

# FMC GUIDING STATEMENTS

## for 2000 to 2004

**MISSION:** “Go, then, to all peoples everywhere and make them my disciples: baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and teach them to obey everything I have commanded you.” (Matthew 28:19-20)

**VISION:** *Vision: Healing and Hope — God calls us to be followers of Jesus Christ and, by the power of the Holy Spirit, to grow as communities of grace, joy, and peace, so that God’s healing and hope flow through us to the world.*

### OUTCOMES:

- Leaders and people being transformed by Christ
- Congregations welcoming new members and engaging in ministries of healing and hope
- Leaders motivated by vision and empowering others for ministry
- Grace, love, and reconciliation being exemplified in our relationships

### CORE VALUES:

1. Mindset of united prayer (holiness, humility, and expectancy)
2. Focus on leaders (discipling and equipping)
3. Courageous commitment to racial reconciliation (ethic of Christ’s love)
4. Renewed commitment to steward our resources for God (stewardship)
5. Providing new ways of relating to interact, connect, inform, and resource (community)
6. Bold openness to serve wherever God’s Spirit is active (service)

**STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:** (adapted from an article by Wilbert Shenk)

### “REORIENTING THE CHURCH, TO FOCUS ON THE WORLD, WITH CONFIDENCE IN THE GOSPEL AND WITH INNOVATIVE METHODS”

- a. **Reorient the church around its true purpose — mission.** The authentic church is a body of people, not an inflexible institution, poised to follow the Holy Spirit in fulfilling God’s commission. This people will create such organization as is needed to carry out the mission, but organization is secondary.
- b. **Focus on the world where mission takes place.** Intentionally placing ourselves (engaging ourselves) in the everyday byways of life so people can encounter God in us as we walk with them.
- c. **Cultivate confidence in the gospel.** Becoming secure in our faith in the Gospel of Jesus Christ so that we can face the future with hope and extend that hope to others. Confidence in the gospel grows naturally as we live out the gospel.
- d. **Encourage flexibility and innovation in methods and forms of church.** True Christian security is found neither in a particular historical period nor in organizational forms or patterns. It is the fruit of the bond between God and God’s people.

Terms and Conditions: Making the Great Commission central to our life as a conference will cost us the following: our sense of family; our polity of control over congregations; our Mennonite heritage that has been precious to our forebears; our image as a conference which symbolizes roots and identity for North American Mennonites (James M. Lapp, 1999).