

Wycliffe Global Alliance Foundational Statements

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(26 September 2019 version)

1. Purpose, Mission and Vision:

We are this – As a community of participants in God’s mission, the Wycliffe Global Alliance provides leadership, influence and service within Bible translation movements. (**Purpose Statement**, 2018)

So we can do this – In communion with God and within the community of His Church, the Wycliffe Global Alliance contributes to the holistic transformation of language communities worldwide. (**Mission Statement**, revised 2018)

So this can become a reality – Individuals, communities and nations transformed through God's love and Word expressed in their languages and cultures. (Existing **Vision Statement**, 2019)

2. Core Values:

The Glory of God among the Nations – Living and serving to God’s glory so people of all nations might know and glorify Him.

Christlikeness – Following Christ’s example in who we are and what we do.

The Church as Central in God’s Mission – Believing the Church is created, called and equipped by God to disciple the nations.

The Word Translated – Trusting God to transform lives through His Word translated into the languages and cultures of the world’s peoples.

Dependence on God – Depending on God and His sufficiency to equip and sustain us.

Partnership and Service – Partnering interdependently as an expression of the unity of believers. Serving in community through holistic ministry that facilitates translation, access and application of God’s Word.

3. Goals for the Alliance (set by the Board):

Focus: God and His Church – Advocate Scripture translation, access and use as vital to the integral mission of God and His Church.

Focus: Language Communities – Encourage and strengthen interdependent cooperation in ministry, so language communities can fully participate in the holistic transformation of all peoples.

Focus: Internal and External Relationships – Reflect, through all of our relationships and partnerships, God’s desire to accomplish His mission through the unity of His people.

4. Descriptions of Terms and Concepts:

Note: These are frequently used in the Alliance and relevant to the **Foundational Statements** (in alphabetical order)

Alliance – A collective of interdependent organizations that are bound together through a formal agreement made in order to advance common goals and secure common interests. Specifically, to our context, the Wycliffe Global Alliance is a community of organizations. Our common goal is to nurture an environment in which like-minded organizations can fully participate and serve together in God’s mission through Bible translation movements and related ministries. The Wycliffe Global Alliance serves with and is a part of the global Church.

Board Goals – The Board Goals are owned by the Board and state what the Board expects of the Alliance Leadership Team. The Alliance Leadership Team is held accountable to the Board for these Goals. They are collective outcome statements that communicate, in broad terms, where we are going and where we want to be. Goals are broad, abstract, and intangible (as contrasted with strategies, objectives and tactics).

Collaboration – This takes place when the leaders and/or staff of two or more Alliance Organizations decide to deliberately think and work together to achieve something in God’s mission. It is an outcome of the intentionality of strengthening of friendship in God’s mission, which leads into greater partnership and generosity, because the value of each of the partners is recognized and affirmed. It is only when collaboration and partnership are grounded in true community that we can see and experience what God intends.

Core Values – The attitudes and characteristics that describe our organization.

Friendship and Community – Friendship with God, with each other, and with those whom we are called to serve is a fundamental missiological principle for the Alliance because it gives God glory and serves as a visible demonstration of God’s kingdom. Friendship takes place within and also creates and deepens community. The Alliance community shares common characteristics and commitments (Vision, Mission, Values, etc.) that bind together all of the Alliance Organizations with each other.

Global Missional Leadership Mindset – Such leadership seeks to understand what it means to be part of a global community, to work and pray, live and serve with one another in God’s mission. This is a process that is ongoing, refined and informed through openness to and discernment from the Holy Spirit. Such leadership must be courageous, equipped with a

biblical and theological mindset, coupled with the ability to understand the changing cultural context around them.

Holistic Mission – This follows Christ’s example of service to the whole person. Recognizing that all people have physical, spiritual and emotional needs, holistic mission and ministry desires to see people and communities made whole as the whole Gospel is lived out in every facet of life.

Integral Mission – The ‘proclamation *and* demonstration of the Gospel’ (definition provided by the Micah Network). The word ‘mission’ or ‘missions’ in this context refers to *missiones ecclesiae*, the missionary ventures of the Church. This refers to particular forms, related to specific times, places or needs of participation in the *missio Dei* (adapted from D. Bosch, 1991, *Transforming Mission*, pg. 10). The word ‘integral’ is used in recognition of the diversity and range of ministry aspects and expressions that are essential and that must be integrated for truly holistic ministry that glorifies God and shares the truth and love of God with all peoples.

Note: Holistic Mission and Integral Mission are essentially the same and may be interchangeable in some contexts. We’ve chosen to use both, depending on the context. Integral highlights the diversity and parts included, whereas holistic highlights the ‘whole Church, whole Gospel, whole world’ aspect.

Institution – Represents the inheritances of valued purposes with attendant rules and moral obligations (from H Hecllo, 2008, *On Thinking Institutionally*, pg. 38). Institution focuses on preserving and providing structures for the safeguarding of core purposes.

Journey – Our Alliance journey is our ongoing participation with God in His mission, at His invitation and under His direction.

Missio Dei (Mission of God) – God’s self-revelation as the one who loves the world, God’s involvement in and with the world, the nature and activity of God, which embraces both the church and the world, and in which the Church is privileged to participate. ‘*Missio Dei* enunciates that God is a God-for-people’ (D Bosch, 1991, *Transforming Mission*, pg. 10).

Missiological Reflection – Missiology’s contribution to the Bible translation movement is to analyse its practices, intentions, attitudes, message and methods. We recognize that Bible translation is only one facet of the overarching *missio Dei* (mission of God). We seek God’s guidance and direction for discernment and wisdom. We model, and encourage Alliance Organizations and their leaders and staff to participate in missiological reflection.

Mission – (in reference to the Alliance **Mission Statement**) Our Mission is the specific nature of our participation in God’s mission toward the Vision and for God’s glory. Our Mission identifies WHAT the Alliance does as its part in participating in God’s mission.

Missional Intent – HOW the Alliance carries out its Purpose. This connects our identity (WHO we are and WHY we exist) to God’s purpose of blessing the nations, focusing our

hearts, minds and actions on the concerns, contexts and/or causes to which God has called us.

Polycentric Mission – The Alliance recognizes and encourages self-regulating centres of influence within the singular structure of the Alliance. This occurs as many centres of appropriate power, importance, influence, leadership, authority and ideology occur within the wider Alliance. Such centres of influence are to help the greater good of Bible translation movements.

[New] **Polyphonic Community** – The Alliance is many voices listening to and harmonizing with each other as friends in God’s mission. God leads through his Spirit, and he speaks through any number of people regardless of their role, status or culture. Consequently, the Alliance community experiences the beauty of diversity within the body of Christ and how each part blends within the symphony of chords of voices.

Purpose Statement – Describes WHO we are, who we need to be and what we need to do, in order to address our Vision and Mission. The Purpose Statement briefly describes the form and functions of the Alliance. In this sense it is also an identity statement.

[New] **Shalom** – It is a vision of transformed communities where all manner of relationships between people and God, with oneself, each other and with God’s creation are reconciled. It is an authentic and nurturing community that shows peacefulness, wholeness and unity, and where participants fully develop their potential because they are secure, cared for and mutually respectful. It is a vision of peoples of all nations sharing equally in God’s loving concern because no person, people group, language or nation is above the other in God’s eyes. It is a declaration that God uses the translated Word as a foundational means for holistic transformation.

Stewardship and Generosity – The Alliance gives intentional space for the strengthening of friendship leading to greater collaboration, partnership and generosity, as the value of each Alliance Organizations is recognized and affirmed. Generosity becomes a natural response as the Alliance lives and serves in community. Good stewardship becomes the habitual behaviour of friends serving together within God’s mission. Stewardship and generosity encompass all of life and include time, service, compassion, grace and our whole being, not only our finances. Stewardship and generosity envision all of God’s Church as both givers and receivers.

Third Spaces – Deliberately creating safe spaces that enable different groups within the Alliance to come together to acknowledge, explore, discuss, understand, celebrate, reconcile and create new friendships, ideas and concepts in and for God’s mission. Each part of the body is needed, and our role has been to ensure that the body is healthy, growing and effective. Rather than approaching a conflict or decision in a binary sense: a ‘right’ way or a ‘wrong’ way, a preferred method is to negotiate a third way. This creates interdependent cooperation of giving and receiving and serving together across the global Bible translation movement. In this way, all parties demonstrate respect and dignity in authentic partnerships that are based on genuine friendships in mission.

Transformation – The processes through which God reconciles people to Himself, to each other, and with all of His creation so that they can experience the wholeness He intended for them through Christ and thereby bring glory to Himself.

Translation Movement/s – Collective advocacy and action for Bible translation is a key facet of the Church’s participation in God’s mission. Bible translation movements are not “owned” or controlled by any one leader or group but are guided and influenced by discerning, committed followers of Christ with the goal of all language communities having access to Scripture in a language they clearly understand.

Vision – Our desired future, our compelling focal point; a description of what we would like to see happen outside of us in the future as a result of our participation in God’s mission. Our Vision tells us WHY the Alliance exists.