

Practices for Missional Innovation

There are six practices that work together to form Christian Community within God's mission in and for the world. Each of these has several expressions and cannot be reduced to one mechanical set of actions. We will introduce them in a simple form that can be replicated easily and then add texture and complexity as we go along.

Dwelling in the Word Immersing ourselves in the Word so that it shapes our imagination, intentions and actions. Missional Innovation is a spiritual journey and so is shaped first by God's Word among us.

Dwelling in the World Becoming alert and observant of the people in the world where God has sent us. The Father sent the Son into the world, the Father and the Son send the Spirit, and they together send the Church. Particular aspects of this practice are recognizing "people of peace" and potential partners in mission.

Hospitality Creating the safe space and forming bi-cultural Christian community within God's mission in and for the world.

Spiritual Discernment Recognizing where we are and how the Holy Spirit is us in the formation of Christian community within God's mission.

Announcing the Kingdom of God When Jesus tells the disciples, "You will be my witnesses, when the Holy Spirit comes on you," he is promising that they will see Jesus at work and that they are to bear witness to his presence and work in the world.

Focus for Missional Action In a world full of possibilities it is easy to dissipate our energy by pursuing too many good things. Focusing our energy and attention on actions that move us further into God's mission in the world is central to fulfilling a missional life.



All six of these corporate spiritual practices have form and function but more importantly they each are a posture or attitude toward God, one another and the world. To become preoccupied with the mechanics and miss the attitude is becoming "a noisy gong or clanging cymbal" to borrow from the Apostle. In all of this, it is God who is forming our community and shaping our shared mission. Our energy and attention in all of these is to love, trust and fear God above all others.