

**The National Synod of Wales and Our Part in God’s Mission**

*‘Mission is the good news of God’s love, incarnate in the witness of a community, for the sake of the world.’* (David Bosch, Transforming Mission, 1991)

*‘The Church exists by mission, just as a fire exists by burning.’* (Emil Brunner, The Word and the World, 1931)

**‘The URC will be a Church where every local congregation will be able to say who they are, what they do and why they do it.’** (The United Reformed Church, vision2020 Statements of Mission Purpose and Indicators)

**‘We will be more confident in our identity, valuing the treasures of our tradition, discerning when to seek ecumenical partnerships, and when and how to seek the further unity of the Church.’** (The United Reformed Church, vision2020 Statements of Mission Purpose and Indicators)

We see mission as being part of God’s work in the world.

We will seek to promote, support and take part in intergenerational mission initiatives which are:

<b>Proclaiming the Gospel</b>	<b>Serving Communities</b>	<b>Transforming Injustice</b>	<b>Sustaining the Environment</b>	<b>Working with Partners for the Common Good</b>
<p>‘To proclaim the good news of the kingdom’<sup>1</sup></p> <p>‘To teach, baptise and nurture new believers’<sup>1</sup></p> <p>‘bringing good news in person, starting where others need to begin and finding holiness in every encounter’<sup>2</sup></p> <p>‘We will be a growing Church with an increasing membership.’<sup>3</sup></p> <p>‘We will be more confident to engage in evangelism, proclaiming the good news</p>	<p>‘To respond to human need by loving service’<sup>1</sup></p> <p>‘bursting through the walls of our churches, to reach out to the marginalised with unconditional love’<sup>2</sup></p> <p>‘We will be a Church committed to becoming even more welcoming and hospitable, and embracing all people equally.’<sup>3</sup></p> <p>‘The Church is the only institution that exists primarily for the benefit of</p>	<p>‘To seek to transform unjust structures of society’<sup>1</sup></p> <p>‘challenging complacency, and calling for action, through contemplative love’<sup>2</sup></p> <p>‘We will be a Church committed to peace-making and reconciliation that keeps faith with the poor and challenges injustice.’<sup>3</sup></p>	<p>‘To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, to sustain and renew the life of the earth’<sup>1</sup></p> <p>‘we are creatures of the earth, reflecting God’s diversity, interconnected and interdependent.’<sup>2</sup></p> <p>‘We will be a Church that has taken significant steps to safeguard the integrity of creation, to sustain and renew the life of the earth.’<sup>3</sup></p>	<p>‘We will be a Church that is more active in the life of local neighbourhoods.’<sup>3</sup></p> <p>‘The local congregation should see itself as a partner with the people in the community’<sup>5</sup></p> <p>‘for the church to be effective, to be the body of Christ, its members must be in relationship with each other’<sup>6</sup></p>

<p>of the kingdom of God with friends, families and strangers, through story and action.’<sup>3</sup></p> <p>‘Preach the Gospel at all times. When necessary use words.’<sup>7</sup></p>	<p>those who are not its members.’<sup>4</sup></p>			
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**What might this look like?**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Initiatives which speak the Good News in innovative ways</li> <li>• Initiatives which help people to experience the Gospel</li> <li>• Initiatives which develop disciples to walk the Way</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Initiatives which bring something positive to communities</li> <li>• Initiatives which develop community</li> <li>• Initiatives which respond to real need</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Initiatives which make a difference to the lives of victims of injustice</li> <li>• Initiatives which promote equalities and fairness</li> <li>• initiatives which promote peace and reconciliation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Initiatives which help communities to blossom and flourish</li> <li>• Initiatives which take a lead in promoting and creating sustainability</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Broad-based initiatives which include ecumenical and community partners</li> <li>• Initiatives which promote cooperation to work for the common good</li> <li>• initiatives which promote values and outcomes which we would like to see, but which we cannot achieve on our own</li> </ul>
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**Some Practical Examples**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Running Christianity Explored, Living the Questions, Alpha courses, or working on Holy Habits</li> <li>• Supporting congregational involvement in outreach events</li> <li>• Imp[roving information leaflets, on line presence</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supporting ‘Church in Community’ projects accredited by the URC</li> <li>• Supporting congregational involvement in foodbanks and challenging the systems that have led to their growth</li> <li>• Sharing in night shelter provision</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supporting congregational involvement in projects that work with refugees and asylum seekers</li> <li>• Starting groups that need a safe space to meet because of negative prejudice</li> <li>• Supporting involvement in Christian Aid, the</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of a community allotment or green space or garden on church land</li> <li>• Involvement in campaigns about climate change, promoting the URC’s Eco-policy, and supporting congregational</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of a Community Centre in partnership with (an)other community group(s), i.e. Citizens Advice Bureau</li> <li>• Supporting the Development of work with statutory and voluntary services to meet the needs of particular groups, e.g.</li> </ul>
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and publicity to communicate the Gospel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Initiatives which promote community cohesion and wellbeing</li> </ul>	<p>Living Wage Foundation and Church Action on Poverty</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promoting the work of the Joint Public Issues Team and Cytûn's Laser Group</li> </ul>	involvement in Eco Church	cares, young carers, disabled people
<b><u>Some biblical references</u></b>				
Deuteronomy 26:1-11	Mark 12:28-34	Micah 6:6-8	Genesis 2:15	Exodus 18:13-27
Matthew 28:16	Leviticus 19:9-18	Isaiah 58:6-9	Psalms 24:1	Ruth, Isaiah 44:28
John 20:21	Luke 10:25-37	Amos 5:21-24	Mark 16:15	Mark 9:38-41
Romans 10:5-17	Galatians 3:25-28	Mark 2:1-12		
	Romans 12:9-18			

<sup>1</sup> The Five Marks of Mission, 1988 Lambeth Conference and later revised

<sup>2</sup> The United Reformed Church, vision2020 Mission Creed

<sup>3</sup> The United Reformed Church, vision2020 Statements of Mission Purpose and Indicators

<sup>6</sup> David Bosch, Transforming Mission, 1991

<sup>4</sup> William Temple, attrib

<sup>5</sup> Raymond Fung, The Isaiah Vision, 1992

<sup>7</sup> St Francis of Assisi, attrib