

making  
disciples  
in the way  
*of Christ*



**Virginia  
Mennonite  
Missions**

*Called. Sent. Transformed.*

**Virginia Mennonite Missions** *invites  
people to new and faithful life in Jesus  
Christ and equips believers to join  
God's reconciling work in the world.*



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[vmmissions.org](http://vmmissions.org)



## Who we are

In obedience to the Great Commission, Virginia Mennonite Missions seeks God's direction to send forth a growing, diverse community of believers to bear witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ through the transforming power of the Holy Spirit.

This work began in 1919 when VMissions, as the mission agency of Virginia Mennonite Conference, sent mission workers to mountainous West Virginia to evangelize and plant churches.

Expanding to include international ministries in the late 1940s, Virginia Mennonite Missions now has a budget of over \$2 million with 90 persons serving in 16 countries including the United States. Mission workers serve in the areas of disciple-making, church-planting, education, leadership development, deaf ministries, refugee ministries and urban ministries. The agency offices are located in Harrisonburg, Virginia.

The following pages are an overview of what we believe about God's reconciling mission and how we are invited to participate in God's call to make disciples in the way of Christ.

Consider joining our work—as a short-term or long-term mission worker, as a donor, by serving on a Ministry Support Team—and through prayer support!



“This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him.” 1 John 4:9

## Core Commitment: Faithfulness

In response to God’s great love, we give God our lives in obedience and praise.

### Guiding Principles

**God is the primary agent in mission.** In Scripture we discover that God is a sending God. God formed Israel to be a light to the nations, sent Jesus Christ to save us from sin and establish God’s reign, and commissioned the church through the power of the Holy Spirit to bear witness to the gospel. God’s grace frees us to enjoy fellowship with God and to participate in God’s work.

**Incarnation is God’s pattern for mission.** To accomplish our salvation, God became one of us in Jesus Christ, humbling himself even to the point of death. We follow Christ’s example by deeply identifying with the people to whom he sends us, learning and respecting their languages and cultures, serving amid the risks associated with their settings, expressing the grace and truth of the gospel in contextually appropriate ways, and celebrating the reality that God is with us.

**Making disciples is our primary task in mission.** God’s desire is that all people might come to know and love God by turning from sin, trusting in Christ, and living in the power of the Spirit. Jesus’s final command, the Great Commission, charges the church with announcing this good news. As a result, we concentrate our missional efforts on inviting people to new and faithful life in Jesus Christ.





“I pray that your partnership with us in the faith may be effective in deepening your understanding of every good thing we share for the sake of Christ.” Philemon 1:6

## Core Commitment: Partnership

We join the church in sending God’s people to share the gospel of Jesus Christ.

### Guiding Principles

**Church is the primary instrument for God’s mission.** God has fashioned a diverse community of believers called the church to be God’s partners in mission. In the power of the Holy Spirit, God sends kingdom communities to live and tell the good news of Jesus Christ. We call the church to embrace its missional identity as the unique community through whom God’s reign is made known.

**Collaboration is our posture in mission.** God intends the church to be an interdependent community of justice, joy and peace. On the cross, Jesus put to death our hostility toward God and one another, making reconciliation possible. As a result, we gladly partner with churches and ministries from the global body of Christ. Together, we call, equip, send and support believers from diverse backgrounds to offer their gifts in the work of God’s kingdom.

**Team is our preferred mode of engaging in mission.** The Bible underscores the necessity of deep relationships for human well-being. Jesus gathered and equipped a group of disciples to model and announce God’s kingdom. Similarly, the Holy Spirit set apart missionary teams to spread the gospel in the first century. Following this pattern, we primarily mobilize teams of individuals and families into mission contexts.



“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” Acts 1:8

## Core Commitment: Transformation

**By the Holy Spirit’s power, we live out God’s kingdom among neighbors near and far.**

### Guiding Principles

**Holistic witness is the way we represent God’s mission.** God’s salvation is about reconciling people to God, themselves, one another and creation. Jesus preached repentance, healed the sick, stood with the marginalized and confronted injustice. Therefore we strive to minister to the whole person, sharing the gospel through our words, actions, lifestyle and Spirit-empowered signs of God’s kingdom.

**Multiplication is the intended result of mission.** God’s first command to humanity was to flourish and grow, thereby spreading God’s peaceable rule over all the earth. Jesus called his disciples to “fish for people.” Paul entrusted the gospel to faithful people who in turn would teach it to others. Likewise, we seek to form healthy disciples, leaders and churches who multiply sustainable communities of worship, fellowship and mission.

**The whole earth is the intended reach of God’s mission.** The overarching purpose of God’s saving work is to reconcile all things in heaven and on earth through Christ. Jesus began with the people of Israel, yet sent his disciples to the ends of the earth. We focus as well on communities near and far where people have little opportunity to experience the transforming power of the gospel.



## Ways to participate

### Long-term service

Two or more years of service which typically starts with intensive language and culture learning, and moves into specific ministries.

[vmmissions.org/serve/longterm/](http://vmmissions.org/serve/longterm/)

### *Partners* IN MISSION

A mission opportunity, ranging from one week to ten months, designed for teams to experience a new context and build relationships cross-culturally, in the U.S. or internationally.

[vmmissions.org/serve/partners/](http://vmmissions.org/serve/partners/)

### Ministry Support Teams

A group of six to eight who support a mission worker, couple or family through prayer, ongoing contact and fundraising, being a link to their supporting networks.

[vmmissions.org/serve/mst/](http://vmmissions.org/serve/mst/)

### tranSend

A mission internship of one or two years emphasizing personal discipleship and service and opening the door to further ministry at home or abroad.

[vmmissions.org/serve/tranSend/](http://vmmissions.org/serve/tranSend/)

### Cultivate

Offering resources and relationships for making disciples, equipping missional leaders and joining the Jesus movement right here in North America.

[vmmissions.org/learn/usa-ministries/](http://vmmissions.org/learn/usa-ministries/)

### Menonite Hispanic Initiative

Planting and encouraging new Spanish-speaking communities of faith, developing missional-minded leaders and offering foundational theological education from an Anabaptist perspective.

[vmmissions.org/learn/usa-ministries/](http://vmmissions.org/learn/usa-ministries/)