



Missional Church Primer

The EPC National Church Health Leadership Team has been developing approaches for presbyteries and churches to consider in applying the core “missional” principles that were part of the founding principles of the EPC. One of the significant resources we’re drawing from is the *EPC Missional Church Primer* of 2007. In that document there are several significant claims:

1. Western society has reeled with significant changes over the last century, with the pace of those changes accelerating rapidly in the last half century. There is growing consensus among evangelical, moderate, and liberal traditions that the era of Christendom in the West has either ended or is coming to an end. One consequence of that significant worldview shift is that the church is no longer in a central place of influence and power and must relate to Western culture as an outsider.
2. *Missio Dei*, “the mission of God,” means that mission is not primarily something the church does but something the church is. It means that mission permeates all the church’s life rather than being one of many good programs that the church selects, funds, implements and accomplishes. A missional church perceives itself in a God-centered way, understanding that God is a “missionary” or “sending” God and that his church, as his creation and participating in his life is at the core of its being, a missionary church.
3. Mission is not ours; mission is God’s. Certainly, the mission of God is the prior reality out of which flows any mission that we get involved in. . . . [It] is not so much that God has a mission for his church in the world, but that God has a church for his mission in the world.” (Wright 2006, 62; emphasis added).
4. The missional church as a contrast community is a people chosen by God, gathered from the world, living under the redemptive reign of God in such a way that it winsomely demonstrates the way of life of God’s kingdom.

So - What do we do? ...we must ask ourselves whether the way we have organized ourselves around these principles is consistent with being *missionally* Reformed and Presbyterian. Has our connectionalism emphasized regulation at the expense of mission? Are there ways our church government can better further the mission of God?

In a nutshell:

How does God want to express Himself

through our church

in our community

at this time?

