

Report of the Committee on Missions 2009 Central Canadian District Conference

The Committee on Missions has reviewed the Report of the District Superintendent, the District Executive Committee and the President's Report to District Conference.

Affirmations of Strength

The President's Report to District Conference contained four missional objectives: spiritual renewal, global mission, church planting in Canada, and justice and compassion. The committee commends President Pyles for these strategic and important objectives set before our denomination.

The Committee on Missions is also encouraged by the commitment expressed within Canada toward holding General Assembly 2010 in Turkey. There is a clear benefit in pastors and lay delegates gaining a new vision for overseas missions by stepping into an overseas context.

The Report of the District Superintendent contains four priorities which the committee wishes to affirm. We as a district will benefit from a focus on producing a visionary environment, leadership development, research and discernment, and delivery systems and models.

Graham Buchanan and the district youth pastors network demonstrate the creation of a visionary environment through their initiative to connect district youth with the needs of impoverished people in Peru through first hand experience.

Vince Vetro has also taken steps to facilitate a vision for missions through establishing necessary infrastructure for short term missions trips. This infrastructure is both physical, in the form of housing for teams in the Indonesian jungle, and also strategic, in the form of the Short Term Ministry Risk Management Core Policy., and experiential, in the form of the Quest overseas internship program. The committee is encouraged by these steps toward producing a visionary environment in the area of global missions.

The practical steps taken toward addressing issues of justice and compassion by the Southside Alliance Church in Milton and Redwood Park Alliance Church in Thunder Bay, as well as other churches throughout the district, are to be commended.

The district's initiative in forming a 5th S Implementation Team is a necessary step in moving towards making the goal of church multiplication a reality. The committee recognizes that this kind of practical help will enable churches to deal with the concept of church multiplication in practical ways.

The creative delivery systems evident in the district form another area for affirmation for this committee. The examples of Acton and Sudbury in the District Superintendent's report show churches reaching to people in new and creative ways. Similarly, the transition of Barrie to becoming a satellite church of Redwood Park in Thunder Bay, as well as Owen Sound's home to temple approach and Gateway's D.N.A approach are examples of creative church structures for the purpose of multiplication.

Expressions of Concern

The committee wishes to raise the question of whether the shortfall in the Global Advance Fund is completely indicative of declining economic conditions, or whether it also reveals a lack of sacrificial and faith-filled giving to missions that should naturally flow from Spirit-filled believers.

While the committee wishes to affirm the necessity of the 5th S, church multiplication from sea to sea, it sees a necessity for the creative balance in fulfilling all of Christ's Great Commission in Acts 1:8 by making disciples in Jerusalem, Judea and also toward the ends of the earth.

Suggestions Directed to District Staff

Whereas existing larger churches represent a substantial resource in both human and material capital, and whereas means are required to expand multiplicative hubs, it is suggested that District Staff facilitate a dialogue with leadership of larger churches regarding those churches taking initiative in the development and expansion of multiplication hubs.

Whereas a particular community need is not necessarily an effective pathway to Christ and whereas addressing some community needs is resource intensive, it is suggested that the District Staff commission the authoring of a discussion paper that delineates the interface between a "healthy" church and community-need-based ministry.

Whereas the District Executive Committee report indicates that a motion was passed to ensure that international workers who are deployed in Creative Access fields are protected from the possibility of security issues being breached, it is suggested that Vince Vetro, whose work in our district to promote missions has been most laudable, ensure that security guidelines are communicated clearly with senior pastors, missions committee chairs and board chairs, thus guarding our international workers from being inadvertently compromised in their ministry fruitfulness.

Suggestions to the District Executive Committee

Whereas conference reports have used newer terms to describe ministry (e.g., glocal, multiplicative ventures/hubs, missional), and whereas the current nomenclature of committees (i.e., Missions, Church Ministries, Education) does not readily correlate to emerging ministry models, it is suggested to Dexcom that steps be taken to clarify the scope for each District committee to minimize redundancy and maximize thoroughness of each committee's work.

Recommendations to District Conference Delegates

Whereas The Christian and Missionary Alliance is a missionary movement and whereas General Assembly 2010 has been affirmed by the constituency and leadership as a strategic event for our family of churches, we recommend that delegates from CCD to General Assembly 2010 maximize their involvement by participating in the vision trips being organized to coincide with General Assembly.

Whereas the 5th S "Sea to Sea" envisions individual churches multiplying themselves both within Canada and overseas, and whereas the Seamless Link program seeks to produce a long term connection between a specific church in Canada with specific international workers, we recommend that the Seamless Link program be adopted as the primary way for local churches to formally partner with international workers for the purpose of having an active role in the establishment of new congregations overseas.