

## Church of the Holy Spirit Missions Philosophy

Gospel mission is always informed by the heart and purposes of God, as revealed in scripture. Mission is at its heart those good and holy works which glorify the Father and build up His kingdom.

There are several key scriptures that shape and inform local church mission. We will look at three primary passages

### **Matthew 28:19-20**

*<sup>18</sup> And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup> **Go** therefore and **make disciples** of all nations, **baptizing** them in<sup>[b]</sup> the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> **teaching** them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."*

The Great Commission is found in all four Gospels but is best summarized in Mt 28:19-20. Jesus tells His disciples, His Body of believers, to **GO!** As we are going on our way through life, we are sent out in His authority to announce the Good News of God – namely, that God in Jesus Christ has come in love to rescue, pardon and save us from our sin, the flesh and the devil. Furthermore, by His grace, He offers an intimate relationship with Him where those who receive the gift of faith can become His sons and daughters.

He has entrusted His sons and daughters with the most important task in the world, sharing His glorious message of reconciliation, that "in Christ, God was reconciling<sup>[a]</sup> the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.<sup>20</sup> Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us." (2 Cor 5).

We are to **make disciples**. In Greek, the word disciple literally means "learner," so our call is to help those who are learning of Jesus Christ and His Kingdom.

The Great Commission does not stop there. We are commanded to **baptize** new disciples in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. This speaks to the necessity of the local church and the sacrament of baptism by water and the Spirit.

And finally, we are to **teach** His disciples to obey all that He has commanded. We teach not the ideas and precepts of man but the very words of God as found in the Bible.

## **Romans 12:5-6**

*<sup>5</sup> we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. <sup>6</sup> Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them.”*

Here again, we see the importance of the Church of Jesus Christ, the Universal church which includes the local church. All disciples of Jesus are to be an active part of His Church and a local church. We are to use the gifts (charismata) He gives us to build up and strengthen His Church. Disciples must be an active part of a local church and under the authority of those Christ has called as overseers, pastors and shepherds.

## **2 Timothy 3:14-17**

*“But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom<sup>[a]</sup> you learned it <sup>15</sup> and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. <sup>16</sup> All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, <sup>17</sup> that the man of God<sup>[b]</sup> may be complete, equipped for every good work.”*

Biblical Mission involves teaching God’s word. It is imperative and profitable for teaching, reproof, correction and training in righteousness.

## **Matthew 25:34-40**

*<sup>34</sup> Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. <sup>35</sup> For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, <sup>36</sup> I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.’ <sup>37</sup> Then the righteous will answer him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? <sup>38</sup> And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? <sup>39</sup> And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?’ <sup>40</sup> And the King will answer them, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers,<sup>[a]</sup> you did it to me.’*

Biblical mission also involves serving Christ by serving some of the least of His children. While not an exhaustive list of acts of mercy found in Scripture, Matthew 25 highlights giving food,

drink, shelter, clothes, helping the sick and visiting those in prison. Many other scriptures command us to help the widow, the orphan and the sojourner. These acts of mercy are not the Gospel but an outflow from it. I John 3:18 says, *“Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.”*

### **John 2:14-17**

*“What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, and one of you says to them, “Go in peace, be warmed and filled,” without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.”*

### **Galatians 6:10**

*“So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.”*

These two scriptures paint a clear picture that we are to do good to everyone but the first priority is to those in the “household of faith” – those who are brothers and sisters in the Lord.

### **2 Thessalonians 3:10-12**

*“If anyone is not willing to work, let him not eat. <sup>11</sup> For we hear that some among you walk in idleness, not busy at work, but busybodies. <sup>12</sup> Now such persons we command and encourage in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living.”*

### **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.”*

There are so many other scriptures we could list but these fairly summarize biblical mission.

Every Christian church should let their mission be shaped by these scriptures. And at Church of The Holy Spirit we recognize these as bedrock.

But each local church has its own unique call or mission from the Lord.

## **CHS MISSION DISTINCTIVES**

Church of the Holy Spirit purposes to carry out the Lord's mission the way the early Church did, locally, nationally and internationally.

Church of the Holy Spirit is committed to planting healthy Gospel driven churches, particularly those in the Anglican tradition.

Church of the Holy Spirit is committed to give local churches funding priority over parachurch ministries.

Church of the Holy Spirit is committed to partnering with indigenous pastors (those who know the language fluently and are part of the culture) whenever possible.

Church of the Holy Spirit is committed to making disciples in Roanoke and having strategic church-based ministries.

Church of the Holy Spirit is committed to working in long term Gospel partnerships and not changing partners or direction without good cause.

Church of the Holy Spirit is committed to finding matching grants wherever possible.

Church of the Holy Spirit is committed to working with churches and missions that are under godly authority and who embrace our essential expression of faith (Jesus is Lord and the Apostles and Nicene Creed) and our values.

Church of the Holy Spirit purposes to give a "hand up" and not enable dependency.

Church of the Holy Spirit purposes to go after segments of the population that are unreached or under reached. One specific example is the unchurched 18-30 year olds in Roanoke, VA.

Church of the Holy Spirit gives "mercy funding" priority to members who are widows, orphans, and those unable to work. Second priority is to attendees who are widows, orphans and those unable to work. The third priority is to those of a household without food, water and shelter and whose churches are unable to help them.

Church of the Holy Spirit purposes to aid the poor in Roanoke in a holistic manner rather than giving out money without addressing the complexities of the persons needs and root issues. Church of the Holy Spirit never gives "relief" directly but gives Kroger cards or pays the utility company or landlord directly.

Church of the Holy Spirit expects all recipients of mission funding (save recipients of one-time alms or "relief") to be in a local church, under godly authority and generous in their own giving to the Lord.