



Introduction to the Five Marks of Mission

The format chosen for the upcoming EEA General Assembly is that of a **consultation**: in 3 rounds we will look at God's Mission in Europe and our participation as European Evangelical Alliance in that mission. We hope this will help us to see what we should focus on as a network in the coming years.

We have chosen the "**Five Marks of Mission**" as a framework for our conversations. They are a way of thinking about how the mission God calls us to take part in is all-encompassing and holistic.

Developed by the Anglican Consultative Council they help us gain a better understanding of what mission is about. In short, the Five Marks of Mission are:

Tell: Proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom

Teach: Teach, baptise, and nurture believers

Tend: Respond to human need by loving service

Transform: Transform unjust structures of society, challenge violence of every kind and pursue peace and reconciliation

Treasure: Safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth

Each 'Track' will deal with one 'Mark'. To help you choose which 'Mark' you want to focus on during the virtual General Assembly, within a group setting, please read more information about each one:

1. Tell the Good News

Mark 1:1-20: John the Baptist prepared the way for Jesus. He came to proclaim the Good News of God and called His disciples to become 'fishers of men'. In Luke 9:1-6, we read how Jesus sent them out to proclaim the Kingdom of God and to heal the sick. We are called to go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation (Mark 16:15).

Keywords: evangelism, preaching the gospel, proclaiming the Kingdom

2. Teaching one another

The Great Commission (Matthew 28:16-20) is, in the first place, a charge to disciple new believers by baptising them and teaching them, nurturing them. We are called to help one another discover more about God's love and God's call for our lives (Deuteronomy 6:4-9). We are called to a journey of growing in our faith and helping others do so, particularly new believers. But there are also things that all of us can learn from one another, and we are called to continuous learning – it is a life-long commitment!

Keywords: discipleship, discipling, teaching, mentoring, coaching, learning

3. Tend to Others

God's love is compared to the love a mother has for her child. In Isaiah 66:13, God says "As a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you". This is a practical, caring love, a love that tends and nurtures, protects and helps. This practical love is also shown in Jesus' healing

miracles (Mark 10:46-52), in the caring for one another that we see in the early Church (Acts 2:42-47) – we are also called to tend to others.

Keywords: compassion, love, care, help

4. Transform Society

God hates injustice and oppression. We are called to be salt and light, like the prophet Isaiah (1:10-17), to challenge the powers of this world, to do right, to seek to justice. Christians through the ages have sought to change society for the better – ending slavery, setting up schools, campaigning to make poverty history, working to prevent climate change. This is an important part of showing God’s love, of working for God’s kingdom to come.

Keywords: justice, transformation of society, socio-political, peace & reconciliation, society, politics

5. Treasure God’s creation

We are called to be stewards of God’s creation (Genesis 1:26,28), to care for all that he has made (Genesis 2:15). God’s creation points us to him (Psalm 8 and 19): ‘the rocks cry out’ and we are called to show our love for God in how we care for his creation. This is particularly the case as our lack of care for creation has led to massive destruction and the harm of millions of people, who are starving and displaced due to climate change. ‘Creation is groaning’ and we need to reveal our love as children of God in our care (Romans 8:18-30).

Keywords: stewardship, creation (care), environment, cosmos