



WHAT IS MISSION?

DEFINITION:

It is the outworking of the knowledge of God (DISCIPLESHIP)
in and through the life of a faith community (CHURCH)
so as to join in with the purposes of God (KINGDOM)
in giving loving attention to the needs of the world around us (SERVICE),
drawing people to the fire of God's love (EVANGELISM)
so that they may share with us in God's life-giving mission to all creation.

Mission is not a program, but the reason we exist as Christians and as Church. It is part of all we do - worship, every agenda, discussion and decision. The GOAL is making disciples of Jesus'.

OTHER DESCRIPTIONS OF MISSION:

- Mission comes from a Latin word that means "to send."
- "Mission goes out from God. Mission is God's way of loving and saving the world..."
(Lambeth Conference 1998, Section II p121).
- As Christians we follow Jesus who said "As the Father has sent me, so I send you." (John 20.21). We are called to serve God's mission by living and proclaiming the good news.
(Church of England official website)
- The outworking of a life lived for God is sacrificial service for others and an impetus to share Jesus Christ's invitation to follow him. Taking part in activities inspired by these is known by Christians as mission. The mission is actually not ours but God's, his desire to reconcile human beings with himself and with one another. *(The Anglican Communion official website)*

METHOD OF ANALYSING & WORKING THROUGH RESISTANCE/BARRIERS:



F – FIRST THE MISSION

Maintain the missional priority. Keep before you the compelling vision.

Remember and repeat often the 'why' of this missional initiative

- to respond to God's mission for the people God loves (the transformation of lives)
- to reach the unchurched and dechurched
- to connect, build relationships and walk with new people in their spiritual lives
- ultimately the aim is to make disciples, new committed followers of Christ.

Keep the MORE you're being led to... before you and others.

O – OURSELVES AND OTHERS

This is a time of examination. Naming the barrier and from where it emanates.

Ask, what is the resistance about, precisely? Where does it come from? What is it *really* about?

Are *you* feeling any anxiousness about this?

Is it coming from within the leadership team? The congregation? From outside?

What is the Holy Spirit revealing to us about this barrier?

Assess this resistance with true honesty, rugged courage and vulnerability.

This is where 'leadership' happens.

C - CONSULT & CONCENSUS

This is the open dialogue stage. Work to come to a shared understanding of the situation.

Find agreement about the nature of the barrier and why there is resistance.

Talk about it to achieve clarity. Identify and discover. Flush the topic out fully.

Encourage everyone to share their opinion. Every person's voice matters.

Agreement doesn't need to be unanimous. The majority can decide about the issues of resistance.

U – UNLOCK THE POSSIBLE

Brainstorm and discuss all the possible ideas around the initiative and ways to navigate resistance.

What are the potential routes for addressing this challenge?

How can these ideas resolve or mitigate the barrier?

No idea is out of bounds. Be creative. Imagine and re-imagine ways to move forward.

Carefully sift through all the possibilities.

S – SELECT PREFERRED OPTIONS

Create a plan, complete with a couple of options.

Name and design the steps that are required.

Be sure to include intentional care of those who may continue to resist. (Always keep the door open for those who oppose to return or get back on board.)

Prepare a response strategy.

This is not about winning or losing, but about moving forward in mission! (Being faithful to our call.)

MISSION-RELATED RESOURCES: www.nspeidiocese.ca

'LEADERSHIP' drop-down bar for 'VSST & Task Groups' to 'Healthy Parishes' Includes:

- "Reimagining Church in the Diocese of Nova Scotia & Prince Edward Island" – a free 5-part video program
 - with all the supporting resources to encourage discussion within the parish.
- Faith Sharing Cards (print your own)
- Building-Up Lay Ministry (visitor training, etc.)
- New Member Ministry
- Christian Formation resources
- Stewardship helps and lots more!
- 'Mission Possible' Bible study series (Diocese of Toronto)

Then click on "Diocesan Programs & Resources" for:

Diocesan Youth Conference (DYC)
Teens Encounter Christ
Youth Specialties - for Youth Group Leaders

- Vital Church Maritimes Conferences materials - 'RESOURCES' drop-down bar

DIOCESAN GRANTS & FUNDING - 'RESOURCES' drop-down bar to 'Forms and Applications'

- Growth for Ministry Fund
- Church Extension & Ministry Development Fund

FACEBOOK GROUPS:

Diocese of NS and PEI Youth Ministry
Vital Church Maritimes 2017
Parish Vitality Coordinator - Diocese of NS & PEI
Reimagining Church - Diocese of NS & PEI

OTHER WEBSITES:

www.sharenspei.ca
www.freshexpressions.ca
www.freshexpressionsus.org
www.freshexpressions.org.uk
www.spiritofinvitation.com "Spirit of Invitation" course (Diocese of Toronto)

BOOKS:

- "Pioneering a New Future: A Guide to Shaping Change and Changing the Shape of Church" by *Phil Potter*
- "Being Church, Doing Life: Creating Gospel Communities Where Life Happens" by *Michael Moynagh*
- "Mission-Shaped Church: church planting and fresh expressions of church in a changing context" by the *Church of England's Mission and Public Affairs Council*
- "The Healthy Churches Handbook: A process for revitalizing your church" by *Robert Warren*
- "Developing Healthy Churches: Returning to the Heart of Mission and Ministry" by *Robert Warren*
- "Discovering the Other: Asset-based Approaches for Building Community Together" by *Cameron Harder*
- "13 Ways to Kill Your Community" by *Doug Griffiths, Kelly Clemmer*

DIOCESAN SUPPORT STAFF: 902-420-0717

Parish Vitality Coordinator: Rev. Lisa Vaughn, lvaughn@nspeidiocese.ca
Youth & Family Ministry Coordinator: Allie Colp, acolp@nspeidiocese.ca

SCRIPTURE PASSAGE #1 – Matthew 12.1-14

12 At that time Jesus went through the grainfields on the Sabbath. His disciples were hungry and began to pick some heads of grain and eat them.

2 When the Pharisees saw this, they said to him, “Look! Your disciples are doing what is unlawful on the Sabbath.” **3** He answered, “Haven’t you read what David did when he and his companions were hungry? **4** He entered the house of God, and he and his companions ate the consecrated bread - which was not lawful for them to do, but only for the priests. **5** Or haven’t you read in the Law that the priests on Sabbath duty in the temple desecrate the Sabbath and yet are innocent?”

6 I tell you that something greater than the temple is here. **7** If you had known what these words mean, ‘I desire mercy, not sacrifice,’ you would not have condemned the innocent. **8** For the Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath.”

9 Going on from that place, he went into their synagogue, **10** and a man with a shriveled hand was there. Looking for a reason to bring charges against Jesus, they asked him, “Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?”

11 He said to them, “If any of you has a sheep and it falls into a pit on the Sabbath, will you not take hold of it and lift it out? **12** How much more valuable is a person than a sheep! Therefore it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath.”

13 Then he said to the man, “Stretch out your hand.” So he stretched it out and it was completely restored, just as sound as the other.

14 But the Pharisees went out and plotted how they might kill Jesus.

SCRIPTURE PASSAGE #2 – Luke 4

16 He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. He stood up to read, 17 and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written:

18 “The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, 19 to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favour.”

20 Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him. 21 He began by saying to them, “Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.”

22 All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his lips. “Isn’t this Joseph’s son?” they asked.

23 Jesus said to them, “Surely you will quote this proverb to me: ‘Physician, heal yourself!’ And you will tell me, ‘Do here in your hometown what we have heard that you did in Capernaum.’” 24 “Truly I tell you,” he continued, “no prophet is accepted in his hometown. 25 I assure you that there were many widows in Israel in Elijah’s time, when the sky was shut for three and a half years and there was a severe famine throughout the land. 26 Yet Elijah was not sent to any of them, but to a widow in Zarephath in the region of Sidon. 27 And there were many in Israel with leprosy in the time of Elisha the prophet, yet not one of them was cleansed - only Naaman the Syrian.”

28 All the people in the synagogue were furious when they heard this.

29 They got up, drove him out of the town, and took him to the brow of the hill on which the town was built, in order to throw him off the cliff.

30 But he walked right through the crowd and went on his way.

SCRIPTURE PASSAGE #3 – Acts 4

4 The priests and the captain of the temple guard and the Sadducees came up to Peter and John while they were speaking to the people. **2** They were greatly disturbed because the apostles were teaching the people, proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection of the dead. **3** They seized Peter and John and, because it was evening, they put them in jail until the next day. **4** But many who heard the message believed; so the number of men who believed grew to about five thousand.

5 The next day the rulers, the elders and the teachers of the law met in Jerusalem. **6** Annas the high priest was there, and so were Caiaphas, John, Alexander and others of the high priest's family. **7** They had Peter and John brought before them and began to question them: "By what power or what name did you do this?" **8** Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them: "Rulers and elders of the people! **9** If we are being called to account today for an act of kindness shown to a man who was lame and are being asked how he was healed, **10** then know this, you and all the people of Israel: It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed. **11** Jesus is "the stone you builders rejected, which has become the cornerstone." **12** Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved."

13 When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus. **14** But since they could see the man who had been healed standing there with them, there was nothing they could say. **15** So they ordered them to withdraw from the Sanhedrin and then conferred together. **16** "What are we going to do with these men?" they asked. "Everyone living in Jerusalem knows they have performed a notable sign, and we cannot deny it. **17** But to stop this thing from spreading any further among the people, we must warn them to speak no longer to anyone in this name."

18 Then they called them in again and commanded them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. **19** But Peter and John replied, "Which is right in God's eyes: to listen to you, or to him? You be the judges! **20** As for us, we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard."

21 After further threats they let them go. They could not decide how to punish them, because all the people were praising God for what had happened.

SCRIPTURE PASSAGE #4 – Romans 14

14 Accept the one whose faith is weak, without quarreling over disputable matters.

2 One person's faith allows them to eat anything, but another, whose faith is weak, eats only vegetables. 3 The one who eats everything must not treat with contempt the one who does not, and the one who does not eat everything must not judge the one who does, for God has accepted them.

4 Who are you to judge someone else's servant? To their own master, servants stand or fall. And they will stand, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

5 One person considers one day more sacred than another; another considers every day alike. Each of them should be fully convinced in their own mind.

6 Whoever regards one day as special does so to the Lord. Whoever eats meat does so to the Lord, for they give thanks to God; and whoever abstains does so to the Lord and gives thanks to God.

7 For none of us lives for ourselves alone, and none of us dies for ourselves alone.

8 If we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord.

9 For this very reason, Christ died and returned to life so that he might be the Lord of both the dead and the living.

Matthew 14

A reading from Matthew's Gospel...

Immediately after this, Jesus insisted that his disciples get back into the boat and cross to the other side of the lake, while he sent the people home.

After sending them home, he went up into the hills by himself to pray. Night fell while he was there alone.

Meanwhile, the disciples were in trouble far away from land, for a strong wind had risen, and they were fighting heavy waves.

About three o'clock in the morning Jesus came toward them, walking on the water.

When the disciples saw him walking on the water, they were terrified. In their fear, they cried out, "It's a ghost!"

But Jesus spoke to them at once. "Don't be afraid," he said. "Take courage. I am here!"

Then Peter called to him, "Lord, if it's really you, tell me to come to you, walking on the water."

"Yes, come," Jesus said.

So Peter went over the side of the boat and walked on the water toward Jesus.

But when he saw the strong wind and the waves, he was terrified and began to sink. "Save me, Lord!" he shouted.

Jesus immediately reached out and grabbed him.

"You have so little faith," Jesus said. "Why did you doubt me?"

When they climbed back into the boat, the wind stopped.

Then the disciples worshiped him.

"You really are the Son of God!" they exclaimed.

.... The Word of the Lord.