UK Regional Gospel Partnerships (RGPs)

Ministry Convictions and Motivations for Partnership

1. Ministry convictions

In addition to shared doctrinal convictions, the RGPs also share certain common ministry convictions that motivate commitment to partnership and enable the partnerships to function effectively.

The following expresses some of the core values that we hold in common.

1. That establishing, securing and growing healthy local churches is central to God's saving purposes in the world.
2. That the verbal message of the gospel of Christ and him crucified is the only foundation and the essential means of growth and multiplication of healthy local churches.
3. That the Word of God (the Bible) must have a real, practical and ruling centrality in the daily life of the local church.
4. That biblical exposition is the primary ministry of the word which sustains and promotes all other forms of healthy ministry (including the full range of speaking and serving ministries).
5. That working regional partnerships between local churches (that transcend denominational and other divides on the basis of core doctrinal unity) are not only possible without sinful compromise, but positively valuable in advancing the gospel and growing the church.

2. Motivations for Partnership

Fundamentally all genuine gospel partnership is motivated by sharing in God's grace through our Lord Jesus Christ. However, our networking together as RGPs is also aided by a degree of shared understanding regarding the particular value that we see in forming RGPs.

Our common understanding is that the RGPs provide:

1. A means of stimulating and sustaining ownership of responsibility amongst the churches for gospel advance in their regions.
2. A means of helping churches cooperate (coordinating activities and sharing resources) in their gospel mission in the region (for example in training leaders, evangelism, and church planting).
3. A means of sharing good practice in healthy gospel ministry in the regional contexts, including disseminating good practice from national and specialist bodies.
4. A means of promoting and sustaining relationships of mutual support and accountability between leaders (and to some extent churches) that counter isolation and isolationism and help to keep people (and churches) going in healthy gospel ministry.
5. A means of affirming an identity that clarifies and communicates where churches and ministers stand and what they stand for within broader evangelicalism.
6. A means of demonstrating a visible and active unity between churches that commends the gospel before a watching world.

In stating these benefits, it is recognised that each RGP will have its own vision and priorities at any given time and the extent and manner that these beneficial outcomes are pursued and/or realized will vary between gospel partnerships and change over time.

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