

GAP 14: POLYCENTRIC MISSION

Driving Question for Collaborative Design

How might Christians in the church, parachurch, and workplace collaborate to reach and disciple others where diverse voices are heard, and global mission moves from everyone to everywhere?

Description

Although the percentage of Christians in the world remains steady, the regional demographics of Christianity have radically changed. In the past decades, the church has shifted from the majority of Christians living in the global north to the majority of Christians living in the global south. Even though this demographic shift is well documented, there remains a mismatch between global Christian structures and global Christian demographics. The church on mission is to reflect the unity-in-diversity of our triune God. To reflect this unity, a re-balancing of voices is needed, allowing for an exchange of learning across regions, generations, genders, and issues advocacy groups – including sharing between the church, workplace, and academy so that mission matures and truly moves from everyone to everywhere.

Acknowledging this misalignment, this conversation prayerfully explores what is a global polycentric church and what polycentric mission structure looks like, by asking:

Collaboration Questions

- What are necessary actions needed to establish polycentric leadership in mission/church organizations?
- What are necessary actions needed to establish polycentric theological education?
- What are necessary actions needed to establish polycentric efforts that include men and women?
- What are necessary actions needed to establish polycentric (fill in the blank)?

Sub-Topics

- Polycentric leadership (regions, men and women, generations, etc.)
- Polycentric mission/church organization/business as mission structures
- Polycentric theological education

Preparation before Seoul 2024

Please read these sections of the State of the Great Commission Report:

- Introduction from the Theology Working Group
- Part I, on the State of the Great Commission globally, captured by text and graphics
- Part II, with the article on 'Polycentric Global Missions', also drawing on 'Rise of Asia', 'Rise of Africa' and 'Majority World Mission Movements'
- Part III for your particular region in which you primarily work or serve in church or parachurch