

## **GUIDING PRINCIPLES**

The Standing Commission for World Mission discerned Guiding Principles to frame the work of and offer a direction for global mission for The Episcopal Church and its mission partners around the world, to walk the Way of Love in a global context. The Message to the Church, *Becoming a World Where Love Is the Way*, embodies these Guiding Principles.

The Guiding Principles will be a Resolution to the 80th General Convention of the Episcopal Church, to include an invitation to all dioceses and jurisdictions to have a Global Mission Advocate to nurture the ongoing work of global mission.

## **GUIDING PRINCIPLES for WORLD MISSION**

Jesus affirmed the Greatest Commandment and its corollary: “‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.” (Matthew 22:37-40)

Jesus also gave a New Commandment: “I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.” (John 13:34)

Jesus’ final act was to give the Great Commission: to bring his Word to all nations.

Our dream is of a Beloved Community where all of God’s children are included; where the gifts of all are honored. In baptism we are called to be companions, which means standing with, traveling with, and sharing bread with one another. We are members of a global community, beginning with ourselves – the Domestic and Foreign Mission Society of the Protestant Episcopal Church – the Anglican Communion, Christians, and people of other faiths or no faith throughout the world.

World mission is living into God’s mission of reconciling love in a global context, crossing boundaries of differences, meeting Christ in one another, as we walk the way of Love together throughout the world in true relationship.

World mission implies being present with others, as Jesus became incarnate and was present with us. As companions in mission, we are open to one another, learning from one another, and through that experience being transformed as we reach a deeper understanding of what it means to be Christians together, even across boundaries that might otherwise divide.

Every baptized Episcopalian has vowed to seek and serve Christ in all persons and to respect the dignity of all human beings. Jesus’ Way of Love invites us to “GO” beyond our boundaries, our comfort zones, beyond the Red Door of our Churches. How do we live into this call in a global context?

The catechism of the Episcopal Church teaches that the mission of the church is to restore all people to unity with God and each other in Christ. How do we live into this mission in a global context?

Living out the Way of Love throughout the Global Beloved Community in the 21st Century involves:

- Emphasizing evangelism, reconciliation, and creation care
- Working with partners of all ages and abilities to respect the dignity of every human being
- Serving as a prophetic voice to keep before The Episcopal Church engagement with God's Mission in the world
- Transforming with grace and humility the culture of world mission engagement beyond historic transactional relationships from a position of power towards mutual models of mission as companions
- Celebrating various models of God's mission and embracing the full diversity of the Body of Christ in person, online, and in spirit Jesus sends us into the world to be His disciples of love: "Just as the Father has sent me, so I send you." (John 20:21)

Therefore, as followers sent by Jesus, we are all invited to follow these **Guiding Principles**:

- Think and imagine a world where love is the way
- Commit to world mission that is incarnated in personal presence, meeting Christ in all whom we encounter, in our backyard or around the globe
- Go the Way of Love: cross boundaries, listen deeply, and live like Jesus
- Walk humbly the Way of Love with our companions in mission, in mutual discovery and deepening of God's reconciling love, learning together, praying together, worshipping together, as we transform and bless each other
- Excite, inspire, and engage others to discover the joy of God's mission
- Honor and embrace in mutual discovery the God-given gifts of all individuals, parishes, dioceses, their partners, and their communities
- Nurture relationships to develop avenues for cross-cultural mission, local/global/pilgrimage, for all ages and abilities
- Advocate for structural changes to support global mission issues, including promoting the dignity of all and honoring refugees, migrants, and asylum seekers everywhere
- Honor our sacred differences while we unite as Beloved Community around God's table
- Support missionaries, from discernment, during their service, and upon their return
- As we walk this Way of Love, address together the many issues of poverty, violence, oppression, threats to global health, and environmental degradation, often in a time of global upheaval
- Remember that to "Go" can also mean "Go" by building relationships, learning, listening, encouraging across space through virtual presence and communication from where you are
- Encourage all dioceses to have a Diocesan Global Mission Advocate

*O God, you have made of one blood all the peoples of the earth, and sent your blessed Son to preach peace to those who are far off and to those who are near: Grant that people everywhere may seek after you and find you; bring the nations into your fold; pour out your Spirit upon all flesh, and hasten the coming of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. — Book of Common Prayer*

\*This is a working document for presentation at the next General Convention in 2022.