



GEMN Global Mission Conference
QUESTIONS FOR TABLE DISCUSSION GROUPS
April 2018 at Virginia Theological Seminary

Discussion Guidelines:

- Choose a moderator to keep your discussion moving forward.
- Choose a scribe to write anything you'd like to share with the GEMN community.
- Allow moments of quiet to ponder the questions.
- Ensure that everyone has a chance to speak.

First Plenary: Wednesday, April 11, 10 a.m.

Robert Heaney & John Kafwanka:

Mission Connects Us: Without a Theology of Mission We Perish

- Read Ephesians chapter 1:5-10:

⁵ He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, ⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. ⁷ In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace ⁸ that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight ⁹ he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, ¹⁰ as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

What does it mean to say that mission begins with God and that God is the agent of mission?

- How does a vision of the missionary God – who has come to us in creation and re-creation – enrich and correct the way that your community understands and seeks to heed and participate in God's mission? Share an example.
- Design together a short spiritual exercise or worship experience for a group of your choosing – a congregation, organizational board, seminary class, mission committee. Design it to help participants deepen their sense of the missionary God, discern where God is at work in the world, and decide how they should follow God into God's mission.



Second Plenary: Thursday, April 12, 9 a.m.

Heidi Schmidt & Monica Vega:

Mission: A Spiritual Journey amid People into the Heart of God

- The risen Jesus commissions us, "As the Father sent me, so I send you" (John 20:21) – sending us to feed, heal, cleanse, cast out demons, resurrect. Share a moment or event where you became aware of how your presence, work or ministry breathed life into a person, a situation, a community.
 - Every single thing Jesus does after the resurrection he does through our bodies. Share a moment during your mission where you felt that you were fed, healed, forgiven, cleansed, given back life.
 - What is God's dream today for you, for the church, for the world?
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Third Plenary: Friday, April 13, 9:30 a.m.

John Kafwanka & Robert Heaney:

Mission Connects Us: Without Partnership in Mission We Perish

- What makes a mission companionship or partnership relationship viable and credible? Share an example from your experience.
 - What pitfalls should we look out for to avoid dependence and paternalistic relationships in the Anglican Communion? Share an example from your experience.
 - Money can symbolize value, accomplish work and express power. This reality can foster an assumption that those who do not have money have nothing to give. What are other ways in which value and power can be expressed in mission? Share an experience of when you received in mission from people who had little money.
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