

NFC Global Outreach Vision and Guiding Documents 2011-2014

Fundamental Guiding statements

Mission Statement – Why we do what we do

Newberg Friends Church is a Christ centered community that seeks to hear God and to live obediently and compassionately in order to make God's reconciling and transforming presence visible in the neighborhood, the larger community, and the world.

A simpler way of saying this:

A GROWING community

LISTENING to Christ

CHANGING in the Spirit

LIVING OUT love

Core Values – How we go about our Work

Jesus Christ is Present

Jesus Christ is actively present with us as Savior, Teacher, Lord, Healer, and Friend. Christ is immediately accessible to all who believe in Him. Those who take time to listen to Christ can hear His voice and follow Him, individually and collectively.

Scripture calls us to account and helps us know God's will

The Bible, as interpreted by the Holy Spirit, shows us what God requires of us and provides authoritative and unfailing spiritual guidance for our lives today.

God is the source of life, and all human life is sacred

All life has its origin in the creative work of God, and human life is to be regarded as a sacred gift from God. Because all persons have equal value and

are created in the image of God, we must treat others with respect and dignity, regardless of human measures of merit or value.

The Holy Spirit transforms and empowers us

The Holy Spirit enlightens our paths and transforms our lives. As we yield our lives to God and become immersed in the life of the Spirit, things change. Despair gives way to hope, and weakness gives way to empowerment. All things indeed become new.

We are called to be and to make followers of Christ

Christ through His Spirit transforms us to be more like Himself. He enables us to live lives of integrity and righteousness and calls us to bring others into this relationship. We listen to Christ, we obey Him, and we teach others how to do the same.

We are called to live out Christ's love

Jesus reveals the fullest measure of God's love by His example in His death on the cross. As we become more Christ-like, we hope to display the same quality of love corporately and individually to those around us.

We are called to be agents of God's peace and love to everyone

We are called to work for justice and to be agents of peace in a broken world. Whether situations of conflict and confusion be personal, national, or global - within the church or beyond it - we are called to be agents of the same healing and love we have received from God.

Vision-Where we're headed

Global Outreach Vision Narrative

Inspiring and Educating our Community

At the core of our NFC community is the belief that God has a deep love for the world and that God has blessed us so that we can bless others. Our community is continually learning about God's character and heart for the lost, hurting, economically poor, and oppressed. This is both a comfort to us in our own suffering and brokenness, as well as a challenge to reach out to

others. During Sunday worship gatherings, Sunday School classes, small group gatherings, and times of corporate prayer and fasting, we regularly invite the Holy Spirit to align our hearts and passions with God's heart and passions, and to help us join what God is doing in the world.

Our NFC community embraces a holistic approach to global outreach where each person feels called to join God in loving:

Those who are hurting because they are alienated from God
(evangelism and discipleship)

Those who are hurting because they are surrounded by violent conflict
(peace)

Those who are hurting because their basic needs aren't met (relief and development)

Those who are hurting because they have an oppressor (justice)

Our NFC community is keenly aware that as followers of Jesus we are called to join Christ's mission to love and serve the world. When asked, the vast majority of our community can articulate how they are living out that call. Parents are expanding their children's view of God and the world by reading stories to them about heroes like Mother Teresa and John Wycliffe. Families with older children are watching the news and reading the newspaper together and praying for specific events and people around the world. Some of our high school graduates are choosing to serve on the front lines of global outreach for a year between high school and college. Adults are meeting in groups to study the Bible, read books, and watch films that challenge and inspire them to reach out to the lost, hurting, poor, and oppressed. Many people in our NFC community are willing and excited to serve God overseas because they have had the opportunity to experience the front lines of global outreach through short-term trips and have developed life-changing relationships with global outreach partners.

Leading and Equipping with Impact

The global outreach task force is made up of people with a variety of personalities, passions and gifts. Some are organizers and administrators. Some are communicators, teachers, networkers, and "champions" who bring others on board. Some are encouragers and caregivers. Some help people discern their callings and equip people to serve. Others help people with

reentry. All are committed to Jesus and are excited about how God is meeting the needs of people around the world, bringing about peace and justice, and drawing people into relationship with himself.

Leaders on our global outreach task force continually educate themselves and NFC leadership on best practices for global outreach. Through recommended books, publications, conferences, and connections with people who have expertise in the field of global outreach, the task force is leading NFC's global outreach efforts with the highest levels of integrity, efficiency, accountability, professionalism, and strategic leadership.

Because we seek to discern how God is calling NFC to join his work in the world, the task force has prayerfully developed a set of criteria to help discern who our NFC community takes on as official global outreach partners. These criteria are based on NFC's mission, vision, and core values, and on global outreach best practices. Each year the task force sets aside time to prayerfully consider and assess each global outreach partner and determine whether to continue in partnership. We also ask our global outreach partners to evaluate and review our partnership. This prayerful and strategic process promotes excellence and provides loving, mutual accountability and equipping.

The global outreach task force communicates with the pastoral team and Sunday School leaders to discover which children, youth, college students, and adults are feeling a nudging toward front line global outreach. The task force has a team of people specifically available to come alongside individuals, couples, and families in order to listen, ask questions, help them discern God's leading, and help them find a way to fulfill God's call to global outreach.

Engaging Relationally with Global Outreach Partners

NFC has embraced a highly relational and personal approach to global outreach. We harness our creative energy to invite every individual and family in our community to form a meaningful relationship with one global outreach partner. We ask them to seek God's guidance in selecting their partners and provide them with information about each of NFC's official global outreach partners who are connected to NWYM, EFM, or NFC. Some feel they have the time and passion to nurture relationships with multiple

global outreach partners, but most individuals and families feel they can cultivate a deep and authentic relationship with one or two. Many in our community feel called into relationships with global outreach partners outside of NWYM, EFM, and NFC, and these partnerships are equally affirmed and celebrated.

Individuals and families follow the ups and downs of their partner's ministry with interest, prayer, and financial support. Throughout the year global outreach partners communicate with their support teams each month (through newsletters, Skype calls, emails, etc.). These communications include photos, prayer requests, praises, updates on the ministry, and other creative uses of technology. Each support team also compiles a monthly communication to their global outreach partner with a brief highlight, prayer request, or praise from each person, family, or group that is part of their support team. This affirms the reality that our relationships with global outreach partners are truly two-way partnerships of mutual love, concern, and support. When global outreach partners are in town they are invited to many homes, coffee shops, and restaurants, and to share in small groups and Sunday School classes.

When their global outreach partners are in town, support teams plan special gatherings to celebrate how God has taken their humble gifts of prayer, finances, and encouragement, and worked miracles in the lives of people around the world. Many in our community are saying that this is the first time they've truly felt connected and excited about global outreach. They realize how vital their prayers, financial gifts, and encouragements are to the success of the global outreach partner's ministry. In fact, they no longer see the ministry as "theirs" (the global outreach partner's), they see it as "ours." In the best sense of the word, they are taking ownership of global outreach. During worship gatherings and through church newsletters, the best photos, videos, and ministry highlights of our global outreach partners are shared with the entire NFC community. Beautiful photos of the people with whom our global outreach partners work, adorn our hallways, classrooms, and offices, reminding us of the value and beauty of all of God's children and our commitment to follow God's call to love them.

The Caring Hands ministry in Dharwad, India is NFC's flagship global outreach partner. Because so many in our community have first-hand

experience and relationship with this ministry, support for them is thriving. Our relationship deepens as members of our community visit them on short-term teams. The support team for Caring Hands includes NFC prayer partners for each girl in the home and for each worker. Many of the children's Sunday school classes have chosen to pray for, and periodically communicate with a girl or group of girls from the home who are of the same age. NFC also sends people to serve in the girls' home and the Caring Hands office, and to teach and encourage the Caring Hands staff.

Short-term mission trips nurture connection and relationships between people from our NFC community and our global outreach partners around the world. These trips also spark passion in our NFC community for how God is working and loving people across the globe. When we hear our brothers and sisters in other countries singing praises to God in their own languages and in ways different from ours, we get a glimpse of God's kingdom come and God's will being done, on earth as it is in heaven. As we befriend and learn from those who are economically poor, their joy, humility, perseverance, and dependence on God humble and inspire us. Our short-term trips are propelling people into lives that more closely align with God's heart and passions. They are also an impetus for deeper relationships amongst NFCers because long after teammates return from their front line experiences they are still encouraging each other to invite God to further transform their lives.

Our History – Where we have been

Newberg Friends Church has a long and rich history of support for global outreach. We have supported many missionaries and projects around the world over the years, and many retired missionaries are a part of our congregation. In September of 2007, NFC made global outreach one of its five key goals:

Channel people and financial resources to the world

- *Increase awareness as global Christians. Continue to offer opportunities for short-term mission trips. Improve lines of communication with the missionaries we support, and encourage regular contact from them and to them. Explore whether God is calling us to develop a deeper connection with*

one field of ministry in the world. We want to challenge people to respond to God's calling to serve around the world.

- *Find our place in serving the world. Continue and increase our financial and prayer support of missionaries who serve with Northwest Yearly Meeting and Evangelical Friends Mission as well as those from our congregation who are called to serve God around the world. Sound the call to raise up leaders for evangelism and peace and justice work in our world. In what ways can we raise awareness, develop connections, raise capital, and send people to do our part in the world?*

At the end of this visioning process we will have a detailed strategic plan that will replace these two paragraphs and serve as a road map to accomplish the Global Outreach vision.

Past Leadership

For many years, the Missions Task Force faithfully oversaw NFC's support of global outreach. At its pinnacle in the mid-1990's, this group consisted of over 20 people who met monthly and planned short term mission trip opportunities, annual opportunities for missionaries to speak in Sunday morning worship, dinner theaters from Wycliffe and other organizations, desserts, Sunday evening gatherings for groups or missionaries to share their recent experiences overseas, and other special events.

In addition, the MTF coordinated letter writing and Christmas gift giving for missionaries we support, occasionally supported a missionary in residence at NFC for a few months, regularly updated a missions bulletin board in the church library, and other informational activities and events.

Dreams for the Future

Some dreams for the future have included new leadership, energy, and people to give direction to global outreach at NFC; a way to connect a heart for global outreach with the younger generations; and a broadening of traditional "missions" (church planting and evangelism) to also include other aspects of global outreach (holistic ministry which also looks at justice and peacemaking, helping the poor, addressing systemic issues of poverty, etc.).

Strategic Programs – How we’re getting there today

The people we support fall into some broad categories: individuals serving on Yearly Meeting and Evangelical Friends Mission fields; individuals from NFC who are called to mission work with other organizations; and our special relationship with the Caring Hands ministry centered in Dharwad, India. “Support” includes financial support, prayer support, care for workers abroad, and learning about how God is at work in the world. Currently, our financial support comes through our general budget, in which 15% is given to our Yearly Meeting, a large portion of which goes to Global Outreach; and through designated giving to Global Outreach. These designated gifts are distributed to individual workers from the following categories:

Northwest Yearly Meeting

From 1930 until the late 1990’s, supporting NW Yearly Meeting missionaries meant Bolivia and Peru. Generations of people grew up learning about and hearing from missionaries to these two fields. It meant a shared experience and knowledge that made it easy to have many people “on the same page.” Since Bolivia and Peru have become independent Yearly Meetings, our own Yearly Meeting has expanded its mission to include Russia and North Africa, as well as supporting workers in the Teaching Abroad program.

This exciting expansion of kingdom mission has also meant it is more difficult to communicate, since the fields are more diverse, newer, and sometimes in countries where information cannot be freely shared.

Currently, this includes Teaching Abroad workers, Patrick and Christy Neifert (Israel), Hal and Nancy Thomas (Latin America), and Johan and Judy Maurer (Russia).

Evangelical Friends Mission

NFC has always supported EFM, sometimes with regular giving to EFM as a whole, and most often through support of specific workers on EFM fields. Currently, this includes David and Debby Thomas (Rwanda).

NFC Individuals

People from NFC are regularly called to serve overseas! It has been our joy and responsibility to support them in as many ways as possible. Currently,

these include: John and Donna Kreutz (Mexico), Gordon and Sue Martin (Wycliffe teachers), Barbara Morse (Mexico), and Jeff and Christine Stanfield (Kenya), and Bonnie Steinborn (China).

Caring Hands Ministry in Dharwad, India

Newberg Friends Church has an ongoing partnership with Caring Hands Ministry, centered in Dharwad, India. In August of 2007, a team went to explore two different ministries, and felt God's strong leading to partner with Caring Hands. This ministry began with Arun and Shobha Massey's calling to share Jesus Christ and hope with a group called the *devadasi*, women who serve as religious prostitutes throughout the state of Karnataka.

No other Christian groups were serving the *devadasi* when the Massey's began. After years of building trust, they took some daughters of the *devadasi* into their own home, to give them an education and hope for another way of life rather than following in their mother's footsteps. There are now more than 70 girls in the Joyful Children's home.

Caring Hands Ministry has grown tremendously, and now has a program for those suffering from AIDS, after school programs in many villages serving hundreds of kids, summer VBS programs, church plants, and a bible school to train pastors and leaders.

For many years, our Missions Task Force prayed for a place in the world where NFC could have a long term connection. In December of 2007, NFC approved a connection with this ministry centered in Dharwad, India.

Short-Term Missions

Every other year, a team goes to Mexico during Spring Break. Begun years ago as a youth event, it now is open to all ages, and many families go together. Some of the group take on a building project in San Luis, Mexico, while others run a vacation bible school. The Yearly Meeting has a program called YCEW (Youth Consecrated to Expand their Worldview) for high schoolers that is offered most summers. Many NFC youth have participated. Other short term opportunities occur on an irregular basis.