

# Our Passions

From our inception, it has been a set of shared passions that has brought us together:

1. **That the Lamb be worshipped among all peoples.** The Moravians, a community of believers in Central Europe, matured into the most significant Protestant missionary movement of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Their watchword was “The Lamb must receive the reward of His suffering.”
2. **That the local church be held in high regard.** Scripture describes the church as “*the fullness of Him who fills everything in every way*” (Eph. 1:23). After the resurrection, churches became bases from which church planting teams were sent among the nations (Gentiles).
3. **That every believer be esteemed as a gifted minister.** Christ has distributed a dazzling variety of spiritual gifts among God’s people. And with good reason! Establishing God’s kingdom among every people on earth calls for the participation of each one of us.
4. **That mission be rooted in community.** Most believers will not leave home to participate in mission. If their unique contribution is to be made, it will take place right where they are, in the context of the Christian community of which they are a part – their church.
5. **That we be committed to the pastoral care of those we send.** God’s purposes are most effectively carried out by people who do so out of fullness – rooted deeply in the resources of Christ. Mature churches are rich with those competent to care pastorally.
6. **That Godly character be viewed as primary.** We live in a compulsive age. Voices around us tell us to be busy. God’s goal is inner Christlikeness. Accomplishments that do not come from Godly character will implode. Man wants better methods. God is looking for Godly people.
7. **That prayer be central to all we do.** A 24-hour prayer chain fueled the Moravian missionary advance. Unreached nations are walled off from God by powerful spiritual forces. Only God’s gracious working can set captives free. He has chosen to work through prayer.
8. **That churches cultivate God-honoring relationships beyond themselves.** No one church is sufficient in herself alone. She needs the rest of the body. As relationships of love and trust are cultivated with others, strengths can be extended and help received.

***A Note Concerning Mission Organizations:*** We must affirm the God-designed role of mission organizations. Throughout mission history their contribution has been Biblical and powerful. Churches need mission organizations. Mission organizations need churches.

9. **That the body of Christ be united.** Churches are “finding” one another, discovering that the things we share – worship, prayer, love for our neighbor, a passion for God’s glory among the nations, and, above all else, Christ Himself – far surpass anything that might differentiate us.
10. **That our mission initiatives be strategically focused.** “What does it mean to complete God’s purpose among all nations?” “What strategic opportunities remain?” “In which one(s) is God calling **our church** to be His channel of blessing?” That is where we focus.