



CHURCH AT THE MILL

new beginnings | real relationships

**MISSIONS
CONVICTIONS**

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These convictions outline the theology, heart and motivation of our missions engagement and provide the foundation for the decisions we make as we go, partner, serve and disciple the nations.

We will love.

Because Jesus first loved us, we will consider others more significant than ourselves and focus on intensely loving those who are different from us.

Philippians 2:1-4 - *So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.*

We will cling.

Because Jesus gave believers the gift of the Holy Spirit, we will acknowledge that missions will not thrive under our own power, but rather we will cling to the power of the Holy Spirit in evangelism.

John 3:5-8 - *Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit."*

We will pursue.

Because Jesus is holy, we will be dedicated to pursuing our own holiness so that our lives may be worth modeling. As a sending church, we will strive to effectively prepare disciples for the task of disciple-making. This comes through personal prayer time with the Lord, gathering corporately and in small groups, Scripture reading and meditation, personal accountability and reinforcing other spiritual disciplines.

John 15:5 - *I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.*

We will pray.

Because Jesus prioritized speaking to His father and taught us how to intervene for others, we will prioritize prayer for the lost, the sent ones, the communicators of the Gospel and for our own personal holiness.

1 Thessalonians 5:17-18 - *Pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.*

We will go.

Because we are commanded to go into the world and preach, we will be obedient in making ourselves available to go wherever and whenever God leads. We will go expecting that sacrifice is necessary and suffering may be experienced because of the sin that exists in the world.

Romans 10:14-15 - *How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!"*

We will send.

Because Jesus was sent to live, suffer, die and conquer death for the forgiveness of our sins, we will partner those God sends to proclaim His gospel. As a sending church, we will train, equip and mobilize harvest workers with opportunities to serve our city, nation and world on a short-term or career basis.

Acts 1:8 - *But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.*

We will proclaim.

Because of the work of Jesus on the cross and his teaching of faith and repentance, we will proclaim the Gospel at all times, even when it is difficult, uncomfortable or inconvenient because it is worth it. Evangelism will be an essential part of any mission activity and should be hard-wired into the daily lives of Christ followers.

John 3:16-17 - *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.*

We will disciple.

Because of the commands of Jesus and His example with His first followers, we will disciple others to follow Jesus. The goal of our missions culture is to make disciples who make disciples and that the Lord would be honored through our investment in growing His kingdom.

Matthew 28:19-20 - *Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.*

We will serve.

Because God gave us each unique gifts, we will celebrate what God has created within us and find ways to honor God by using those gifts to reach others with the truth of the Gospel. Missions is for everyone and as a sending church, we will strive to mobilize each person according their abilities.

1 Corinthians 12:4-7 - *Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.*

We will give.

Because Jesus chose to further His kingdom through the local church, we, as the local church must do the sending and be an example of sacrificial giving of resources and people. We have been blessed with Biblical knowledge, devoted volunteers and generous giving. So, we should freely give ourselves to teach and disciple others, send our volunteers for short or full-term service and commit our funds to moving the Gospel forward.

Acts 2:42-47 - *And they devoted themselves to the apostles teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. And all who believed were together and had all things in common. And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.*

We will collaborate.

Because Jesus called many to build the Kingdom, we will collaborate with like-minded churches, missionaries and organizations. We will choose partnerships by leaning on guidance and wisdom from the Holy Spirit and will place a priority on those sent out from our church.

2 Corinthians 8:23-24 - *As for Titus, he is my partner and fellow worker for your benefit. And as for our brothers, they are messengers of the churches, the glory of Christ. So give proof before the churches of your love and of our boasting about you to these men.*

We will support.

Because Jesus set apart certain people for missionary service, we will care deeply for the needs of our missionaries and sent ones. This is accomplished through intercessory prayer, sending teams, pastoral care, relationships and communication.

3 John 5-8 - *Beloved, it is a faithful thing you do in all your efforts for these brothers, strangers as they are, who testified to your love before the church. You will do well to send them on their journey in a manner worthy of God. For they have gone out for the sake of the name, accepting nothing from the Gentiles. Therefore, we ought to support people like these, that we may be fellow workers for the truth.*