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INTERACT 2020

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What will life look like in 10 years? None of us can know. Many things could happen that radically impact a church and mission movement like Interact, both positively and negatively. The most important thing is not knowing what Interact will look like in 10 years either. The important thing is to be faithful to Jesus Christ through the life of discipleship he has called us to.

On the other hand, we believe that it is required of good leadership to ask questions regarding what is happening, what we hope will characterize us and what challenges we are able to currently see. We have listened to each other in order to find the words that answer these questions and present them in a simple document like this one. We want to help each other to see more clearly and enable proper weighing of our decisions regarding our work as a church and mission movement.

We describe our identity more thoroughly in the document, “EFKs tro- och självförståelse.” Interact 2020 will, in other words, not answer the question of who we are, but rather the question about the challenges that lie ahead of us.

OUR CHALLENGES ...

- church-life often gets set aside for our individual projects
- young people, to a large degree, give up faith in the church and even in God as they approach adulthood
- a whole generation is now growing up in Sweden without having heard the gospel
- the church in the North has not developed in the same way as the church in the South and for that reason we must view Sweden as a mission field
- international mission has not always had the obvious place that it should have in the church and many Christians feel hesitant about the task of mission with Jesus being the only way
- the situations in the world that are marked by oppression, poverty, lack of human rights and large people groups that don't know Jesus
- that we see God's creation exploited in many different ways throughout the world and that environmental problems are increasing in dimension
- that we have not made the most of the opportunity that comes from the new multi-cultural society

WE WANT TO SEE ...

- **Growth** – that many more will live with Jesus as Lord and Savior
- **Renewal** – we want to encourage new ways of being church with the purpose of reaching new people with the gospel

- **Depth** – where the Bible read in fellowship with others helps us to live the life of faith
- **Leadership** – where leaders dare to give direction and actively equip others to minister
- **Zeal for mission** – that every church is actively involved in mission locally as well as globally
- **Consciousness of calling** – that each and every one understands his/her calling and is prepared to go in and wholeheartedly serve in the life of the church and mission
- **Increased cooperation** – we want to be generous towards, and committed to, other Christians here at home and around the world in the Great Commission
- **Rejuvenation** – that young generations become wholehearted disciples of Jesus on their way into adulthood with increasing responsibility

WE WANT TO CHALLENGE...

- our own secularization
- our own inclination to choose what is comfortable instead of what we know is the path of faith
- our own indifference or lack of urgency for those who have not heard the gospel
- our own insecurity to talk about our faith
- ourselves and our society to greater ownership for local and global justice, peace, fighting poverty and sustainable development
- ourselves to pursue practical initiatives for the marginalized in our own community
- our generation's individualization and privatization of faith

WE WANT TO MAINTAIN...

- diversity of expression with unity in the important questions of identity
- intellectual reflection with all of the Spirit's gifts practiced
- the life of the Spirit and commitment with strong social involvement
- pursuit of sending out with the openness for ourselves to receive

WE WANT TO BE CHARACTERIZED BY...

- **Fascination** – for Jesus and his church
- **Bold witnessing** – where we often and with joy share what Jesus is doing in our lives

- **Life of the Spirit** – where the gifts of the Spirit are practiced without prestige, with an honest longing to discern God’s voice and to see God’s power for transformation of lives
- **Room for vulnerability** – where we meet life’s injustices and our own and other’s failures with the same care that Jesus did
- **Sending** – where we continue to send out people and resources for the expansion of God’s kingdom throughout the world
- **Expectation** – both for what God wants to do right here and now and the great breakthrough for God’s kingdom when Jesus returns
- **Persevering prayer** – as an expression for our constant dependency on God

WE WANT TO SEE THE RESULT OF THIS BEFORE THE YEAR 2020 IN THE FORM OF...

- the number of baptisms in Interact churches numbers over 1000 per year (currently 500)
- that we have planted 75 new churches (about 45 since 1997)
- that more than 75 of our churches look back on a five-year period of over 10% growth in membership (now about 55, newly planted and fusions not counted)
- that the number involved in children and youth ministries is more than 20,000 (current about 16,700)
- that the number of individuals sent out by Interact into international mission amounts to 150
- that the percentage of those with international background in our movement reflects society as a whole (currently 5-7% vs. 17-19% in society)
- that collections within the movement per member reflect tithing
- that our local and international work trains disciples for Jesus, changes negative societal structures, breaks down injustices and fights poverty in a significant way

OUR VISION: "GROWING CHURCHES BRINGING THE WHOLE GOSPEL TO THE WHOLE PERSON THROUGHOUT THE WHOLE WORLD"