

January 2022

Dear First Pres Covenant Partner,

The Missional Living Committee is excited to share an update with you. In this letter, we address the following questions: How does First Pres engage the world in mission? What is the purpose and work of the Missional Living Committee?

WHY A MISSIONAL LIVING COMMITTEE?

Our church family has committed to inviting all people to say “yes” to Jesus with their whole lives. We believe this means that being a missional church is core to our identity. Mission is not a program of the church; it is the purpose of the church. As a congregation, we are to actively pray for and participate in God’s work of peace and justice within our community and throughout the world. All that we do in our neighborhoods, city, and abroad is to be an outpouring of Christ’s love and mercy. Jesus’ teaching to preach the good news in word and deed--to love our neighbors as ourselves and make disciples of all nations (cf. Matt. 28:19-20; Mark 12:29-31)--informs how we engage the world in mission.

Previously, there were multiple committees under the Missions umbrella at First Pres (Outreach and Evangelism, Downtown, and Missions), but after a season of discernment and prayer, one Missional Living Committee was formed to better align resources and efforts.

The Missional Living Committee strives to build upon the identity and work engaging the world in mission that covenant partners have done since the founding of First Pres. Led by the Spirit, we grapple with questions such as:

- How do we move from simply “doing missions” to being a missional church?
- How can we build meaningful transformational relationships rather than transactional ones with our local and global missional partners?
- How can we equip our congregation to actively participate in God’s work of reconciliation?

WHAT DOES THIS LOOK LIKE?

God’s mission is global and timeless, yet he accomplishes his mission in the particulars of everyday people and everyday churches. What do our particulars look like? How have we put legs on our faith through engaging the world in mission?

First Pres has meaningful and long-lasting relationships with both local and global partners. We have thirteen local partners that are actively working in the restoration, reconciliation, and care of our city. We also have global partners in Egypt, Guatemala, Dominican Republic, and Haiti. We partner with these organizations and churches in a variety of ways: prayerfully, relationally, and financially. It is important to us that our missional partners demonstrate the gospel by serving the vulnerable, marginalized and oppressed, and that we can maintain a mutually beneficial partnership. Each of our partners provide opportunities for our covenant partners to be in relationship with people, to serve alongside people in a spirit of humility and with Jesus’ grace.

HOW IS THIS ACCOMPLISHED?

The Missional Living Committee is here to support our partners, equip our covenant partners, and oversee the big picture of how we are engaging the world in mission. We are actively working to better capture all the ways covenant partners are engaged so we can celebrate it and leverage it for a deeper impact! So, be on the lookout for more communication and opportunities to “say Yes!”

As a committee, we meet on a monthly basis. Additionally, we recently formed a team called “Covenant Partner Liaisons” that consists of covenant partners who are actively engaged with our missional partners, to keep us better informed on how we can further partner with, pray for, and serve alongside these organizations and churches.

Through our relationships with our missional partners, we have ample opportunities for all covenant partners to engage our city and world in mission. Engagement can range from providing financial support to praying faithfully for our work alongside these partners to serving alongside others whether in our city or abroad.

Be on the lookout for:

- “Stories from the field” on Sunday mornings to hear from covenant partners on how they’re engaging the world in mission.
- First this Week email highlights missional partners, including how we can be praying for them, and how you can participate in their mission.

We are grateful to continue in partnership with you as we live missionally in our city and abroad.

Sincerely,

The Missional Living Committee

Chairperson | David Satterwhite

Staff Resource Person | Allysen Mahaffey

Elders on Session | Rob Boone, Debbie Hunter, Tim Lynde, David Satterwhite

Lay Members | Erin Amrich, Jane Aves, Callie Brown, Philip King, Tim Sechrest