

**Answering
God's Call
to Mission
In and
Around Us**

Why Mission Matters

The People:

Learners: This workshop is designed for small town/rural congregations locked in cycles of survival (meaning congregations facing enough decline in attendance and contributions that their sustainability is directly threatened). Most participants are:

- The core lay-leadership (both officially and unofficially) of the congregation.
- The core volunteer base of the congregation.
- The core financial contributors of the congregation.

Designer/Facilitator: This workshop is designed and facilitated by Ken McClure (an Ordinand in the Diocese of Toronto), and will draw on material from both Diocesan and academic contributions to the larger Missional Church Movement.

The Situation:

The Diocese of Toronto has recently begun to emphasize a missional approach to ministry and engagement in the broader community, as a more deliberate and Gospel-centered approach living out our commitment as the Body of Christ. However in many parishes across the Diocese (particularly in rural and small town communities) this emphasis has failed to resonate. Reasons for this failure in resonance include:

- A lack of clarity of what is meant by Mission and Missional
- A sense of disconnect between the Diocese and individual parishes
- Financial over-burdening within declining parishes
- A volunteer deficit within declining parishes
- A resistance to ministry “trends”
- A comfort with doing things “the way they have always been done”

While it can be extremely difficult to see beyond the existential menace of decline, particularly for those who are most active in the life and work of a congregation, it is the belief of both the Diocese and the designer of this course that full participation within the *Missio Dei*, the Mission of God (as expressed in the Scripture), is the call and purpose of the Church, and that refocusing on this Mission and away from administrative tactics for survival can have an invigorating effect on a congregation, even if that congregation is in decline.

The Anticipated Change:

Participants in this course can expect to develop a personal understanding of what is meant by the word Missional, as well as a greater sense of the relationship between participation in the Mission of God and living out one's faith in God. Participants can also expect to begin to discern where and how the Mission of God is unfolding in their own communities, as well as highlighting a specific focus for Missional engagement moving forward. Finally participants will leave the course with a greater sense of confidence in not only engaging in Missional activities, but with a newly established Missional Guild in place to engage in Missional Ministry, along with a liturgy and specific area of opportunity for Missional Ministry to present to their congregation .

The Time/Timing:

This course will be held on two consecutive Sundays following worship, in the post-Christmas pre-vestry season (January 17 & 24). The course requires 5 hours (this total includes 20min for breaks), over two sessions broken up into 2 parts per session with each part divided by a 10 min break.

The Place & Space:

The course SHOULD NOT BE HELD IN A MEETING ROOM, BUT IN THE SANCTUARY OF THE CHURCH. This is crucial in connecting the idea of the Mission of God with Faith in God. The space of worship is where many fully express their faith, in some cases it is the ONLY place where people truly feel comfortable in expressing their faith. As such the worship space can allow assist in orienting participants in notion that what is being discussed is rooted in the expression of faith. Please note however that when the group is working as a whole, the pews should not confine the seating arrangement to the Sunday morning Priest/congregation dynamic. Whenever possible the facilitator should some form of circular/half circular organization to help facilitate group discussion.

Content	Objective Based Learning
Part 1: The Mission of God in Scripture. We will examine: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mission in the Prophets• Mission in The Gospel• The Apostolic Mission	Participants will have: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Analysed passages of Scripture through the lens of the Missio Dei,• Defined the Mission of God according to the discussions and discernments of the group
Part 2: The Mission of God in the traditions of the Church. We will examine: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The 5 Marks of Mission in The	Participants will have: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Refined the definition of Mission created by the group in Part 1 to ensure that it reflects the 5 Marks of Mission

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anglican Church of Canada Mission in our Communities • Mission in liturgy 	<p>in The Anglican Church of Canada.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identified 1 way (per Mark) in which the Marks of Mission are being carried out in their community • Developed a liturgy for use in worship services, and as a spiritual resource for future Missional activity within the congregation.
<p>Part 3: The Mission of God in the Surrounding Community. We will examine:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 5 Steps of Discerning God’s call to Mission in our Local Neighborhoods 	<p>Participants will have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applied the <i>5 Steps of Discerning God’s call to Mission in our Local Neighborhoods</i> to their own community • Painted a picture of their surrounding community to be used in discerning the Mission of God as it is unfolding.
<p>Part 4: The Prophet and the Mission of God. We will explore:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seeing our Community through a Prophet’s eyes • Describing our Community with a Prophet’s pen • Answering God’s call with a Prophet’s heart 	<p>Participants will have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Written and Compiled a poetic/prophetic re-imagining of the picture painted in Part 3 • Identified a specific area to respond to where God is calling the Church into action in the local community (this area will serve as the primary focus for crafting future Missional ministries within the congregation)

Session 1 Schedule

Sunday January 17th 12:30-3:00 (2.5 Hours)

Welcome (5 min)

Warm up Exercise: *This is a...* (10 min)

Part 1 Solo/Group Work (20 min)

Part 1 As a Whole (15 min)

Break (10 min)

Reconnect Exercise: *One Word Story...* (5 min)

Part 2 Solo/Group Work (20 min)

Part 2 As a Whole (20 min)

Bringing it All Together (10 min)

Next Time (5 min)

Solo/Group Work

In pairs or on your own read one of the passages of scripture provided and think about the following questions:

- *What does it say about God?*
- *What does it say about God wants for the People of God?*
- *What is an issue in the world today that this passage speaks to directly?*

You may record the content of your analysis on the scripture study worksheet.

Share with the rest of the group.

As a Whole:

Form a definition of the Mission of God informed by the discussions and findings of each pair/small group.

The Mission of God is:

Part 1: The Mission of God in Scripture

In order to develop our personal/group understanding of what the Mission Of God is, we will examine the following passages of scripture to better understand the Biblical nature of Mission.

The Prophetic Mission:

2 Kings 4:1-7, Isaiah 61

The Gospel Mission:

Luke 10:29-37, John 21:15-19

The Apostolic Mission:

Acts 4:32-37



Missional Scripture Passages

2 Kings 4:1-7

Now the wife of a member of the company of prophets cried to Elisha, “Your servant my husband is dead; and you know that your servant feared the Lord, but a creditor has come to take my two children as slaves.” Elisha said to her, “What shall I do for you? Tell me, what do you have in the house?” She answered, “Your servant has nothing in the house, except a jar of oil.” He said, “Go outside, borrow vessels from all your neighbors, empty vessels and not just a few. Then go in, and shut the door behind you and your children, and start pouring into all these vessels; when each is full, set it aside.” So she left him and shut the door behind her and her children; they kept bringing vessels to her, and she kept pouring. When the vessels were full, she said to her son, “Bring me another vessel.” But he said to her, “There are no more.” Then the oil stopped flowing. She came and told the man of God, and he said, “Go sell the oil and pay your debts, and you and your children can live on the rest.”

Isaiah 61

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion—to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, to display his glory. They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations. Strangers shall stand and feed your flocks, foreigners shall till your land and dress your vines; but you shall be called priests of the Lord, you shall be named ministers of our God; you shall enjoy the wealth of the nations, and in their riches you shall glory. Because their[a] shame was double, and dishonor was proclaimed as their lot, therefore they shall possess a double portion; everlasting joy shall be theirs. For I the Lord love justice. I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the Lord has blessed. I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

Luke 10:29-37

Wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?” Jesus replied, “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and went away, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan while traveling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with pity. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, ‘Take care of him; and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend.’ Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?” He said, “The one who showed him mercy.” Jesus said to him, “Go and do likewise.”

John 21:15-19

When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my lambs.” A second time he said to him, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Tend my sheep.” He said to him the third time, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, “Do you love me?” And he said to him, “Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my sheep. Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go.” (He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God.) After this he said to him, “Follow me.”

Acts 4:32-37

Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. They laid it at the apostles’ feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need. There was a Levite, a native of Cyprus, Joseph, to whom the apostles gave the name Barnabas (which means “son of encouragement”). He sold a field that belonged to him, then brought the money, and laid it at the apostles’ feet.

Scripture study Worksheet

What does this passage say about God?

What does it say about God wants for the People of God?

What is an issue in the world today or in our community that this passage speaks to directly?

Part 2: The Mission of God in the traditions of the Church

In order to flush out the definition we form in Part 1, we will examine the 5 Marks of Mission of the Anglican Church of Canada, and apply each Mark to our own community context. With our revised definition in mind we will then form a Liturgy for worship that reflects our understanding of, and our community's commitment to Mission.

The 5 Marks of Mission in The Anglican Church of Canada:

To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom

To teach, baptize and nurture new believers

To respond to human need by loving service

To seek to transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and to pursue peace and reconciliation

To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth

Solo/Group Work

First: In pairs or on your own think about how your *Mark of Mission* is reflected in the definition of Mission created by the group in Part 1.

Next: Name **1 way** in which the specific Mark of Mission you've selected/received is being carried out in your community.

Finally: From a list provided (or any other Hymn from the Book of Common Praise that you deem appropriate), choose a single Hymn that most reflects your understanding of the Mark of Mission.

Share with the rest of the group.

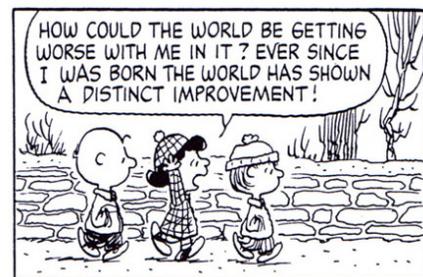
As a Whole

First: Re-examine the definition of the Mission of God from Part 1, and make changes (if necessary) to insure that the 5 marks are reflected.

Next: With this definition in mind use the and as a group form a congregational *Missional Collect, Litany, and Thanksgiving Prayer*.

Finally: Compile the hymns of each Mark into the group's *Missional Hymn List* to be used in future services emphasizing Mission in the congregation.

The Mission of God is:



Mission and Justice Hymns from the Book of Common Praise

61	As We Gather at Your Table	585	Lord, whose love in humble service
259	For the Fruit of All Creation	586	Rise up, O saints of God
341	God of Mercy, God of Grace	587	Once to every man and nation
430	Will You Come and Follow Me	588	Come now, O Prince of Peace
433	Lord You gave the Great Commission	589	Come, O God of all the earth
484	In Christ There is no East or West	590	All who love and serve your city
572	Let there be light	591	Our cities cry to you, O God
573	O day of peace that dimly shines	592	Where cross the crowded ways of life
574	Father eternal, ruler of creation	593	O God of every nation
575	Let streams of living justice flow down upon the earth	594	Judge eternal, throned in splendour
576	For the healing of the Nations	595	And every one 'neath their vine and fig tree
577	God of grace and God of glory	596	O holy city, seen of John
578	O healing river, send down your waters	597	Lion and lamb lying together
579	Night and morning I make my prayer	598	Go to the world! Go into all the earth
580	In Bethlehem a newborn boy	599	Awake! Awake! Fling off the night
581	Lord, who left the highest heaven	600	You call us out to praise you
582	Weary of all trumpeting	601	God, whose giving knows no ending
583	When God restored our common life	602	Come, Christian people, sing your praises, shout!
584	The church of Christ in every age		

Collect:

Thanksgiving Prayer:

Litany:

Hymns:

Bringing it Together:

Now that we have crafted our Missional liturgy let's Pray the litany and Collect and sing 1 hymn (groups' choice) together.

Next Time:

Before we meet again, with our definition of Mission in mind, take a walk (or drive) in your neighbourhood and community, thinking about

- How and where you see the Mission of God happening?
- Where you feel the call of Mission within the neighbourhood and community?

And Remember:

“Do you love me...

**Feed My
Lambs!”**

Session 2 Schedule

Sunday January 24th 12:30-3:00 (2.5 Hours)

Welcome Back (5 min)

Warm up Exercise: *This is a...* (10 min)

Part 3 Solo/Group Work (20 min)

Part 3 All Together Work (15 min)

Break (10 min)

Reconnect Exercise: *One Word Story...* (5 min)

Part 4 Solo/Group Work (20 min)

Part 4 All Together Work (20 min)

Bringing it All Together (10 min)

Moving Forward From Here (5 min)

Solo/Group Work

In pairs or on your own, think about/answer the 3 questions for your step.

Share with the rest of the group.

As a Whole

Combine the contents of your discussions to form a whole picture of where and who we are as a community, and of who gets left behind in our community.

This is where and who we are:

This is who gets left behind:

Part 3: The Mission of God in the Surrounding Community

In order to begin to determine what the focus of a Missional Ministry in our community should be, we will divide Steps 1-5 of the 5 Steps of Discerning God's call to Mission in our Local Neighborhoods, and follow the steps in order to develop an idea of where and how God's Mission is unfolding in our community

The 5 Steps of Discerning God's call to Mission in our Local Neighborhoods*

1. Plotting the Territory
2. Pointing out the People
3. Surveying the Fringe
4. Identifying Power Structures
5. Listening for the Local Narrative

*The 5 Steps are based on practices laid out in Carl S. Dudley's *Community Ministry*



The 6 Steps of Discernment:

1. Plotting the Territory

Where do we live? (Think about the physical boundaries of the community, neighbourhood distinctions and divisions)

What are the institutions that for the established order within the community? (Such as local governance, religious affiliations, financial/business sector, social/athletic clubs, etc.)

Where do people gather together? (Think about Churches, community centres, shopping centers, movie theatres, coffee shops, etc.)

2. Pointing out the People

Who are we? (Think about Religious/ethnic make-up of the community, economic distinctions, age, etc.)

What are our existing hierarchies? (Thinking about who we are, which groups among us have the greatest influence, and which have the least influence?)

How has this changed/been changing over the course of time? (Thinking about the collective amount of time we have been in the community,)

3. Surveying the Fringe

Who are the marginalized people among us? (Think about the vulnerable, the ignored, even the invisible, the undesirable, etc.)

What contributes to the marginalization of people among us? (Think about social and financial causes, existing prejudices, etc.)

What is currently in place to reach out to the marginalized people among us? (Think about social services, services and support provided by local religious groups, the services provided by businesses and volunteer organizations, etc.)

4. Identifying Power Structures

Who are the leaders of our community? (Think about political, religious, social, economic, cultural leaders, etc.)

What are the intangible influences within our community? (Think about values, political make-up, religious affiliation, prejudices, taboos, etc.)

What are the tangible influences within our community? (Think about the economic balance of the community, the degree to which economic interests are connected to the way community decisions are made, the influence of business, etc.)

5. Listening for the Local Narrative

How does the local leadership describe the community? (Think about the strengths they emphasize, the issues they emphasize, the weakness they emphasize, the values they emphasize, etc.)

How does local media present the issues of the community? (Think about the issues the local media emphasize and ignore, the issues they challenge leadership over, the issue they advocate on behalf of the leadership, etc.)

How do we as a community see ourselves? (Think about how we talk about the community with friends and neighbors, how they describe the strengths and weaknesses of the community, where they see the need in the community, etc.)



Notes:

Part 4: The Prophet and the Mission of God

Thinking about the analysis of the community we established in Part 3, we will now attempt to interpret the picture that analysis formed through imagination and artistic expression

To see our Community through a Prophet's eyes, and describe our Community with a Prophet's pen in order to answer God's call with a Prophet's heart

In doing so we will highlight a specific focus for our new Missional ministry grounded in a personal sense of call and commitment.

Solo Work

Individually take the picture painted in Part 3, and focus on the single element that speaks most to your own understanding of God's call to mission. Take that element and using your 'mind's eye', write or draw what you 'see' in your community, starting with the phrase ***"I looked and I saw...."***

Share with the rest of the group. As everyone shares, listen for the words that jump out at you.

As a Whole

Using the key words from each individual vision, form a collective prophetic vision, beginning with the phrase ***"We looked and we saw..."***

Based on that vision identify a specific area to respond to where God is calling the Church into action in the local community,

This area will serve as the primary focus for crafting future Missional ministries within the congregation.

God is calling us to respond to...



I looked and I saw...

Where to go from here?

Having:

- Crafted a *Vision of the Mission of God* in your Community
- Composed a complete *Missional Liturgy* for Worship
- Developed a *Definition of Mission* specific to your own community
- Focused in on an *Specific Call to Mission* for your congregation to engage in

We Will Now:

- Form a **Mission Guild** of at least 4 people from among members of the group who have completed the workshop
- Schedule the first meeting of the Guild to begin planning a **Mission Campaign** to answer the *Specific Call to Mission* you have discerned within your community.
- Schedule a **Missional Sunday** where your *Liturgy* and you can share your *Visions* and *Definition of Mission* and **Launch** your campaign during the Sermon

Before leaving let us join together in praying our collect for mission

And Remember:

“Do you love me...

Feed My

Lambs!”