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# A CHURCH WITH A MISSION: STRATEGIES FOR CREATING INTERNAL PEACE CONTEXT SERVICE CONGREGATION

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## ABSTRACT

*This article examines the concept of a missionary church as the fundamental identity of the Christian community in bringing peace amidst a world marked by injustice, conflict, and suffering. In the context of ministry, the mission of the Church is expressed not only through verbal proclamation of the Gospel but also through concrete actions that reflect Christ's love and compassion for others. However, in practice, various challenges often hinder both the Church and its members from fully carrying out their faith responsibilities as faithful witnesses of Christ. Therefore, this article highlights the importance of Special Ministers – such as pastors, elders, religious teachers, and deacons – who are entrusted and equipped to lead, shepherd, and foster the spiritual growth of the congregation. The purpose of this study is to provide a theological and practical understanding of how the Church should position itself as a fellowship that embodies and brings peace to God's people through ministries grounded in Christ's love. Utilizing a qualitative approach through literature review, the article emphasizes that the presence of a missionary church within the fellowship is not only spiritually essential but also serves as a transformative means for realizing God's peace in communal life.*

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**KEYWORDS:** Church, Mission, Peace, Ministry.

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

Presence Church No can separated from in essence as called fellowship. For serve fellow. Service the No only intended to congregation, but also to the world beyond spacious. Inside there is various the servant who runs function calls, such as deacons, elders, pastors, and religious teachers. Each waiter own the same longing, namely present a growing church in faith, to be blessings, and display character Christ in life together. Longing This in line with God's own will, who desires His church is growing grow up and become witness His presence in the midst of the world (Eph. 4:11-13).

In context development today's social and cultural aspects – which are marked with plurality, change value, and challenge modern life – Church sued For become room growing healthily, rooted, and relevantly. Church No may become a "dying church," namely the lost church dynamics spiritual, loss direction call, or stuck in a routine without spirituality. Church must become means formation character Christ in self-congregation, so that capable present peace peace (shalom) Allah in various aspect life. As Brunner emphasized, "the Church exists by mission, just as fire exists by burning", the Church There is because mission; without mission Church lost his identity (Brunner in Dyness, 2001).

Jesus' Mission Christ become base main for Church in understand task his call. Presence Jesus in the world brought news good and safety for man as well as all over creation. In Prayer Jesus in John 17, God's mission is revealed in a way clear: world – with all its complexity – to be focus work God's salvation. Because that, theology mission No only learn concept, but also emphasizes implementation word through action real Church in society. Throughout history, Church has understand calling this and formulate it in "Tritugas" Church": Koinonia, Marturia, and Diakonia (Singgih, 1997; Harianto, 2017; Van Engen, 1996).

First, Koinonia (communion) emphasizes life together as body Christ in the work of the Holy Spirit. Through koinonia, the congregation called build intimate relationship with God and supportive relationships between members congregation. In the present, when public face challenge individualism, conflict social, and alienation relational, the role of koinonia is increasingly vital. Fellowship is not just association, but rather place where the congregation each other support, worship, praise God, pray together, and build healthy spiritual life.

Second, Marturia (testimony) is form calling Church For become witnesses of Christ. Church No only called For convey the word of God through

pulpit, but also displays testimony living in the middle society. The Great Commandment in Matthew 28:19-20 affirms obligation Church in to report Gospel and discipleship all nation. In modern life, which is marked by with moral disruption and secularism, marturia Church sued become light and salt, reflecting God's universal love as written in John 3:16. Man is focus main love of God, and the Church called for state love That in a way real (Hartanto, 2017:272).

Third, Diakonia (service) emphasizes action concrete love. Church called carry out pastoral care and helping people in need, oppressed, and marginalized. Diakonia does not only nature charitable, but also transformative – encouraging change social, empowering congregation, and build welfare together (James 2:15-17; Acts 4:32-35). In the context of challenge economy, inequality social, as well as increasing group vulnerable in society, diaconal services are increasingly become need urge for a missionary church.

Third task church this must executed in a way balanced. When the Church only highlight ritual aspects (marturia) without support fellowship or service social, Church easy trapped in spiritual exclusivism. On the other hand, when Church only emphasize service social without foundation strong spiritual, service the lost direction theologically. Therefore that, the Church must designing a service strategy that is integral, contextual, and transformation - oriented congregation as well as public. Arbuckle (1993) asserts that Church need own clear vision and mission for realize calling ecclesiastical in a way effective and efficient. Vision and mission the must communicated continuously to all over congregation to stick together in life they every day (Sirait, 2011; Nainggolan & Hasugian, 2019). With Thus, the Church capable become A church with a mission, presenting peace peace of God, and bring update life in the context of the times that continues changed.

## 2. RESEARCH METHODS

This study use approach qualitative with method studies literature and analysis theological, because focus main study is dig understanding conceptual, biblical, and theological about Missionary church and strategies to realize peace prosperous in service congregation. Approach qualitative chosen Because capable reveal meaning, value, and essence experience spiritual in context service ecclesiastical, as Creswell (2018) stated that study qualitative aim understand phenomenon in a way deep through analysis interpretive research theology also requires

meaning deep to text, tradition church, and practice service so that approach qualitative become the most appropriate method. Research data obtained through analysis documents and studies literature to primary and secondary sources, including Bible, book theology, documents ecclesiastical, articles journals and academic writings related mission, service, and leadership church. This model in line with Bowen's (2009) opinion states that analysis document is method effective For identify patterns, themes, and interpretations in study social and religious. Literature theological from the authors like Banawiratha (1977), Harianto (2017), Barth-Frommel (2010), and contemporary writings about mission church used as base For enrich analysis conceptual, data analysis process, research This use technique analysis content analysis for interpret idea theological and practical service church in a way systematic analysis content help researchers browse themes main like *missio Dei*, role waiter special, the dynamics of the Holy Spirit, and the concept peace prosperous in service congregation. Krippendorff (2019) emphasized that analysis content allows researchers interpret text with valid and objective way for understand context social and spiritual of object research. Through technique here, the data is analyzed in a way thematic For produce comprehensive and integrative understanding. Data validation is carried out through triangulation source, namely compare findings from various literature theology classic, document synod, and research contemporary about mission church. Patton (2015) stated that triangulation strengthen reliability study qualitative because allows verification cross-sources and prevent subjectivity researchers. In addition, reflection theological done for ensure that interpretation every draft still in line with principles faith Bible - based Christianity (Khoiruman, 2025). In a way overall, method study This designed For produce understanding comprehensive about How Church can operate his call as A church that has mission and fulfillment peace prosperous in service congregation. With blend analysis literature, approach theological, and reflection contextual, research This expected capable give contribution for development theology practical and improvement quality service church today.

### 3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

#### 3.1. Research Result

##### 3.1.1. Missionary Church as the Fundamental Identity of the Church

Study results in a way consistent confirm that

identity deepest Church is Missionary church. Church No can understood solely as formal institutions or prayer room, but rather as the community that is "called" out" (*ekklesia*) and was sent out For present peace peace of God in the midst society. Identity missionary this is base existence Church, so that all over activities and structures ecclesiastical in essence must oriented towards God's mission (*missio Dei*). This in line with testimony The Bible, especially in Matthew 5:13-16, which confirms calling church as salt and light of the world – namely a community that provides sense, direction, and light for life social.

Study This in line with thinking theological Banawiratha (1977) and Harianto (2017) who saw mission No just activity additional, but identity base Church as the body of Christ. With thus, peace prosperous No stop as draft spiritual, but become mandate For work in a way real in context social, economic, and spiritual aspects of the congregation. Church called for become agent transformation, bringing reconciliation, solidarity and justice in reality public contemporary. Findings this confirm that growing church is moving church to external, not those trapped in internal ritualism.

##### 3.1.2. Dynamics of the Holy Spirit and Transformation Form Church

The study also found that mission church always nature dynamic. From the story church prime in Acts of the Apostles, seen that the Holy Spirit leads church enter room new culture, crossing ethnic boundaries, traditions, and structures social (Acts 10:44-48; 11:1-15). Findings This confirm that church No can endure in form static service, but rather must Keep going read context of the times, understanding need society, as well as brave adapt approach service without sacrificing the essence of the Gospel.

Study results show that the dynamics of the Holy Spirit make it possible church respond change social – start from challenge modernization, digitalization

, to fragmentation social issues that arise in various layer community. Church on a mission is sensitive church spiritually, but at a time adaptive to condition culture. With Thus, the service church No only based on tradition, but also on creativity spiritual for bring news Good in relevant and transformative ways.

##### 3.1.3. Church as Community Missionary

Analysis study show that Church No only place gather, but the community that was sent For bringing God's shalom. The mandate of discipleship in

Matthew 28:19–20 and the sending in John 20:21 it is affirmed that all over member congregation, not only leader church, has not quite enough answer in work mission. findings This deepen understanding that church missionary No relying on strength One figure, but is fellowship mutually participatory equip.

Church as community missionary build culture collaborative service, where each gift spiritual functioning For build body Christ and reaching out community. Service love, testimony life, empowerment economics, mentoring emotional, until involvement social is expression that mission church covers spiritual renewal at the same time transformation social. Findings This confirm that church only can realize peace prosperous when all over congregation involved active in service.

### **3.1.4. Roles of Special Ministers: Pastors, Religious Teachers, Elders, and Deacons**

#### **1. Pastor**

Study show that pastor is figure central in form spirituality and direction service church. As teacher, shepherd, and leader spiritual, pastor responsible answer look after integrity theological, ethical services, as well as health spiritual congregation. Gaylor Noyce (2019) emphasized that pastoral leadership must rooted in integrity, exemplary behavior, and willingness For serve, as exemplary Jesus (Mark 10:45).

#### **2. Religious Teacher**

Religious teachers have role strategic in education faith and formation character spiritual congregation. Through systematic teaching and coaching, religious teachers help congregation own understanding mature theology For face changing times. Barth-Frommel's (2010) thinking strengthens findings this, that education faith is foundation spirituality healthy congregation.

#### **3. Elder**

Study results show that elders hold role important in supervision spiritual, shepherding House ladder congregation, as well as guard life ethical community. Abineno (2018) emphasized that service elders is representation presence a concrete and close church with life congregation daily.

#### **4. Deacon**

Deacon functioning as waiter love that handles aspect social and diaconal. Partridge (1983) emphasizes that deacon realize God's love through service practical, helpful need

congregation, and empower those who are weak.

Fourth position This Work in a way collegial form The Congregation Council, which became structure integral service for realize mission church in a way holistic.

#### **5. Principles Healthy Church Leadership**

Findings study identify four principle the main thing that forms leadership healthy church:

- a) Distribution not quite enough answer, so that the service No relying on one figure.
- b) Plurality leadership, as form humility heart and accountability.
- c) Qualification spiritual, affirming importance integrity and spiritual maturity of the leader.
- d) Service orientation, rooted in exemplary behavior Christ.
- e) Principles This reflect leadership model a collaborative, transparent, and community-oriented church mission, so that church can present peace prosperous in more context wide.

#### **6. Jesus as the Chief Shepherd: Leadership Model Waiter**

One of core findings of study This is that all over form service church culminating in an example Jesus as the Great Shepherd (John 10:14–16). Jesus show three character main leadership that becomes pattern base church:

- a) He know and love His people personally.
- b) He give self, even sacrifice for safety His flock.
- c) He call people outside cage, as form an inclusive and embracing mission all nation.

Leadership healthy church is imitative leadership the pattern of Christ – a willing leader serving, strengthening, embracing, and sacrificing for the sake of life congregation.

#### **7. Service as The Form of Peace and Prosperity**

Study show that service church is means present peace God 's peace. Sincere service, not look for benefits, as well as based on humility heart is form real from Christian spirituality (1 Peter 5:2–3). Peace (shalom) becomes real through service social, diakonia, discipleship, pastoral counseling, and formation character.

Church on a mission No only convey Gospel through words, but through transformation life: caring for the poor, accompanying the injured, and building harmony in society. With Thus, the service church become sign the presence of God in reality man.

#### **8. Implications for The Church Today**

Findings study give a number of implications significant:

- a. Church must put forward spirituality missionary, not just ritualism.
- b. Waiter special need Keep going increase capacity spiritual and professional.
- c. Service church must relevant with challenges of the times – poverty, conflict social, digital disruption, and needs emotional congregation.
- d. Participation active all over congregation become key success mission church.

Missionary church is a church that does not only present for himself alone but present for the world – to bring healing, teaching, empowerment, and peace prosperous for all circles.

#### 4. DISCUSSION

Research results show that the identity of the Church as a missionary church is the main foundation of all its activities and services within the congregation. The findings strengthen both classical and contemporary theological thinking that the Church is not intended to be a static institution, but rather a living community that is sent by God. Perspective This in line with draft *missio Dei* as put forward by Bosch (2011), that mission is God's work is done through His people to present renewal and peace prosperous in the world. Church, inside context this is God's means to bless the world through service rooted in love. Various modern research also confirms the same thing. Gibbs and Bolger (2013) stated that church missionary the 21st century is a capable church read context social, open to dynamics change, and move beyond traditional pastoral approach that only focused on internal services. With Thus, the results study This strengthen literature previously that mission is not one of them aspect service church, but is its essence. The dynamics of the Holy Spirit as driving force main missions also appear as findings significant. In the study In this, the movement of the Holy Spirit is understood as driving force church For go out from the comfort zone going to more involvement wide in life society. These results consistent with Roxburgh's research (2021), which emphasizes that modern church must Study become a "community" reader context sensitive to signs of the times, so that capable interpret return form the service without lost substance Gospel. Thought this is also in line with Ahn and Kim (2022), who through study they about Asian churches show that responsive church to dynamics socio-economic capable expand impact mission with more effective. Findings study this also enriches discourse that mission Church No only move to outside in a way geographically, but move to in – arranging repeat structure, leadership, and ethos services to be able to realize peace prosperous

in context complex social.

Study the previous also shows that service effective church depends on quality leadership servant Norrington (2015) underlines that leadership healthy church No built on authority structural only but on character, integrity, and ability for lead through exemplary behavior. Research results This expand understanding said, with show that pastors, elders, religious teachers, and deacons own role strategic in mission whole church. Each office No stand alone, but Work in relation interdependent as One body. Pastor led teaching and shepherding, religious teachers form maturity faith, elders operate supervision spiritual, and deacon turn on service love through diaconal work. Approach collegial This consistent with Escobar's study (2020), which states that modern church needs pattern leadership collaborative for face fragmentation social and increasing pastoral needs. Through results study this, can see that service healthy church is imitation service pattern Christ – loving, serving, sacrificing, and reaching out those who are marginalized.

Findings research also shows that modern church face challenge new, like modernization, digital flow, conflict social, and increasing need emotional congregation. Challenges This need form better service contextual. Paas (2019) emphasized that churches in the modern era need develop approach service based capable community answer social problems, not only provide service liturgical. Based on results study this church called for expand mission peace prosperous with strengthening diakonia, pastoral care, empowerment economy congregation, and efforts respond gap social. Missionary church No can only rely on worship and teaching, but must become center recovery social, healing psychological, and advocacy justice above all in context communities facing crisis value and pressure economy.

#### 5. CONCLUSION

Church called for present as agent peace God's prosperity in the midst of an ever-changing world wrestling with injustice, conflict, and suffering. Identity as carrier peace move Church For always put forward not quite enough answer faith through full service love, hope, and sincerity heart. In the call this, Church sued become carrier news good as well as source joy for life people and society wide. Therefore, the Church need own a clear, strong, and transformative vision and mission so that capable update congregation to direction maturity spiritual, moral, and social. All forms service and updates the must sourced of Christ, who became base peace

prosperity and foundation main life ecclesiastical. As the body of Christ, the Church accept mandate divine for become salt and light to the world through testimony life and action real. When peace God's peace is brought in fellowship, church will grow become a mature, strong, and capable community answer challenges of the times. Growth The true church only happens when Church life in calling his missionary, namely do sending and evangelism as an integral part of his identity. Evangelism is task all over inhabitant Church, while service special run by

selected Special Servants in a way official for carry out task leadership spiritual with loyalty and integrity. The servants This must understand with Really not quite enough answer they as witness Christ who was sent for serve and guide people. With Thus, the Church become God's means to convey Gospel Christ to the world, where the center from all processes of preaching and evangelism is Jesus alone who continues proclaimed so that everyone experiences love gifts and renewal live in Him.

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