

Being Missional

During last year's Cooperative Baptist Fellowship General Assembly in Orlando, FL, each person attending was encouraged to become a missional Christian and every church represented to become a missional church. Daniel Vestal, coordinator of CBF, outlined 10 key elements in being missional.

1. We will move beyond a denominational approach to missions to a partnering approach. No longer will cooperative missions be one dimensional, but local churches will partner in multiple ways.
2. We will move beyond a program-based approach to missions to a lifestyle approach. Christians will engage in missions because it is a way of life as a follower of Jesus.
3. We will move beyond a delegated approach to missions to a participatory approach. No longer will we simply pray and support, but we will pray and participate as well as support.
4. We will move beyond a clergy-led approach to an approach that celebrates the people of God. The gifts and calling of the whole body of Christ will be expressed and used.
5. We will move beyond a fragmented approach to the gospel to a holistic approach. The Gospel is both social justice and personal evangelism. It's both individual conversion and spiritual growth.
6. We will move beyond a geopolitical approach to missions to an ethnolinguistic approach. We'll see the world not so much in terms of nations and countries, but in groupings of people.
7. We will move beyond a success approach to missions to a faithfulness approach. Numbers will not be as important as faithfulness and integrity. Faithfulness will be measured in terms of transformed lives.
8. We will move beyond a monological approach to missions to a dialogical approach. We will build relationships and learn to listen to people and listen to learn from them. In that dialogue we will witness to our own faith.
9. We will move beyond prayer support to prayer as mission. Prayer is a way of life. Prayer is presence and intercession. Petition will flow out of life in the spirit.
10. We will move beyond a law approach to missions to a love approach. Missions is not just a duty but a privilege, a joy, a romance, and a passion.

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