**Missional Practices — What are They?**

Missional practices cultivate new understandings and ways of living Christ’s mission. Missional practices are intentional and repetitive patterns of individual and community actions. They lead to encounters where God’s activity and God’s invitation to Christ’s mission are discovered. They lead us into relationships with God, the Living Christ, and the Holy Spirit which in turn lead us to develop relationships of healing and wholeness with others. Awareness of the deeply relational and communal nature of God leads us to new levels of generosity in our engagement and hospitality with our neighbors.

Missional practices point our attention towards God and Christ’s mission by asking two persistent questions:

1. What is God doing where we are?
2. What is God calling us to do to embody and live the concerns and passion of Christ?

Also, missional practices:

* Are a means, not an end, for us to discover new understandings for experimenting and living new ways of being disciples and communities of faith.
* Provide encounters with and openings to God’s Spirit that may disrupt and challenge us to break out of conventional assumptions about the church and thus lead us to explore new forms of ministry.
* Help us become fully present, awake, and responsive to the awe and majesty of God’s love and where God is active locally and globally. They are central to us being aware of God’s presence.
* Promote gratitude for God; appreciation for the worth and giftedness of self and all persons; and devotion to serve God and neighbor.
* Help us recognize work, school, home, and neighborhoods as places to contemplate living a life of faith in response to God and human need.
* Encourage, overtime, living into and embodying the concerns and passion of Christ in all relationships, within congregations and within neighborhoods.
* Like spiritual disciplines of silence, contemplation, and patience, always recognize the mystery of the Spirit at work where transformative moments occur spontaneously without expectation or intent.
* Are empowered by God’s Spirit to remind, connect and transform us to be a community of faith who no longer live for ourselves but as a signal community revealing Shalom – God’s future for all creation.

Missional practices are central to the hard work of discerning and living Christ’s mission. In the beginning they may feel strange or awkward; overtime they become natural extensions of who we are. We may have a tendency to gloss over or quickly exercise them. It takes time for missional practices to become the new norms for discerning and creating a shared commitment for living Christ’s mission in sacred community.

Anyone can develop a missional practice. It can be as simple as drinking a morning cup of coffee as an opportunity to pause and be open to God’s Spirit each day. There is an endless variety of missional practices yet to be created.

**In summary, any repetitive action that leads us and our congregations to embody and live Christ’s mission is a missional practice.**