



ORGANIZATIONAL OVERVIEW AND CORE VALUES

Foundation: WHO WE ARE

MISSION

Virginia Mennonite Missions (VMMissions) equips the church to share new life in Jesus Christ with neighbors near and far.

VISION

We envision a Spirit-filled church of many cultures living out God's kingdom in every sphere of life.

PAST AND PRESENT

Virginia Mennonite Missions (VMMissions) was formed in 1919 to help Anabaptist Christians in Virginia share the good news of Jesus Christ with their neighbors in nearby communities. Over time, VMMissions helped to plant over 100 churches in the US, and dozens of churches in the Caribbean and Mediterranean. Today, with headquarters in Harrisonburg, Virginia, VMMissions continues to send and support mission workers from both within and beyond the Anabaptist family of churches. Ministries focus on making disciples of Jesus Christ through evangelism, church planting, leadership development, education, childrens and youth ministries, community development, business as mission, and other creative means of Christian witness.

THEOLOGY AND PRACTICE

VMMissions is an outgrowth of the Anabaptist branch of the Christian family, and endorses the *Confession of Faith in a Mennonite Perspective* (1995). Our core convictions about a faithful life of Christian witness are expressed in a simple statement called our Lifestyle Covenant. We ask all members of our organization, whether mission workers, staff members, or board members, to affirm this statement as a condition of participating in our ministry.

GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY

VMMissions is incorporated as a charitable 501(c)(3) ministry and is governed by its own board of directors. The board includes representatives from our founding family of churches (Virginia Mennonite Conference) and other partnering churches. We are accredited members of the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability and MissionExcellence.



Core Value: FAITHFULNESS

In response to God's great love, we give God our lives in obedience and praise. We believe:

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.

Core Value: TRANSFORMATION

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.

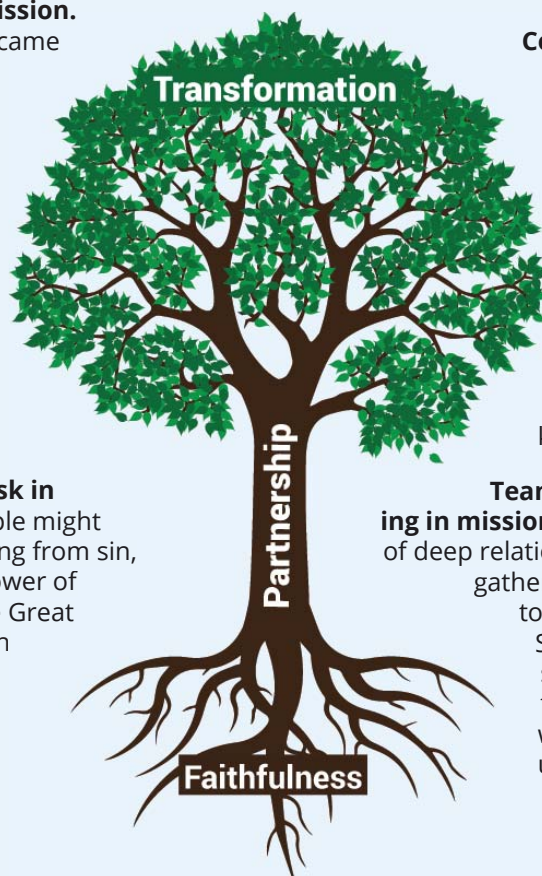
Core Value: PARTNERSHIP

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

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.



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

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.