

Venture Church Network Values/Tribal Identity

Our founding began with the gospel and prayer. In the early years of the 20th century, churches were in conflict over the historic beliefs of the Christian faith and the core of the gospel message. While some turned away from the authority of Scripture and the divinity of Jesus, many other faithful followers of Christ wanted to continue sharing the truth of the Bible and the good news of Jesus throughout the world. They wanted pastors, churches and missionaries with the same love and conviction.

It was in this historical context, wrestling with these questions of faith, that in 1943, approximately 75 Christian leaders met in Chicago, Illinois to pray and seek a way forward. While on their knees in prayer, they took a history-making stand and started a mission agency called Conservative Baptist Foreign Mission Society (now WorldVenture). CBFMS, and later Conservative Baptist Home Mission Society (now Missions Door) were born to assist churches in training, sending, and supporting missionaries with an unwavering commitment to the authority of the Bible and the proclamation of salvation through faith in Jesus Christ.

These same churches that formed CBFMS/CBHMS, saw their denomination continuing to move away from their founding gospel message. After three years of encouraging the denomination to return to its historic gospel roots, and at the risk of their church properties and pastoral pensions, in 1947, these churches moved away from their denomination and formed the Conservative Baptist Association of America.

After almost 75 years of ministry, we are now called "Venture Church Network." We continue to embrace our historical heritage that took risks to move away from endangering the good news of Jesus Christ! And like a ship that is built for dangers of the ocean and not the safety of the harbor, so that gospel message, while needing a safe harbor of biblical truth, is intended to be propagated throughout the world, no matter the risks. Today, we continue to embrace our ethos of taking risks for the sake of the gospel by **helping every church take bold next steps to advance Gospel-centered transformational churches in every community we touch**, through ...

Gospel Driven

... GOSPEL POWER THAT TRANSFORMS EVERY LIFE

*In the past, we moved away from a faithless gospel;
Now we're moving toward a life-giving faith.*

We are committed to an expanding gospel movement through strengthening local church pastors and the churches they serve to boldly and strategically advance the gospel in their communities. Our conviction is every believer must be bold in engaging their culture with the good news of Jesus Christ, with a humility that we too need to be transformed, sustained, and renewed by that same gospel message. The gospel has to drive a lived-out faith that creates a culture of disciples loving God, and loving our neighbor, including caring for "the least of these."

Biblically Focused

... GRACE AND TRUTH THAT MEETS EVERY PLACE

*In the past we moved away from a disintegrating theology;
Now we're moving toward an incarnational strategy.*

Our missional movement must be shaped by the grace and truth of the gospel of Jesus Christ—that Jesus came as the “Word made flesh” at a specific time and in a specific place. This truth applies to every place in our life, culture and world. We are committed and agree together to the core doctrines of Scripture as our final authority, calling us to a lived out faith. We acknowledge our theological foundation while celebrating a variety of contextualized ministry forms that advance Christ’s mission.

Disciple Making

... DISCIPLE-MAKING THAT EMPOWERS EVERY GENERATION

*In the past we moved away from a safe place to stagnate;
Now we're moving toward a risky place to grow.*

Acts is the story of the gospel proclaimed, creating believers who are being shaped into the image of Jesus. These disciples are forming communities called *ekklesias*, with leaders and elders being raised to continue the movement of multiplication and strengthening of disciples and churches. This venture of believers and churches, multiplied and empowered passionate leaders to advance a clear and biblically rooted gospel message with a tenacious contextualization. They advanced in the power of the Holy Spirit, despite context, risk, or danger. Our posture is to see the intentional raising up of next generation Christ-like disciples and leaders equipped to propagate the gospel for a never ending cycle of disciple-making.

Relationally Committed

... FIERCE COOPERATION THAT ACCELERATES THE MISSION.

*In the past we moved away from meeting an historical obligation;
Now we're moving toward choosing a synergistic partnership.*

Our conviction is that a healthy effective local church is essential for the gospel to flourish. While locally self-governing, the church and its leaders serve best in generous and cooperative interdependent relationships with other like-minded ministries and leaders. Together around the gospel, provides space and freedom to risk, play, dream in secure environment of our relationship with one another and the Word. We believe the Biblical directive to spur one another on calls us to a “fierce cooperation” with each other in order to advance the mission of Jesus.