



true north

True North orients or pulls in a particular direction. What are the aspects of true north in CMS pioneers?

Pioneering Mission

The charism of the community is pioneering mission. This can be opened up in many ways. But it is a call into the world beyond the edges of the church, beyond business as usual, to share good news and join in with creation's healing, with what God is doing. It is a gift of seeing, of imagination, of dreaming. And it is a gift of building, doing, making things happen in response. It is a gift to the church to remind and call her to mission outside of herself.

Freedom

There is great freedom in Christ so paradoxically if this was a rule the first thing is that there aren't many rules! True north is a pull, an orientation to navigate new landscapes. This freedom is about being yourself, about how to follow Christ, about what resources you draw on in prayer. It's freedom to imagine how to join in with God's mission, to participate in the world's healing. It's freedom to creatively explore and work out how to follow Christ with others in community.

Be you

You are unique, made in God's image. Your life's work is to become more fully who you are, to open up that gift. You are not called to be what anyone else thinks you should be or do. Don't let it be reduced into a churchy imagination - a private or 'spiritual' bit of you - but unfurl to heal the world. And don't make the mistake of thinking that it is about professional Christians. Some will be full time but most are called to unfurl in the life of work, home and community.

Inculturation

As the Father sent Jesus so Jesus sends us - into cultures, places, people, localities, across boundaries to share the gospel. The gospel is always culturally robed so the sharing requires a letting go of our own ways, a listening and discerning to discover afresh the gospel in a new culture. Do it from the inside. This is an adventure of the imagination. Christ is more fully known when many cultures share their discoveries with one another in humility.

The Edges

Whilst the whole world needs to hear the gospel pioneers gravitate particularly to the edges. The edges where people and creation herself are broken, poor, weak, vulnerable, lost. Why? It seems like Jesus did so and we seek to follow him.

Christlike

It's a big ambition but we seek to be, live and model a life on Christ who is our best pattern and example of being human fully alive. We seek to exhibit the fruit of the Spirit and live out of self-giving love, to be hospitable, to have integrity in what we say and do, to pioneer in the spirit of Christ the Pioneer of our faith.

Pray

We pray. It doesn't matter how or when - there's no set prayer book. But a life of pioneering mission is fueled by prayer. We draw on the riches of others to inspire our prayer - the world church, our own traditions, religious communities...

And we write and create our own to express our particular longings.

We depend on God.

We grieve for what is broken.

We hope for what can be.

Learn

We value the wisdom and learning from others - about God, about the world, about mission. We ask questions, we are curious and hungry to explore. We don't seek ready made answers off the shelf but reflect on our own experience drawing on this wisdom. We immerse ourselves in the scriptures to better understand and live our lives in the way of Christ. We learn through reading, through conversation, through study, through doing, through community, through others.

Participate

Faith is active, it involves taking steps, taking risks. So we live a life of mission in our context out of who we are called to be. That participation can be many things and will ebb and flow. But we are not passive observers of God's mission, we are dreamers who do. We also participate by giving of our money and resources to support others in the community and in mission. We participate with others working towards the common good.