

imago dei

STEWARDED CALVARY CHURCH'S JOURNEY TOWARDS BIBLICAL DIVERSITY AND JUSTICE.

TEAM & PURPOSE

Our members are Melissa Bennett, Paul Campbell, Hadassah David, Vonn Dornbush, Moises Gomez, Tim Jacobson, Martha Ongelli, Herbert Sulungaine, and Steve Taylor.

The Imago Dei ministry team was formed to continue and expand Calvary Church's movement towards being a faith community unified in our diversity. The name comes from the passage in Genesis that says all humans are made in the image of God, by his design, for his glory. The team's purpose is to guide Calvary Church to pursue a more intentional, tangible, and strategic expression of biblical diversity and biblical justice as informed by the Word of God and initiated by the Holy Spirit.

ALIGNMENT

Imago Dei Ministry Team comes under Calvary's mission, vision and specifically furthers our values of being Intentional Bridge-builders, Courageous Risk-Takers, and Compassionate Advocates for Justice. The team also leans heavily on the guidance of [Converge's Biblical Diversity department](#).

PHILOSOPHY OF WORK

We believe the work of (biblical) diversity and justice is spiritual, developmental, and experiential. We believe an effective approach:

- Begins and ends with prayer.
- Is informed and initiated by the Word of God and the Holy Spirit.
- Aligns with Church Leadership and Converge vision.
- Invites participation through grace and love.
- Explores and celebrates cultural commonality and difference.
- Prompts self-exploration—Everyone has a part to play.
- Cultivates individual and collective growth.
- Emphasizes relationships and community.

Expressions and Measures of this Work

People (Language, Sight, Self, Others)

- Understanding basic ideas and definitions.
- Deeper understanding/awareness of culture (self/other).
- Increased vision into matters of diversity and justice.
- Cultivating awareness, knowledge, skill sets to bridge difference.
- Intentional bridge building—invitation into relationship with others.
- Disciples of Diversity: Change agents and advocates.

Organizational (Culture, Environment, Systems, Outreach)

- Explore Calvary Church culture and intent vs. impact.
- Address strategies, simple systems, and processes as appropriate.
- Educate, advocate, and facilitate cultural harmony and culturally competent practices.
- Be intentional about diverse representation and reflection of our community(ies).
- Represent as advocates for justice in our church, community(ies), and world.

Key Definitions

Developmental Meet people where they are at. No shame. Grace abounds.

Experiential Try on, practice, and experience new things.

Key Terms Defined

Biblical Diversity

Our shared identity is in Christ alone. By Divine design, we are also unique, having different backgrounds and experiences. (Race/Ethnicity, Gender, Age, Ability, Class, and Geography)

APPLICATION STATEMENT We believe God designed the fellowship of believers to be both diverse and unified. He created us differently on purpose. And he meant for us to work together to bear the image of Christ to the world. In his divine wisdom he knew we needed different strengths and perspectives in order to accomplish his kingdom mission.

Justice

To pursue right relationship, forgiveness, and reconciliation; advocating for the vulnerable and working to prevent injustice.

APPLICATION STATEMENT We believe God calls us into restorative and righteous relationship with one another. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, we are called to humble ourselves, to lament injustice, and to proactively work towards the good of all people.

Culture

Shared patterns, traditions, norms, and actions of a people group (can be spoken or unspoken).

APPLICATION STATEMENT We believe culture impacts the way we view those around us and helps shape how we interact with, and make sense of, the environment(s) around us.



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