

10 MISSIONAL VALUES OF THE *RETE: SERENISSIMA* (adapted from The Crowded House, UK)

1. THE PRIORITY OF THE GOSPEL

We are committed to filling ordinary life with gospel intentionality, pastoring one another with the gospel and sharing the gospel with non-believers. We challenge one another to be sacrificial, servant-hearted, risk-taking and flexible because the gospel has priority over our comfort, preferences, security and traditions. We will not let Christian activity be just one part of our lives.

2. MISSION THROUGH COMMUNITY

We are committed to communicating the gospel message in the context of a gospel community. As we build relationships with people and share the gospel message, we want to introduce them to Christian community. We want people to experience church as a network of relationships rather than a meeting you attend or a place you enter. We will not put on evangelistic missions outside the context of a Christian community.

3. HOME AS THE PRIMARY LOCATION OF THE CHURCH

We want a reproducible model of church without any trappings that might impede freedom and flexibility. We are committed to homes as a context for all or most of church-life with the home shaping the ethos of church. When congregations use other buildings, those buildings will not be viewed as the main focus of mission.

4. SHARING OUR LIVES AS EXTENDED FAMILY

We are committed to sharing our lives in Christian community, caring for one another, discipling one another and resolving conflict. We expect one another to make decisions with regard to the implications for the church and to make significant decisions in consultation with the church. We will not let conflict continue unresolved, nor view church simply as a meeting you attend.

5. INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES

We are committed to welcoming broken people and making church accessible to unbelievers. We want to offer a sense of belonging, and be communities of grace in which people can be open and vulnerable. We will not let our welcome be dependent on adherence to any cultural norms not demanded by the gospel.

6. BLESSING THE CITY

We are committed to blessing our neighborhoods and cities through redressing injustice, pursuing reconciliation and welcoming the marginalized. We celebrate the diversity of cultures in our local contexts while recognizing the need for gospel renewal. We encourage one another to glorify God and serve others through the workplace, business, community projects, government and artistic endeavor. We will not make a division between spiritual and non-spiritual activities.

7. GROWING CHURCHES BY PLANTING CHURCHES

We are committed to starting new communities connected together in gatherings. While that connection can take various forms, it always includes shared leadership. We want to work together as a network with generous flexibility and collaborate in a wider church planting movement to seed our cities and the nations with communities of light. We will not develop into single, large congregations, nor into disconnected, isolated congregations.

8. PRAYER AS A MISSIONARY ACTIVITY

Recognizing that God is the primary agent and orchestrator of mission, we view prayer as a missionary activity. We want prayer to be both a regular community discipline, and a spontaneous response to needs and opportunities. We will not assume we are in control of mission, nor will we steal glory from God by boasting of our achievements.

9. EVERYONE IS A GOSPEL MINISTER

We are committed to every Christian seeing themselves as a missionary and exercising gospel ministry in every aspect of life. We shape activities around gospel opportunities, and the gifts and passions of church members. Leadership is not about control, but setting a missional vision by modeling and teaching the gospel so creating a culture in which everyone flourishes in ministry. We will not make distinctions between full-time and non full-time ministers.

10. SHAPED BY THE BIBLE

We want our lives and our life together to be formed and shaped by the Bible's story of redemption. We believe the Bible to be the reliable, authoritative and sufficient word of God, and are therefore committed to good Bible learning. We will not act on the basis of tradition, habit or pragmatism without reflection on the Bible. We will not see Bible teaching as an end in itself, but as that which must shape our thinking and action.