
Preamble – Why Core Unifiers?

TEAM has a long-held commitment to sending followers of Christ to proclaim Christ and His Kingdom in places where he is least known or followed. This long-held commitment includes a dedication to the Church. Specifically, this is a dedication to partnering with interdenominational expressions of the evangelical Church to send workers, as well as seeing indigenous expressions of the Church established where it is yet to be made visible.

In response to God's blessing and expansion of the Church in many parts of the Majority World, TEAM is exploring the ways in which we may be postured to serve and partner in the sending of even more followers of Christ from emerging movements in the Majority World to the ends of the earth.

Pursuing this vision for our community means emphasizing the principles that bind us together. As an increasingly multi-ethnic, multilingual, and interdenominational community, our desire is to be clear about what unifies us, and the identity, values, and practices to which we aspire. Our hope is that this will inform how we interact with one another and with the individuals and communities God has called us to.

Ultimately, these core unifiers are a mutual agreement that we make with one another, and by God's grace we will endeavor to live by these things that God has called us to be and do. These principles are both definitional and aspirational.

Our Core Unifiers include 4 major categories:

- **TEAM Mission Statement – Why do we exist?**
- **Identity – Who are we?**
- **Values – How do we behave?**
- **Statement of Faith – What do we believe?**

Our hope is that each member of our TEAM community can joyfully embrace and commit to living out the principles contained in this document.

Mission — Why do we exist?

TEAM exists to **partner** with the global Church to send **disciples** who make **disciples** and establish **missional** churches for the glory of God.

Identity— Who are we?

TEAM's mission statement explains **why we exist**, and it also emphasizes aspects of our identity - who we are. Above everything else, our identity is found in our being united to Christ and being followers of Christ. It is our union with Christ that defines who we are, what we do, and unites us to one another as members of God's family. Everything proceeds from who we are declared to be in Christ and aspire to be as His followers. In other words, our **doing** proceeds from our **being**. These four characteristics define who we aspire to be individually and collectively so that we can accomplish the mission to which God has called us together.

1. Committed **disciples** of Jesus

First and foremost, TEAM is a community of disciples – children of God united with Christ and to one another, committed to following Him, abiding in Him, and growing in likeness to Him in all areas of life, personally and professionally. We are devoted to the formation of the life and character of Christ in each member of our community and, in obedience to Christ, depend fully on the Spirit for our life and our work.

2. Profoundly marked by God's **grace**

We exist as disciples of Jesus because God has generously poured out His love for our redemption in Jesus Christ, and by God's ongoing gift of grace we are being transformed into the image of Jesus. We are a community that is deeply shaped by this grace and seek to exemplify God's grace in all spheres of life. When we demonstrate God's generous love in our interactions, we become a living testimony as we share about God's saving grace. God's grace at work in us moves us towards unity, strengthening us to listen well and speak the truth in love, to call one another to mutual accountability, and to encourage one another to take risks. We pursue reconciliation in conflict and assume the best of one another. Even amid differences (ethnic, linguistic, denominational), as Paul calls us in Phil 2:3-4, we seek to avoid "selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility value others above ourselves, not looking to our own interests but also to the interests of others."



3. **Missional** in our outlook

Led by the Spirit, TEAM is committed to multiplying disciples and the transformational impact of communities of these disciples, as salt and light, on local, regional, and global levels. We share and participate in Christ's prayer for His Kingdom to come on earth as it is in heaven. This results in the establishment of churches that from their earliest days have a vision and heart for holistic ministry outside the confines of their local assembly. They are moved by the Spirit to proclaim and embody the good news of the rule and reign of Jesus to the ends of the earth. These are churches that embrace and seek to embody the mission of God and His redemptive plan for all of creation, centered on the reconciling work of Christ through His death and resurrection, as it is written in the Scriptures.

4. Postured to **partner**

God, in His perfect will, gives each of us different gifts, desiring His disciples to mutually serve each other as part of the body for the sake of Christ's Kingdom. The Gospel is spread most effectively and in God-honoring ways when His people collaborate, both on individual and corporate levels. We believe that Christ's prayer in John 17 is answered, and we find great joy when we demonstrate "complete unity" as the Church, sharing vision, control, and resources within relationships characterized by grace, trust, and fellowship in the Gospel. As the global Church has matured and expanded into new places, we joyfully embrace a posture of unity and partnership.

Values — How do we behave?

God Dependence

We subject our lives to the truth and guidance of Scripture and the Holy Spirit, and we rely on God through prayer. The Triune God alone provides what is necessary to carry out global mission, enabling us to speak His words, use His gifts, and reflect His love.

1. We root our lives in God's grace and devote ourselves to prayer to be faithful in the mission to which He has called us.
2. We make spiritual formation a priority in our individual and collective lives.
3. We seek to live in a way that pleases God above all else, placing God's will and direction before personal goals, comfort, or desires.



Courageous Vision

We see the day when the people of God from every tribe, tongue, people, and nation stand united in worship before the throne of Jesus Christ. Compelled by the boundless love of Christ and His call to action, we intentionally venture toward places where Christ is least known, carrying the life-changing message of the Gospel.

1. We proclaim and demonstrate how the gospel is good news for all.
2. We seek creative and innovative means to see the light of Jesus and His Kingdom proclaimed in places where there is less access to the knowledge of Jesus Christ.
3. We count and embrace what sometimes will be great personal costs to further the knowledge of Christ.
4. We think beyond our current local ministry and prayerfully consider how we might contribute to Gospel expansion in other places of great Gospel need.

Church Focus

We engage existing churches globally in cooperative efforts to accomplish His mission, believing that the Church is central to God's plan. TEAM Global Workers work in partnership with the global Church – we are from the Church, for the Church.

1. We believe that the Church, empowered by the Holy Spirit, is the primary vehicle through which God accomplishes His mission.
2. We are all sent from a church for the flourishing, multiplication and growth of the Church.
3. We each commit to being an integral and interdependent part of a church in our context.
4. We pursue the establishment and flourishing of churches wherever we serve.
5. We seek to help churches understand and fulfill their God-given role to be Great Commission churches as they participate in seeing the gospel impact their community, their nation, and the world.

Community of Grace

We see the potential of the body of Christ everywhere. We work together in teams characterized by unity, trust, acceptance, and diversity, benefiting from mutual accountability. This community can be a strong demonstration of grace and peace in a divided world.

1. We prioritize unity in the Spirit and do not prioritize individual doctrinal or experiential preferences over our shared Statement of Faith.
2. In an atmosphere of truth and grace, we trust, support, and encourage one another in relationships of mutual accountability, keeping our mission together as central.



3. As God's grace shapes us through His Spirit, we set aside cultural or ideological preferences in an effort to live out true Christian community.
4. We seek to listen and understand one another rather than making assumptions.

Humble Service

Compelled by Christ's love, we go to serve, not to be served, so that the whole world may be reconciled to God through Jesus. We serve the global Church in her unified pursuit for gospel expansion.

1. Wherever we work we enter as servants, open and ready to learn from our teammates, our partners and those to whom we are sent; ready to give up our preferences and accept personal loss for the sake of the Kingdom.
2. We work to joyfully integrate fully into the context where we serve, seeking to become proficient in language and culture to best communicate gospel truth and be the hands and feet of Christ.
3. We champion a collaborative approach to ministry, embracing partnership as a primary posture. When we pioneer, we will consult with, listen to, and learn from contextual experts where present.

Lifelong Learning

We seek to grow in character and competence to increase our effectiveness. We are committed to equipping all personnel to reach their God-given potential through lifelong development.

1. In humility we accept that we are not experts but continue to be learners and will seek to grow in competence and skills related to our ministries, relationships, and cultures.
2. We take seriously the development of our colleagues and are willing to sacrifice to help one another grow in our cross-cultural ministry skills and experience.

Statement of Faith — What do we believe?

We believe the Scriptures, both Old and New Testaments, to be the inspired Word of God, without error in the original writings, the complete revelation of His will for the salvation of man and the divine and final authority for all Christian faith, life, and conduct.

We believe in one God, Creator of all things, infinitely perfect and eternally existing in three persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.



We believe Jesus Christ, without any change in His eternal deity, became man through conception by the Holy Spirit and virgin birth and that He died on the cross, a perfect and complete sacrifice, in our stead and for our sins according to the Scriptures. He rose bodily from the dead and ascended into heaven, where, at the right hand of the Majesty on High, He is now our High Priest and Advocate.

We believe that the ministry of the Holy Spirit is to glorify the Lord Jesus Christ and, during this age, to convict of sin and regenerate the sinner upon believing in Christ, at the time of regeneration baptizing the believer into the one body, of which Christ is the head, and to indwell, guide, instruct, fill, and empower the believer for godly living and service.

We believe that man was directly created by God in His own image, but fell into sin. The entire human race is, therefore, lost and only through repentance and faith in Jesus Christ, and regeneration of the Holy Spirit, can salvation and spiritual life be obtained.

We believe that the atoning death of Jesus Christ and His resurrection provide the only ground of justification and salvation for all who believe, and that only such as receive Jesus Christ by personal faith are born of the Holy Spirit and by Him are sealed to the day of redemption.

We believe in the personal, imminent return of our Lord Jesus Christ and that the hope of His appearing has a vital bearing on the personal life and service of the believer.

We believe in the bodily resurrection of all the dead, of the believer to everlasting blessedness and joy with the Lord, and of the unbeliever to judgment and everlasting and conscious punishment.

We believe that the Church is composed of all such persons who through saving faith in Jesus Christ have been regenerated by the Holy Spirit and are united together in the body of Christ, of which He is the head.

We believe that water baptism and the Lord's Supper are ordinances to be observed by the Church during this present age. They are, however, not to be regarded as means of salvation.

We believe that all the saved should live in such manner as will honor and glorify and not bring reproach upon their Savior and Lord, and that it is commanded by God to remain separate from false doctrines and sinful pleasures, practices, and associations.

We believe in the existence of angels who worship God and minister to believers. We also believe in the existence of Satan, the devil, a fallen angelic being who, with his demons, opposes God, His people and His work, but over whom Christians can have spiritual victory.

