

OPEN SPACE, NOVEMBER 18, 2010

**Growing Christ's Church Deep and Wide:
How Presbyterian World Mission is Working to Change our World**

A Discussion about the Mission Crossroads Conference 2010*
by Co-Conveners: Rev. Tom Cramer and Rev. Paul Mureson

How do you coordinate a mission force that used to look like this . . .



(highly centralized in terms of funding, training, and sending)

That now looks like this . . .



(highly decentralized in terms of funding, training, and sending)

WORLD MISSION'S STRATEGIC DIRECTION

Vision Statement: God's people connected in effective mission: a compelling witness to Jesus Christ in globalized world.

Mission Statement: To engage with U.S. Presbyterians and global partners for faithful and effective participation in God's mission in a globalized world, *growing together as communities of mission practice*.

Core Values (abridged and interpreted by tcc)

1. **Dignity**—treat each person with dignity and respect, standing with those who are marginalized.
2. **Empowerment**—focus on long-term relationships, building capacity of organizations and people, special awareness of power issues and ministry context, as well as unique gifts of various parties.
3. **Holistic Ministry**—redemption of the whole creation, address personal sinfulness and unjust structures, proclaim the gospel through evangelism, ministries of compassion, and advocating for justice.
4. **Partnership**—partnering with churches and organizations, values of mutuality, common prophetic witness, transparency, accountability.
5. **Relevance to God's World**—eyes to see what God is doing, partner with others to address global concerns.
6. **Stewardship**—use God's resources respectfully and responsibly, placing everything under the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

Directional Goals (abridged and interpreted by tcc)

1. **Communities of Mission Practice**—doing mission together with all levels of the church, as well as with other organizations whose objectives overlap with ours.
2. **Faithful and Effective Mission**—we find synergies wherever possible, in the church and with global partners
3. **Strategic Engagement in Critical Global Issues**—focus on critical global issues that adversely affect God's creation and the human family.
4. **Achieving Organizational Excellence**—learning community, resource and knowledge management, strategic thinking, work-life balance.

World Mission's Particular Role:

- Provides servant leadership;
- Leads from within;
- Works in a community development model, honoring and strengthening the gifts of all;
- Serves as a bridge across places and across time, connecting the community of mission practice with mission history and with the experiences of other mission constituencies and ecumenical and interfaith partners;
- Serves as repository of communities' institutional knowledge (growing body of mission reflection and practice).

Where is the community of mission practice?

The common space between three or more groups including U.S. Presbyterians, Global Partners and Presbyterian World Mission.

THREE CRITICAL GLOBAL ISSUES FOR WORLD MISSION'S STRATEGIC FOCUS

1. Strengthening the Church's capacity to survive, to thrive, and to witness to the good news in Jesus Christ.
2. Addressing the root causes of poverty including the negative effects of economic globalization on the poorest and most vulnerable in every society, paying special attention to women and children.
3. Engaging in reconciliation amidst cultures of violence.

SOME REFLECTIONS

Presbytery World Mission approach to mission is . . .

- **Holistic.** It addresses the whole person with the whole gospel throughout the whole world.
- **Honoring.** It asks what people need so that "help" actually helps. It empowers everyone to see and deploy the resources that God has given us.
- **Honest.** It admits that we don't have all the answers and that we have a lot to learn.

POSSIBILITIES FOR YOU AND YOUR CHURCH

1. Build a relationship with at least one missionary. Make them YOUR missionary. Include them in your prayers. Communicate with them. Host them. Fund them.
2. Connect with another church's Mission Committee or with a Presbytery Partnership. Ask what they are doing. Join them in their mission.
3. Connect with a Mission Network or a Regional Liaison in countries in which you minister.
4. Join Los Ranchos' World Mission Partnership. Call Bonita Carr (714) 956-3691 or bcarr@losranchos.org to let her know of your interest.
5. Sign up for Mission Crossroads at www.missioncrossroads.org or order *Mission Crossroads Magazine* at (800) 728-7228 ext. 5172. For additional copies, call (800) 524-2612 and request #13102-10-004. Podcast, latest network news, etc.

DISCUSSION AND QUESTIONS

1. Do you have any questions about anything we've shared?
2. What are the best things happening in Mission in your church?

*THE MISSION CROSSROADS CONFERENCE 2010

Who was there?

- Presbyterian World Mission Staff Members
- PC(USA) Mission Co-Workers
- Regional Liaisons (Africa, Asia & The Pacific, Europe, Latin America & the Caribbean, The Middle East, Sensitive Locations)
- Mission Advocates
- Mission Network Leaders (current number of networks = 37)
- Global Partners and Speakers

Why we went?

Presbyterian World Mission, congregations from the Presbytery of Los Ranchos, and Los Ranchos' Worldwide Mission Partnership (WMP or WWMP, formally the Worldwide Mission Committee), have a long history of global mission

engagement. Los Ranchos congregations support Mission Co-workers, Presbyterian Global Partners, and Presbytery Partnerships in Kenya, Lesotho, and South East Asia (Thailand, Payap University). **Much like the Presbytery of Los Ranchos, the PC(USA) has undergone a significant re-deployment of staff and financial resources. Mission Crossroads Conference 2010 sought to educate the network of participants who make up the PC(USA) World Mission enterprise.**

Content of conference?

- World Mission Strategic Direction
- “Living Into” the New World Mission Strategic Direction
- Perspectives from Global Partners
- Growing Healthy Networks
- Networks: New Guidelines and Mission Network Communication System
- Mission Advocates: Roles, Responsibilities, and Covenant with World Mission
- Growing Healthy Partnerships
- Mission Interpretation at Every Level
- Cross-Cultural Ministries
- Advocacy (what happens there is interconnected with what happens here)
- Educating for Mission
- Fundraising and Financial Management