MLT will come alongside to assist the agency to determine the best plan of action according to prayer and the Scriptures.

- **Educate** the church in regards to Missions. Some practical ways to accomplish that:
  - Provide updates and present short- or long-term opportunities to do missions;
  - Prayer bookmarks in the Sunday Worship Guides;
  - October Fest mission's event;
  - Hosting presentations for returning or visiting cross-cultural workers;
  - Regular representatives of different ministries on "Missions on the Plaza" table;
  - Provide education to prepare cross-cultural workers to enter the mission field;
  - Train up senders/supporters of missionaries before they go, while they are in the field, and when they return.
  
- **Encourage** long- and short-term missionaries from TCC through the following:
  - Maintaining a steady stream of communication to the missionaries in order to foster a continued sense of their membership in the local body of Christ;
  - Sharing opportunities when they come back home or are visiting with us;
  - Regular prayer reminders (Prayer Bookmark or Worship Guide);
  - Regular (annual or bi-annual) visits by Trinity leaders;
  - Regular representatives of different ministries on "Missions on the Plaza" table
  - Prayer and Care Teams

### **CRITERIA FOR MISSIONS AT TRINITY COMMUNITY CHURCH**

We realize that based on our vision and theological convictions the spectrum of ministry involvement in missions could be quite broad; therefore, the Elders of Trinity Community Church have approved some specific criteria in order to have a better focus and effectiveness in the task of partnering with individuals, mission organizations, or other churches in reaching out to the lost. These criteria elaborate our mission statement and vision and are in close connection to Trinity's Statement of Faith. These criteria are (1) ***theological***; (2) ***methodological***; and (3) ***relational***.

#### 1) **Theological Criteria:**

- a) **Gospel-centered** = As much as we believe that Christians are called to do social work in this world, we also believe that the core problem of our world is sin, so everything we do should be centered on sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Therefore, we will focus our

resources and commitments in those missional projects that proclaim the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ clearly and unapologetically.<sup>1</sup>

- b) **Church-centered** = We believe that the main entity that God left in this world to reflect His character and to advance His Kingdom is the Church of our Lord Jesus Christ. (Eph. 5:23). Therefore, we will consider supporting only those individuals whose call to ministry has been confirmed and affirmed by their local church and are faithful members of a local church or are in the process of planting a local church (Eph. 3:10, Acts 14:23). Also, we want to partner with those Christian ministries and organizations that are focused on either planting churches or coming alongside existing local churches to strengthen and serve them.
- c) **Word-centered** = We believe that the Word of God is inerrant and infallible and is the final authority in our lives. It is sufficient to teach us, rebuke us, correct us and equip us in godliness (2 Tim. 3:16-17). We also believe that the true knowledge of God and truth comes only from the Scriptures (John 17:17). Therefore, we will support those missional entities that have a high view of Scripture and are seeking to faithfully proclaim it, translate it (where necessary), teach it, and defend it.

## 2) **Methodological Criteria**

- a) **Focused on Discipleship** = The Great Commission of our Lord Jesus Christ commands us to “go and make disciples of all nations” (Matt. 28:18-20). Therefore, we will focus on partnering with those missional entities that are committed to preach the whole Gospel to the whole world with the goal of helping to fulfil the Great Commission.
- b) **Focused on Supporting Indigenous Ministers and Ministries** = An indigenous person refers to one who was born within a certain people group, as opposed to one who was introduced to that people group from the outside. An indigenous missionary is one who seeks to take the Gospel to his or her own people group. Therefore, we believe the most

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<sup>1</sup> What is the Gospel? The Good News that Jesus Christ, the living Word, became flesh through His miraculous conception by the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary. He who is true God became true man united in one Person forever. He died on the cross a sacrifice for our sins according to the Scriptures. On the third day He arose bodily from the dead, ascended into heaven, where, at the right hand of the Majesty on High, He now is our High Priest and Mediator. Being estranged from God and condemned by our sinfulness (we are fully depraved), our salvation is wholly dependent upon the work of God's free grace (Eph. 2:8-10). God credits His righteousness to those who put their faith in Christ alone for their salvation, thereby justifies them in His sight.

effective model of advancing God's Kingdom (both financially and culturally) is by investing in and supporting the indigenous ministers and ministries.

- c) **Focused on Reaching the Least Reached Peoples** = We realize that by God's grace, He calls individuals to take the Gospel to places and peoples "where Christ is not known" (Rom 5:20-21).

### 3) **Relational Criteria**

- a) **Connected to Our Trinity Family** = We believe that as a church we are called to first partner and support individuals who are committed members of our church and who agree with our theological and methodological convictions. We will also consider for support those individuals who are regular attenders at Trinity Community Church or those who are closely connected to our members.
- b) **Trusted Leadership and Reliable Financial Accountability** = We will give priority to the missional entities that prove to have trusted leadership and a reliable financial accountability, preferably to be members of the ECFA.
- c) **Opportunity for all Trinity Age Groups** = One of our commitments as a church is to build inter-generational bridges between our members and to equip families to disciple their children/grandchildren. Therefore, we will seek to partner with those ministries that offer an intergenerational involvement.