

# God's Nature

Howard Wagler, Lead  
Pastor  
Journey Mennonite Church

# **TWO ESSENTIALS**

“Nature of God”

“Nature of the Church  
God is looking for”

God is a *Missionary/Sending*  
God, and works  
through a  
*Missionary* Church.



➤ Missions

➤ Missionaries

# From Cover to Cover

- Abraham - Genesis 12:1-4
- Moses - Exodus 3:1-15
- Isaiah - Isaiah 6:8, 61:1-3
- John the Baptist - Malachi 3:1
- Jesus - Luke 4:18-20, John 20:21
- The Church - Acts 13:2-3

# ISAIAH

Then I heard a voice in the of  
the

Lord saying, “Whom shall I  
**send**?

And who will go for us?” And I  
said “Here am I **send me!**”

## HE HAS.....

- **sent** me to proclaim good news to the poor.
- **sent** me to bind up the brokenhearted.
- **sent** me to proclaim freedom for the captives.
- **sent** me to release the prisoners from darkness.
- **sent** me to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.
- **sent** me to comfort all who mourn.

(taken from Isaiah 61:1-3)

## HE HAS.....

- **sent** me to provide for those who grieve in Zion.
  - **sent** me to give them a crown of beauty inside of ashes.
  - **sent** me to bestow on them the oil of joy instead of morning
  - **sent** me to give them a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair.
- (taken from Isaiah 61:1-3)





# God on Mission

# Reformation Heritage View

1. The preaching of the Word
2. The administering of the Sacraments...
3. The proper exercise of church discipline

# Contemporary View

This is the most popular view in the America church today. This view sees the church as a “vendor of religious goods and services.”

Members see themselves as customers to be taken care of.

Missionary problem: 35-40% of people are open to this form of church




# Missionary View

Central to this view is that  
Followers of Jesus are “called/sent”  
to participate in God’s redemptive  
mission for the world



# The Church on Mission



We are SENT...to be missionaries  
where we live, work, and play.

-Are there changes you could make to say: *“Here I am, Send me.”*

-Are there changes our church could make for us to say: *“Here we are, Send Us.”*