



CMSI Strategic Plan 2022- 2027

**connect
equip
transform**



cmsireland
equipping the church **in mission**



// So you, by the help of your God, return, hold fast to love and justice, and wait continually for your God.

...and learn to do right. See that justice is done - help those who are oppressed, give orphans their rights, and defend widows.

I want to see a mighty flood of justice - a torrent of doing good."

Hosea 12:6 ESV, Isaiah 1:17 GNT, Amos 5:24 TLB

1 image: South Sudan team being welcomed in Maridi by Bishop Moses



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2 image: Kindu, DR Congo: preparing a meal

* Throughout the booklet, words and phrases that may require further explanation are marked (*) and are included in the glossary and notes section.

Vision

CMSI's aspiration is to see the restoration of 'Right Relations' between God and humanity, so that our churches, communities and people are in harmony with God, with each other and with the environment.

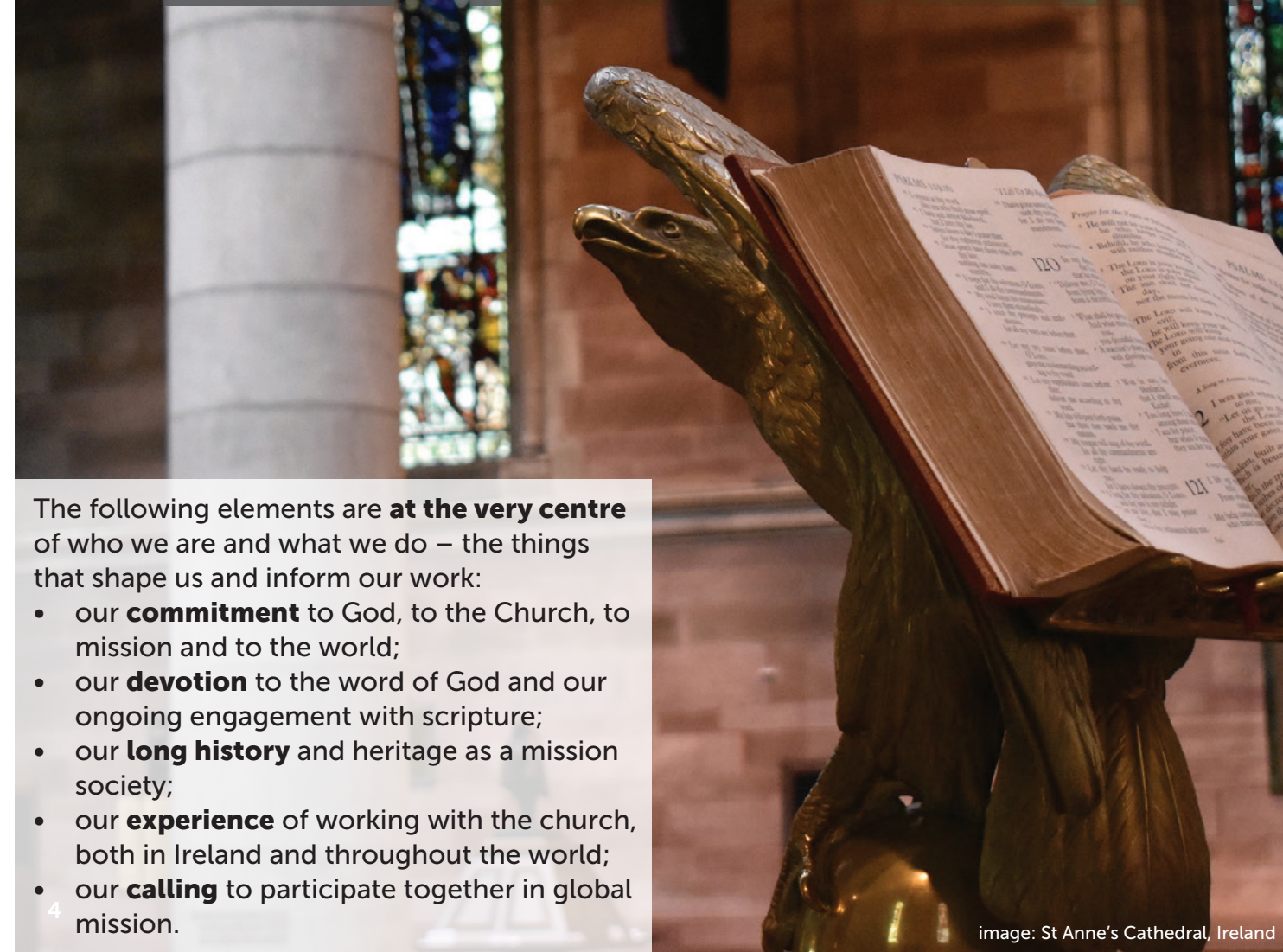


3
image: South Sudan, Ibba MU

God's mission mandate calls us to play our part; to restore, to redeem and to transform.

Our vision is to see God's mission come to fruition. We hope that all God's people will claim this mission for themselves and practice* it wherever they are placed.

God's global church is most healthy when its different parts are united in praise and service. Togetherness comes from listening to one another. This will enable individuals and communities to learn and grow. Listening and learning will lead to deeper love – a deeper love for God, for each other, for the world and for ourselves: 'Right Relations' restored.



The following elements are **at the very centre** of who we are and what we do – the things that shape us and inform our work:

- our **commitment** to God, to the Church, to mission and to the world;
- our **devotion** to the word of God and our ongoing engagement with scripture;
- our **long history** and heritage as a mission society;
- our **experience** of working with the church, both in Ireland and throughout the world;
- our **calling** to participate together in global mission.

4
image: St Anne's Cathedral, Ireland

Mission

CMS Ireland is a Christian Mission Organisation that exists to help God's people engage in God's mission. We seek to make connections between different parts of God's global family and to equip churches and individuals as they work together to share God's transforming love.

Our mission is to play our part in bringing about God's mission mandate.



5- image: South Sudan, church building and brick making with Bishop Wilson



6 image: South Sudan, Maridi communion service

We do this in the following ways:

Connect

CMSI seeks to make connections and nurture relationships.

We want to encourage people to have fresh encounters with God and to discover their part in the story of mission. We act to connect people together within the global body of Christ – developing links, facilitating friendships, promoting partnership in mission*. We seek to help people connect personal faith with active service – loving God, loving others.

Equip

CMSI seeks to equip, inspire and encourage the Church as it participates in mission.

We want to support our global partners* and work alongside them as they carry out their mission calling within their own contexts. We act to resource and facilitate churches and individuals in Ireland to play their part. We seek to foster mutual encouragement between the different parts of God's global family.

Transform

CMSI seeks transformation.

We want to see lives and communities transformed by the love of God. We long to see people discovering new life in Jesus. We yearn for the hungry to be fed, for the homeless to find refuge, for the broken-hearted to find healing and wholeness. We hunger for God's Kingdom to come – for peace, justice and mercy to reign on earth, as in heaven. We hope to see the global Church renewed as its different members participate together in mission.

Guiding Principles

The things that shape our work

In its work over the coming years, CMSI will be guided by its commitment to the following things:

- **relationships**
Valuing people and prioritising personal connections in all that we do. Recognising the value of face-to-face encounters.
- **solidarity within God's global family**
Striving for mutual exchange – giving and receiving; promoting interconnectedness and interdependence.
- **respecting and responding to our global partners**
Prioritising those things that matter most to our partners. Listening to one another and sharing ideas together.
- **long-term faithfulness to our global partners**
Standing with our partners in hard places, through difficult times. Sharing in their joys and sorrows. Journeying together.

- **serving the whole church as it engages in mission**
Inspiring, equipping and facilitating God's people, as the body of Christ, to fulfill their mission calling; working across Ireland and with our global partners.
- **working with the local church, wherever that may be**
Championing local expressions of mission; encouraging churches in Ireland and our global partners to help one another live out God's transforming love in their own communities.
- **a holistic approach to mission***
Embracing biblical principles and following Christ's example in bringing life in all its fullness. Promoting and practising mission that is integral in nature: both spiritual and physical; both evangelism and social justice; both proclamation and demonstration.



5 Year Plan Priority Areas

In order to continue moving towards actualising this vision and this mission, we will work on the following five priority areas over the next five years.



“Well, the message hasn't changed. God-of-the-Angel-Armies said then and says now:

‘Treat one another justly. Love your neighbours. Be compassionate with each other.’

Zechariah 7:9 TMB

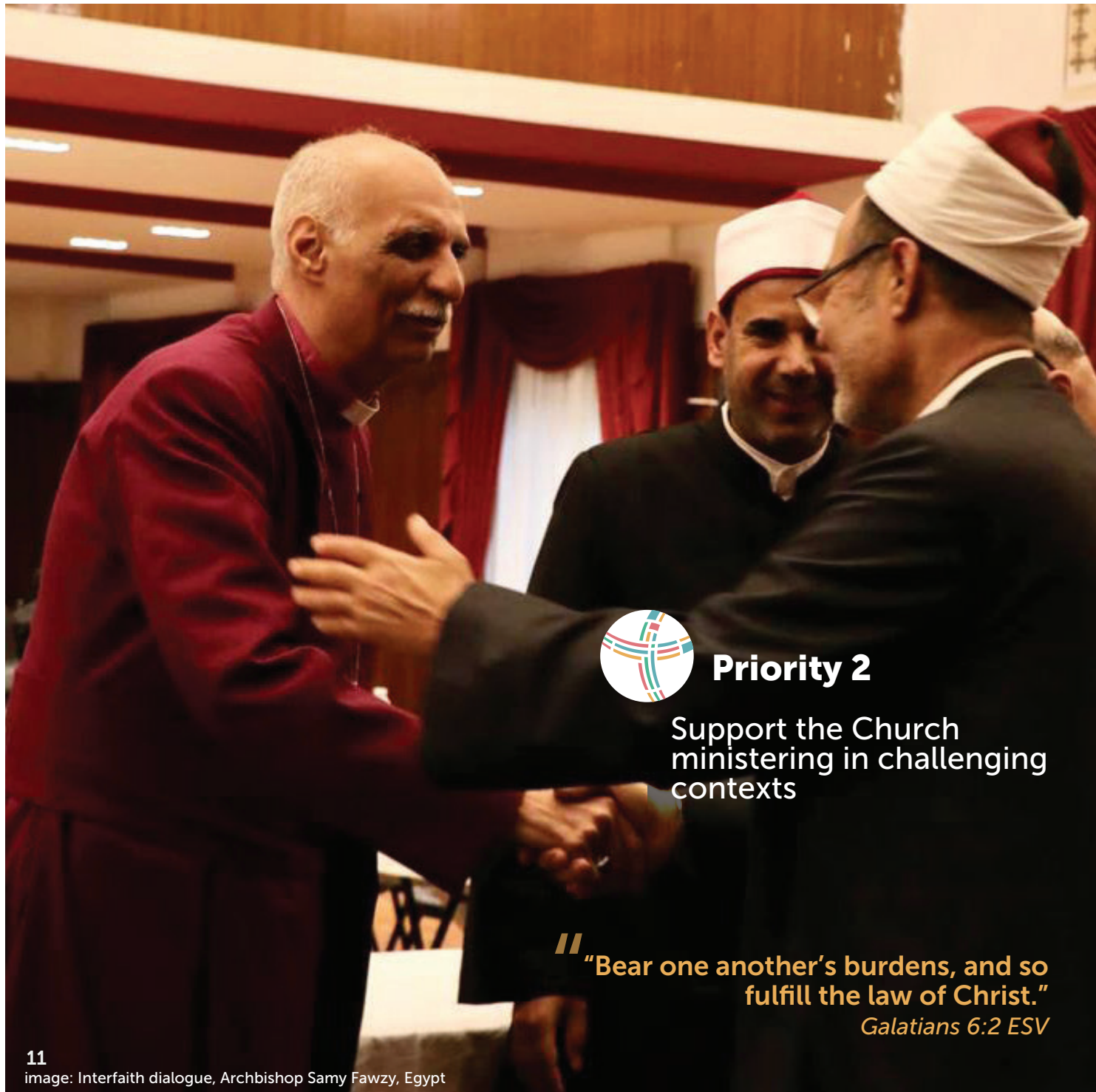


Priority 1

Communicate effectively CMSI's central tenet of God's transforming love and inspire others to share in this vision of mission



“The Lord God has told us what is right and what he demands: “See that justice is done, let mercy be your first concern, and humbly obey your God.”
Micah 6:8 CEV



Priority 2

Support the Church ministering in challenging contexts

// "Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ."
Galatians 6:2 ESV



// "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!"
Psalms 133:1 KJV



Priority 3

Grow a more diversified and enriching CMSI family

image: Anthony Njoroge UDP, Kenya, and David Reynolds, Bray



image: Kingdom Voices Leaders' Day
Bishop Elisha, DRC, with Bishop George, Ireland



Priority 4

Engage more deeply and widely with churches across our island

“But practising the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into Christ, who is the head. From him the whole body grows, fitted and held together through every supporting ligament. As each one does its part, the body builds itself up in love.”
Ephesians 4: 15-16 NET



“All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had.”
Acts 4:32 NIV



Priority 5

Secure a sustainable future by adapting operations and structures

image: Nepal Brunch, St Mark's Parish

Statements of Belief

CMSI: What we believe...

...about God

- We believe that God is the Creator of the Universe, of our world and of humankind – made by and in the image of God
- We believe that the Bible reveals God as Triune: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit
- We believe that we are loved unconditionally by our Father God, who adopts us into the family of God and invites us to participate in the work of mission or in mission work or in mission
- We believe that Jesus – the Word made flesh – is the Messiah, the Son of God, promised to God's people throughout Scripture. Through his death on the cross, Jesus took upon himself the sin of the world, bearing the full penalty for sin. By faith in Christ and by his grace, our relationship with God is restored and we find salvation
- We believe that through his life, death and resurrection, Jesus reveals God's transforming love and power and shows us how to live within the Kingdom of God
- We believe that the same Holy Spirit who empowered Jesus' ministry is at work today, empowering and equipping God's people

...about the Bible

- We believe and submit to the Bible as the inspired and authoritative Word of God
- We believe that the Bible reveals God's character, purposes and God's heart for justice, redemption and for the restoration and renewal of humanity and all of creation

...about the Church

- We believe that Christians, God's people, have been adopted into a global family that is the worldwide Church. Christ is the head of this Church
- We believe that the Church has been called to love God and to love others. Worship, mission and discipleship are the inseparable priorities of the Church

...about Mission

- We believe that mission is the shared responsibility of the whole Church – every disciple, every community of faith
- We believe that God's mission is concerned with making disciples, with proclaiming and extending the Kingdom of God, with sharing God's transforming love and grace with the world
- We believe that God's mission, as revealed in the Bible, is holistic in nature – concerned with both proclamation and demonstration, both spiritual and physical

5 Marks of Mission

As an organisation whose roots and identity are strongly embedded in the Anglican Church, CMSI seeks to uphold and champion the Five Marks of Mission of the Anglican Communion:

- to proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom;
- to teach, baptise and nurture new believers;
- to respond to human need by loving service;
- to transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and pursue peace and reconciliation;
- to strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth.

In CMSI, our primary calling is to equip the church in mission: we work with the Church in Ireland and with our Global Partners to help God's people engage in God's mission. We recognise and embrace the diversity that exists throughout God's worldwide Church and we seek to walk in patient, respectful partnership with those who share our core beliefs, as outlined above.

UN Sustainable Development Goals

CMSI is a mission organisation, not a development agency. Therefore, our primary concern is to work with the Church to advance and extend the Kingdom of God. Interestingly, recent research* affirms that local churches are the most effective way to deliver positive change in communities as they engage in integral mission.

1. **No Poverty** - End poverty in all its forms everywhere.
2. **Zero Hunger** - End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.
3. **Good Health and Well-being** - Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.
4. **Quality Education** - Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.
5. **Gender Equality** - Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.
6. **Clean Water and Sanitation** - Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.
7. **Affordable and Clean Energy** - Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all.
8. **Decent Work and Economic Growth** - Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.
9. **Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure** - Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialisation and foster innovation.
10. **Reduced Inequalities** - Reduce income inequality within and among countries.
11. **Sustainable Cities and Communities** - Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.
12. **Responsible Consumption and Production** - Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns.
13. **Climate Action** - Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts by regulating emissions and promoting developments in renewable energy.
14. **Life Below Water** - Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.
15. **Life on Land** - Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.
16. **Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions** - Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.
17. **Partnerships for the Goals** - Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalise the global partnership for sustainable development.



Glossary and Notes

CMS: The Church Mission Society Ireland is part of the global CMS family, which was established in 1799 with a threefold focus – the abolition of the slave trade, social reform at home and world evangelisation. CMSI's own story started in June 1814, with the establishment of the Hibernian Church Missionary Society.

Partnership in mission: Partnership as reciprocal flourishing is at the heart of CMSI's model of mission.

Global Partners: The Anglican Dioceses, Christian organisations and churches with whom CMSI works in Africa and Nepal. They are each engaged in mission in their own contexts and committed to two-way partnerships with CMSI and the Church in Ireland.

Holistic mission: Also referred to as integral mission, this has been the predominant approach to mission within evangelical Christianity for over 40 years. It departs from dualistic notions that pit the spiritual (evangelism) and the physical (social responsibility) against one another. Instead, the approach embraces both these aspects of mission and emphasises both the context and content of the Gospel.

Partnership links: Two-way relationships between churches in Ireland and CMSI's global partners – facilitated and supported by CMSI.

Practising missional lifestyles: In addition to the local and global mission programmes run by churches, every disciple is called to 'live mission' in ordinary, everyday ways, wherever they are.

Tearfund and State of Life Research: Large-scale, quantitative research is being carried out by these two organisations using a rigorous and pioneering approach that includes social value measurement and social cost-benefit analysis. May 2023 reported that churches create £28 worth of social value for every £1 invested. The impacts are long-term and sustainable.



partnership
the art of reciprocal flourishing

image: Rwintashya dancing, worship, Kibungo, Rwanda

Dublin


Church of Ireland House, Church Ave, Rathmines, Dublin D06 CF67


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