



The Present Future: Discerning Questions of Church Identity

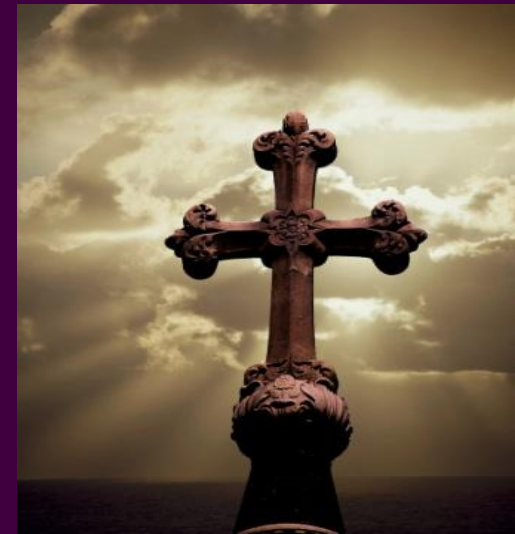
Session 2- Missio Dei



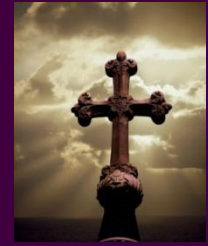
OBJECTIVE FOR SESSION 2



Gaining an understanding of the idea Missio Dei (Mission of God) and its implications for me, the parish and the wider Church and People.

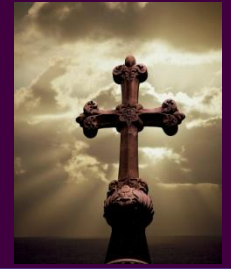


Understanding the Biblical Essence of The Mission of God



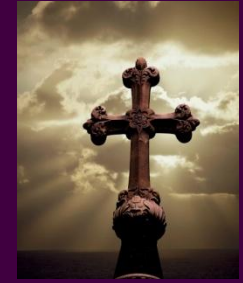
- God desires to reach the world. Matthew 28:18-20, Acts 1:8
- God desires all be saved. 1 Timothy 2:4
- God desires to seek and save the lost. Luke 15, 19:10
- God desires to use the Church. Ephesians 3:10, Matthew 9:35-38

The 4 Foundations for Missiology



1. **Ecclesiology** – what is our understanding of the theology of the church.
2. **Christology** – particularly the relationship between Christ and culture.
3. **Theological Anthropology** – what do we understand about the human story and the call to salvation
4. **Pastoral Theology** – what kinds of communities might emerge as a result? Are they church, could they be catholic, renewed and Anglican?

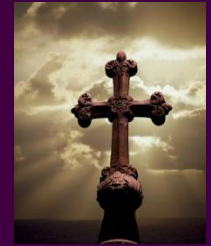
Thinking About Missiology



“One’s **Christology** (what we believe about Christ) will drive their **Missiology** (what mission they believe they need to be on) and that will determine their **Ecclesiology** (how they are to be structured to accomplish this mission)”

Alan Hirsch, *The Forgotten Ways: reactivating the Missional Church*, (Grand Rapids: Brazos Press), 142.

A Living Example....



Paul had a radical change in his **Christology**

- Resurrected Son of the God/Messiah.

His mission (**Missiology**) changed

- Preacher/Evangelist/Apostle/Witness

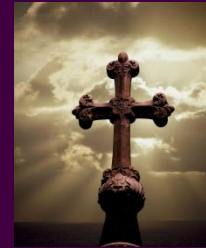
This drove his **Ecclesiology**

- Church planter/structural developer/vision caster/doctrinal advisor/encourager-supporter

How to Understand Mission

- Because mission is a local affair there must be an essential relation between the catholic character of the church and what it means for the church to be mission.
- That church as mission must be “in place” requires the church to be connected in a manner that challenges “the boundaries” that threaten to divide Christians from one another. — *Stanley Hauerwas, “Beyond the Boundaries: The Church Is Mission”*

Another Ways Is...



“Everything God does in relation to the kingdom and everything the church is sent to do on earth.”

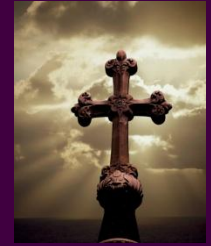
Scott Moreau; Gary R. Corwin; Gary B. McGee, *Introducing World Missions: A Biblical, Historical and Practical Survey*, (Grand Rapids: Baker), 73. Section discussing the Missio Dei

THE CHALLENGE OF ANGLICAN ECCLESIOLOGY



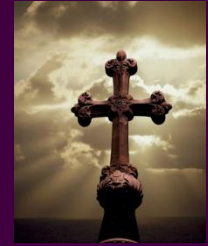
1. Anglican ecclesiology increasingly offers models that are a response to *post-modernism and secularism*
2. Often it is not based in theology but on logic, culture and reason
3. Attitude is often world focused and not kingdom focused
4. – Individual vs Communal
5. • Challenges of *postmodernity*

What This All Means



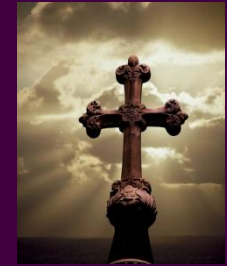
- God is still on Mission Today – The Missio Dei
- The Church exists for this Mission
- We, as part of the Church Body must be on the same Mission

Questions to Pray and Discuss



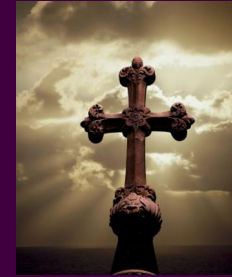
- How is your belief about Christ reflected in your mission, your life?
- How are you joining God in His Mission? And how do you know it is so?
- Are there any changes which you should make to join God in His redemptive mission in a more effective way?

For Us Going Forward



- Mission needs to be more theocentric, that it is seen to be an activity that flows from who God is and the Trinity's engagement with the world
- This is opposed to being ecclesiocentric – or the view by which our existing expression of church is benchmark and standard of the Christian life.
- This series is intended for COTR to attempt to employ and adapt theocentric models to the institutional framework of the church honoring our catholic heritage as Anglicans.

ASSIGNMENT DISCUSSION



1. When you hear the word “mission of God”, what thoughts come to mind?
2. What is your own understanding for mission and “mission” statement?
3. What is COTR’s understanding of mission as a parish?
4. What is the “mission” of the church?
5. What are my personal reflections on my personal call to mission?
6. Do we need new structures, beyond and outside the parish to effect that mission
7. What are the "missiological" structures in the wider church to effect mission for parishes can do?
8. What is the call of mission in the world for the parish and the church?