

What is Missional?

This is usually one of the first questions I am asked in any conversation around the church and its engagement of culture. There is no doubt that definitions are very important. In an attempt to make ‘missional’ more accessible we have come up with very simple one line definitions. Those are very important, but it is also crucial that we complement those with definitions which bring a little more clarity. What follows are a series of definitions that we have developed and use in the MDiv. In Ministry. These serve as baselines for all of our course development. We share them here in order to add another voice to the conversation.

Mission has source, meaning and motivation in the triune God

A. Summary statement on the Mission of God

Missio Dei – Mission has its source, meaning and motivation in the Triune God. The Father has sent the Son into the world in the power of the Holy Spirit to reconcile humans and the whole creation to himself. Since God is the missionary and the Holy Spirit has been sent forth into all the world ahead of the church, the church’s mission derives from the mission of God. As body of Christ and community of God’s people, the church is called to proclaim and embody the Good News of God’s reign in all its dimensions in anticipation of the final and full manifestation of God’s victory through Jesus Christ.

Howard Snyder

For further development of this definition see Snyder’s paper on Missional Church and Missional life
<http://www.tyndale.ca/sites/default/files/SnyderMissionalChurchandLife.pdf>

B. Defining the Missional Church

The Missional Church is a community gathered by the Spirit from all walks of life, socio-economic backgrounds, ethnicities and ages, intentionally serving as a sign of the Kingdom by breaking down dividing walls. The Missional Church gathered in worship immerses itself in the values and rhythms of the Kingdom, celebrating life in the presence of Jesus Christ its King, Redeemer, Saviour and Lord, offering itself as a foretaste of this Kingdom. The Missional Church is a community sent out by the Father, in the power of the Holy Spirit to live in the world as Jesus did. The Missional Church is a listening community, together discerning where God’s redemptive reign is at work in the world and entering into this activity in order to serve as an instrument of the Kingdom of God, by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Donald Goertz

C. Worship

Worship means something very simple; *it is our proclamation, celebration and re-enactment of the mighty acts of God in history.* This combines the interplay of memory and hope. It is memory of God's mighty acts which provide us with the confidence to move. It is the promises of God which draw us forward into the new and often risky things that God has for us.

D. Spiritual Formation

Spiritual formation is the continuing response to the reality of God's grace shaping us into the likeness of Jesus Christ, through the work of the Holy Spirit, in the community of faith for the sake of the world.

For a development of this definition visit the following;

http://www.tyndale.ca/sites/default/files/Toward_a_Definition_of_Spiritual_Formation.pdf