

Mission Mid-Atlantic Identity Document

We are a diverse fellowship of churches united by biblical mission.

- **We are a diverse fellowship:** The 120+ churches that comprise Mission Mid-Atlantic should strive to be something more than just an association. We in some ways already are and should always be striving to become a true biblical fellowship, with all of the meaning that the term connotes. Likewise, while we have some level of diversity within Mission Mid-Atlantic, we should be striving to have much more. Ethnic, linguistic, socio-economic, age and stage-of-life diversity should be seen as a core value and characteristic of the organization. Diversity also speaks to vision, ensuring that the timeless message of the gospel is pursued using continually changing, culturally relevant methods.
- **...of churches:** Our constituency consists of the most revolutionary, radical force designed by God: His Church. Our members are the Body of Christ, the Bride of Christ, in and through which the world is being transformed by the hallowing of God's name, the advancement of God's kingdom, and the accomplishment of God's perfect will. We are defined by the fact that we are not a club or a social order or a political group, we are churches: biblical, missional churches in diverse fellowship with and for one another.
- **...united by biblical mission:** God has promised to build His church, and He invites us to join with Him on this critical mission: preaching and living out the gospel in order that souls may be redeemed and lives may be transformed by the power of His love and mercy and grace. This mission unites us in purpose and defines us in that it is biblical. Our biblical mission is centered on the cross of Jesus Christ and is baptistic in doctrine, distinctives and practice. The identity statement seeks to present the organization as *missional*, embracing and enthusiastically pursuing the mission God has called us to.

02/2010

We exist to help each other reach and equip people to become devoted followers of Jesus Christ.

- **We exist to help each other:** We value community over isolation, knowing that God has shaped each local church and each believer with different gifts and abilities. By sharing what God is doing in our lives and in our churches, we help each other achieve the purpose God has called us to.
- **...reach and equip people:** We value ministry over maintenance, desiring to continually reach people with the good news of the gospel and, having reached them, equip them to live their lives to the glory of God.
- **...to become devoted followers of Christ:** We value growth and development in the heart and life of every Christ follower. Ultimately, that growth shows itself in increasing devotion and obedience to Jesus Christ.

***We Develop* new churches, *Cultivate* church leaders, *Build* healthy churches and *Assist* pastors and churches in crisis.**

- ***We Develop* new churches:** We seek to regularly plant and develop new local churches of like identity and purpose.
- ***Cultivate* church leaders:** We likewise seek to equip pastors and other church leaders with tools and resources that allow them to pursue excellence in ministry under the sovereign hand of God.
- ***Build* healthy churches:** Using consultation, evaluation, assessment and targeted tools, we seek to assist member churches in achieving and maintaining church health.
- ***Assist* pastors and churches in crisis:** A crisis can sometimes overwhelm a pastor or a church. We seek to come alongside pastors and churches in crisis to help resolve conflict, solve problems and restore relationships to the glory of God.