

Partnership in God's Mission: GBGM Theology of Mission Statement (excerpts)

--General Board of Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church, 2001

. . . We rejoice at the signs of hope and renewal evident in our mission inheritance, and we celebrate the light of God reflected in United Methodist witness throughout the world today.

In consultations from Singapore to Switzerland, Zimbabwe to Costa Rica, Jamaica to the United States, we have heard testimony that mission is God's mission, and we are partners in mission with God. (p. 3)

. . . In Jesus of Nazareth, God moved in mission to create a new partnership through a new covenant. (p. 6)

. . . Mission is the activity of the Triune God. By the authority of the God of justice, mercy and peace, the risen Jesus sends the church into mission partnership with God (Matthew 28:18-20). God's authority sends the church into mission (John 17:18). God's power sustains the church in mission (Luke 24:49). God's revelation in Jesus Christ defines the church in mission. Mission is God's mission. (p. 7)

. . . Joining God's mission requires mutual sharing and exchange of witness and resources among mission partners. The connectional relationship between partners in God's mission must move beyond church structure and policy to embrace incarnational identification, burden bearing solidarity, and substance sharing interdependence. True mission partnership is rooted in mutual love, trust compassion, sharing, support and respect. (p. 10)

. . . Partnership in God's mission is guided by the vision of God's justice, mercy and peace, bearing witness to God who judges, supersedes and transcends all social institutions and ideologies, political and economic power structures anywhere on earth. Partners in God's mission are called into prophetic, sacrificial, risk-filled opposition to the forces of evil, injustice, violence and oppression; challenging, in the name of Jesus Christ, all structures, systems, policies and practices which destroy God's design for creation and usurp God's authority over the created order. Such witness is a foretaste of the fulfillment of God's reign (Mark 13:3-13). (p. 11)

. . . The church is being swept by the Spirit into a new mission age. . . . As the saving grace of Christ is proclaimed, new theologies are formed, and the praise of God is celebrated in worship that reflects the varied cultures. . . . Missionary sending and receiving will flow reciprocally across the face of the earth through the channel of God's grace. . . . We look forward to seeing the gospel disengaged from its dominant and dominating national, cultural, political and economic expressions. . . . Mission partners will work together to reshape mission patterns and structures and to share in decisions about the use of resources.

When mission partners are joined together in mutual trust, they respect the integrity of their common confession of the God revealed in Jesus Christ. Disputes about the priority of evangelization over social service and action are replaced by the common recognition that confessing Christ and naming the name of Jesus is a pattern of life and speech involving both word and deed. . . . (pp. 12-14)

Underlines are ours. To order the full booklet, call the Service Center at 1-800-305-9857.