

# The Mission of the Church

A few important statements that relate to the mission of the church:

**Matthew 28:19-20** (called the “Great Commission,” Jesus’ parting words to the disciples after the resurrection in the gospel according to Matthew): “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” (note that this asks us to make disciples, not just members, and that teaching Jesus’ teachings is part of the Great Commission).

**Matthew 4:17:** From that time Jesus began to proclaim, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”

**Mark 16:15:** “Go into all the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation.”

**Luke 4:18-19** [at the beginning of Jesus’ ministry, he says] “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

**Luke 24:47-48:** “...Repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.”

**John 13:31-35:** I give you a new commandment: Love one another as I have loved you.

**Ephesians 4:12-13** describes the work of leaders of the church as “...to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God...”

**The Catechism from the Book of Common Prayer (p.855):** “The mission of the Church is to restore all people to unity with God and each other in Christ...The Church pursues its mission as it prays and worships, proclaims the Gospel and promotes justice, peace and love...The Church carries out its mission through the ministry of all its members.”

**Prayer for the Mission of the Church, Book of Common Prayer, p.816:**

*Everliving God, whose will it is that all should come to you through your Son Jesus Christ: Inspire our witness to him, that all may know the power of his forgiveness and the hope of his resurrection; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.*

# Mission/Vision/Goals/Planning

## **Mission:**

- Who God wants us to be
- What God wants us to do
- Make it short, meaningful and easy to memorize.
- Be sure that God is at the center (Hint: use the word “God!”)

## **Vision:**

- What the Mission looks like on the ground.
- Make it Focused, Concrete, Clear, and relatively short

## **Goals:**

- How to get to the Vision (by God’s grace)
- **SMART** Goals:
  - Specific
  - Measurable
  - Achievable
  - Related to the Mission
  - Time based

## **Plans:**

- Plans map out who, what, where, when and how (and the resources needed).
- Plans must be realistic and formed and accepted by all stakeholders
- Constantly relate to the Mission & Vision
- Constantly check progress

Empowered by the Holy Spirit, we move forward in Mission by God’s Grace!