

An Orientation Paper
on
Evangelism and Church Development Program
of the
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST IN THE PHILIPPINES

1. Evangelism is an integral part of the Church's Mission. Our concern is for the whole creation, which includes the total person, being the primary actor as stewards.

As a program, Evangelism and Church Development primarily focused its efforts on re-strengthening weak churches, development from an outreach to a full-fledged local church, and church planting.

2. Evangelism is implemented based on the concept accepted by the participating churches and individuals.

There are five (5) concepts being embraced by the UCCP churches.

- a. Conservative or Traditional
- b. Integrated Evangelism
- c. Evangelism with Coherence and Integrity
- d. Socio-political view of Evangelism
- e. Integral Evangelization

3. The local church is the primary locus of mission-evangelism.

Gospel proclamation, by words and deeds, is the local church's responsibility; not church workers only, but the whole church. It means every member participates or has a share in the evangelization program of the church that everyone may spiritually grow through it. Since it is local church based, UCCP has no national evangelist, without preventing conferences to have one.

4. Church planting should be realistically planned to ensure sustained implementation till local church is established and recognized long range, annual, and activity plans have to be prepared for a much easier implementation, monitoring and evaluation. A group of believers even how big its membership is could not be recognized as a local church within a year or two, as others do, because our Constitution and By-Laws requires not only quantitative but more so qualitative growth of the body.

5. Evangelism is planned and implemented in the spirit of ecumenism. Efforts are focused on the unchurched/non-churched or inactive churchgoers, without any direct or indirect coercive activities, to avoid proselytism. The more ecumenical a church is the more evangelistic she should be.

6. Evangelism program is primarily supported with local means, without prejudice to external support or from foreign partners.

Big sister church relationship, district sponsorship, and others are used to support the program.

7. Church planting is not the end-goal but simply an initial stage in kingdom-building. A community of faith is established in different communities to serve as seeds of the kingdom that transformation of both church and society be realized.