

Perinton Community Church

Mission Philosophy

Purpose

The purpose of having a mission philosophy is to present in clear statements the scriptural mandates for the involvement of Perinton Community Church in missions. This mandate has been called the great Commission and appears five different places in scripture with a different emphasis each time.

Matthew 28:19-20

“All authority in heaven and earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations...”

“go” and “make disciples” are key verbs, but the emphasis in Greek is foremost on the Lord’s authority as the sender.

Mark 16:16

“Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved; but whoever does not will be condemned.”

The emphasis is on final judgment.

Luke 24:46-47

“This is what is written. The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day; and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.”

The commission is the fulfillment of prophecy.

John 20:21

“Jesus said to them, ‘Peace be with you. As the father sent me, even so I am sending you.’”

James Boice in his book *The Gospel of John: Triumph through Tragedy* says, “These words are a command to evangelize, but they are more than this. They establish a pattern for us as we evangelize. The key words are ‘as’ and ‘so.’ As my Father sent me, so I am sending you. They mean that our mission in the world is to be patterned on the Lord’s.”

Gary Burge in his book *NIV Application Commentary: John* says: “With his post-resurrection work nearly completed, Jesus’ final task is to commission his followers as he was commissioned by the Father. As Jesus was God’s special representative, or agent, in the world, so too his followers become Jesus’ agents, working in the world and witnessing to the reality of God and the truth of Jesus’ words.”

Acts 1:8

“You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea, and in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

This presents God's vision and plan for world evangelism.

What is Mission?

A. The word "Mission"

The word mission is a Latin word (*mitto* or *mittere*) meaning to **send**. The mission of the Church is the equipping and sending of God's people into the world, everywhere Christ is not known and God is not worshipped.

B. The word "Send"

1. The first word **Send** is used in Acts 13:2-3.

*"While they were worshipping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said 'Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.' Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and **sent** them off."*

The Greek word used here for **send/sent** is *apolyo*. *Apolyo* means: to set free, release, discharge, let go, send away or dismiss. Luke uses *apolyo* at this point in Acts to indicate that Barnabas and Saul were **released** from their duties at Antioch to head into Asia Minor and Europe.

2. The second word for send is used in John 17:18

"As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world."

The Greek word used here for **send/sent** is *apostello*. John uses this word to tell us what it means to be the Church in mission. The Hebrew-related word is *saluah*. These words are used to describe a number of people being sent with emphasis on the One who is doing the sending. This is clear in Isaiah 6:8.

"Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?' And I said, 'Here I am. Send me.'"

C. The word "Evangelism"

The Greek word for **good news** or **gospel** is *euangelion*. While Paul wasn't the first to use the word *euangelion*, there is good reason to credit Paul with establishing *Euangelion* as the New Testament's prime word to describe our mission.

J.I. Packer in his book *Evangelism and the Sovereignty of God* describes evangelism this way: "It is simply proclaiming the Gospel, the evangel...Anyone who faithfully presents this message in whatever circumstances or places, is 'evangelizing', or sharing the Good News. The motive for our evangelistic mission, which should constantly spur us to evangelize, is twofold: The first is the love of God and concern for His glory. The second is love of others and concern for their welfare.'

A.J. Gordon in his book *The Holy Spirit in Mission* describes the task this way: "Our task is not to bring all the world to Christ; our task is unquestionably to bring Christ to the world."

God's Calling

God's purpose is to make Himself known to all people and to establish a relationship with them. All Christians are commanded to share the Good News of Christ. God, however, calls from among us certain people to carry out specific full-time ministries according to their gifts. Career missionaries are those people called by God to be His messengers, witnesses and spokesmen to people of different geographic areas and/or cultures.

Tullian Tchividjian in a book appropriately called *Unfashionable* describes God's calling in this way: "To me, a most startling aspect of God's mission is that he has called fallible people like (us) to take part in carrying out his glorious work...this ought to humble us and rouse us to action...God doesn't simply rescue us from sin, he rescues us to take up again the assignment we were created for...the culture mandate in Genesis to develop the world around us to the glory of God."

D. Our Response

PCC is all about **Worshipping Jesus and Sharing His Love**. Therefore:

1. Each one of us in the PCC family should realize that we ourselves are in mission where God has placed us. The Church is **preparing** and **equipping** each of us to lead others to Christ. CLASS 401 is one means to this end.
2. PCC Mission will display a **partnership** between being the merciful church to our own neighbors, and planting the merciful church abroad.
3. Each person in the PCC family should realize that we have the privilege and responsibility to sacrificially, tangibly **partner** with the career missionaries who are also part of our church family.
4. We seek balance in supporting both missions at home and abroad, and will always endeavor to never let one be diluted at the expense of the other.