



GCI *Buzz*

Healthy Church: Ministry Rhythms part 3

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The church as a sent people.

Missional rhythms: Recognizing that we, the church, are called to be a sent people, intentionally and actively engaging with the world around us. While doing so we are centered around participating in God's mission.

What is our mission ⁰³ as the church?

The Bible describes the church in several ways:

- the people of God
- the family of God
- the bride of Christ
- a building
- a temple
- a body

Jesus described us as sheep, a field of grain and a vineyard.

Each of these images illustrates and emphasizes **unity and interdependency**. The church is not a gathering place, the church is the people who gather together, joining with Jesus in ministry.

At the end of his earthly ministry, Jesus invites the disciples to join him in ministry through the great commandment and the great commission. **To love God and neighbor and to join Jesus in making disciples.**

Making Disciples

Matthew 28:18-20

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Then Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age. Amen.”

With this invitation Jesus sends his disciples to share the good news of who he is in their daily lives through word and deed.

By the power of the Spirit the church proclaims the good news of the kingdom of God through worship, discipleship, and celebration of sacraments. **The church also, demonstrates the good news of Jesus by serving others, living generously, and sharing the love of Christ through actions.**

GCI pursues this mission by:

- **Building healthy, Christ-centered congregations** that are sanctuaries of worship, friendship and nurturing pastoral care.
- **Providing sound biblical teaching** through our congregations, media and personal outreach in ways that are relevant and meaningful to people of diverse backgrounds and ages.
- **Equipping people for Christian service** so that the gospel can be known, understood and experienced.
- **Sharing in the work of the gospel** with the broader Christian community, acknowledging that we can learn from one another, and that Christ's love goes beyond denominational boundaries.
- **Expressing the love of God to all** through the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

Missional Rhythms

Transform Lives:

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The result of this mission-focused work is lives transformed by the gospel, one person at a time. This is Jesus' mission—and we are called to share in it with him.

Through eyes of faith, we are able to see the transforming presence and activity of God that others are not yet seeing. It is not about us “taking God to people,” but rather helping people see the God who already is sharing his life and love with them. It's not about helping people “find” Jesus, but of showing them the creative, life-giving Savior who, through the Holy Spirit, is already present and at work in their lives.

Key Features:

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- **Living Life on Mission:** developing ministry rhythms that align with the great commission calls us to prioritize living life on mission, recognizing that we are called to be a sent people. By actively engaging with the world around us and participating in God's mission, we can experience personal renewal and witness the transformative power of the gospel in the lives of others.

» **Member Example:** While visiting your local library you see someone washing their Tupperware in the public restroom. You strike up a conversation with them and ask if they would like to join you for lunch at the café next door. You find out they were at the library to search and apply for jobs and seek further information on housing assistance. Since you are an active member of the community you connect them with a local foundation that specializes in finding jobs and low income housing for those experiencing homelessness due to various life experiences. Before you leave, you help them sign up for an email account and send them a link to your church website and an invite to the next church cookout-in-the-park day.

Key Features:

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- **Embracing Cultural Engagement:** Stepping outside the walls of our church and engaging with our communities is essential for effective ministry. Building relationships, actively listening to others, and immersing ourselves in their context allows us to better understand their needs. By creating spaces of inclusivity and belonging, we foster renewal in both the lives of those we engage with and within our own congregation.
 - » **Love Avenue Example:** Your neighborhood sponsors a local Seasonal Festival. Your Love Avenue team partners with the neighborhood committee and provide volunteers to help run some of the booths and activities. You get to encourage, engage, and embrace your neighbors while learning more about them.

Key Features:

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- **Fostering Community and Unity:** Prioritizing community and unity is vital for renewal. Creating multi-generational small groups where life is shared and connections are formed provides opportunities for spiritual growth and support. Embracing diversity within the body of Christ strengthens unity and reflects the inclusive nature of the gospel. By celebrating differences and fostering a sense of belonging, we create an environment where renewal can flourish.

» **Faith Avenue Example:** A group of teens and young adults from your congregation co-lead a connect group for older members of the church and neighborhood to come and get tutored on various technological skills like setting up email accounts or managing social media.

Summary

Incorporating missional rhythms into congregational life leads to renewal.

By embracing our missional calling, engaging with the culture, and fostering community and unity, we align ourselves with God's mission. Shifting our focus outward brings purpose, joy, and transformation. Let us embrace ministry rhythms that align with God's mission, bringing renewal to our lives, congregations, and the world.