

USPG: Anglicans in World Mission

Our theological basis and the way we work

Our relationship with God

Mission begins and ends with the Triune God. It is God's activity from creation until the coming together of all things in Christ.

It is seen most clearly in the saving life, death and resurrection of Jesus.

Through Scripture, Tradition, Reason and Experience we see the Holy Spirit at work calling, liberating and transforming the People of God.

Our calling in mission is to engage in God's mission (*Missio Dei*) in and for the world.

Communion is at the heart of God, the very life of the Trinity.

God yearns to draw each one of us into this communion with him.

It is in communion with God that we know and are known, we love and are loved.

Communion is God's gift to the Church.

We respond in worship, most of all when this communion is made real in the Eucharist.

The Church is called to be the sign, foretaste and anticipation of God's mission.

We are called to support each other as we engage in this mission wherever God has set us.

Communion is God's will and desire for all humanity and the whole of creation.

Mission is therefore 'holistic', responding to all of God's liberating activity so that people may 'grow spiritually, thrive physically, and have a voice in an unjust world'.

It involves Evangelization, Pastoral Care, Education and Healthcare, the struggle for Justice and Peace, and the care of Creation (cf the Five Marks of Mission).

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Our relationships with each other

The calling of USPG is to serve the Church as it participates in God's mission.

We work to encourage all the churches which make up the Anglican Communion to support each other in this mission.

In particular, USPG exists to help Anglican Churches in Britain and Ireland to be in relationship with the other Anglican and United Churches within the Communion. We are the means whereby these relationships can be realised by the mutual sharing of gifts through prayer, meeting, and the exchange of people and ideas, in a spirit of generosity and reconciliation.

But in a world where material resources are so unequally distributed, USPG is also the means whereby people in Britain and Ireland can give financial support to churches in other parts of the world: we raise money to support the life of the church in poorer places and to help them engage in God's mission. This support takes the form of direct grants, mission companions and shorter-term volunteers, and scholarships. Each partner church nominates that part of their work for which they seek support, and decisions about how this money is distributed among them are increasingly made by all the partners together.

We feel it important to say why USPG is distinctive because we want to be clear what we do, why we do it, and why we believe we deserve support.

As Anglicans in World Mission...

1) We are Anglicans and

OUR PARTNERS ARE THE CHURCHES OF THE ANGLICAN COMMUNION

USPG only works through Anglican Provinces and Dioceses, and of course those United Churches which include the Anglicans. There are a few provinces where, for historical reasons, we have tended not to be involved, but our only partners are the churches of the Anglican Communion.

2) We are Anglicans and

WE ALWAYS WORK THROUGH CHURCHES

USPG only works through churches and we are committed to supporting them in their life as churches as well as in all the aspects of their mission. There are many agencies, Christian or other, who do world development, and they may or may not choose the churches as partners. Only an agency like USPG helps churches to build up their own life and to grow their own capacity to engage in all aspects of mission, from evangelism to community development.

3) Our work is World-wide, and

OUR INVOLVEMENT IS NOT SELECTIVE

USPG does not pick and choose places or projects which we like. Our partners are across the Communion, and we respond to what they tell us is important for them and their mission. While we are happy for our supporters to focus their giving on one of these partners or their projects, and we are happy to link what we do to particular relationships which parishes or Dioceses may have formed, we believe that our across-the-board way of working is a more effective way for Anglicans here to engage in Communion-wide mission.

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4) We are involved in Mission, and WE BELIEVE IN HOLISTIC MISSION

USPG believes that God's mission is to all people and to the whole of each person. So while some agencies may only be concerned with world development, and others may give priority to personal evangelism, we support churches in all that they do as they seek to respond to God's call to them in their particular place. For us, holistic mission reflects God's care for individuals and groups, for healthy relationships and confronting injustice, and for the whole created order. It holds together God's call for personal, social and political change.

5) We are involved in Mission, and WE ARE COMMITTED TO GENEROSITY AND RECONCILIATION

USPG believes that in response to God's great generosity towards us, we are called to be open and generous with each other. On this basis we appeal for prayer, support and money to help churches in other parts of the world to engage in their mission. More generally, USPG seeks to bring people together rather than take sides. We treasure both the unity and the diversity of our Anglican Communion and we view with great sadness the tensions and disputes which from time to time diminish it. We are committed to building communion and travelling together.