Local Church: Worldwide Nature Small Group Report

Key Quote:

Part B

1. The United Methodist Church is a worldwide connectional church. Why and in which ways is this relevant in your context?

Input and Perspectives:

- Woman and children are neglected in areas. Boca oram take men, persecution is real
- Helps us to face poverty worldwide, helps connect with my local church
- The key is to learn together
- We are from all walks of life
- The key is to build relationships with love and acceptance
- The church helps us to be in mission worldwide. The challenge is that some want to write a check and not do mission - locally or worldwide
- We share the same gospel, same living God for all context, all ages and unity for the global community
- The Church in Tango is very young, not strong, needs evangelism so people will believe. The church’s challenge is evangelizing people who have been parts of other churches.
- The church sponsors many projects - choirs
- We are one another’s keepers
- To spread social holiness and scriptural holiness
- The church needs to see bigger than the US community, to the whole world. The opportunities for ministry are world-wide.
- Serving multi-cultural congregations, sharing Christ’s love for all
- ‘Therefore Go’ We have the mission to go evangelize throughout the world.
- How do you confirm the United Methodist Church is truly connectional? The world is changing, people are changing...
- John 3:16 - Means we are to take Christ to the ‘whole’ world
- For me, when you speak of the church, I see Jesus Christ, when I think of Jesus, I think of a savior, a place of safety, and we need the Holy Spirit.
Jesus needs us so we have to manifest ourselves in him.

Our home church can have people from many countries from around the world, those people can come to the UMC because our mission is the same around the world.

Small churches can benefit through the connection we find ideas and ways to serve around the world, it can give us purpose and direction in the church.

In places the UMC returned in the 90’s so the relations are good, but struggles with many foreign students in our areas.

The small/local/rural church struggles with the concept of a global church.

The local church can give funds to the larger church to make a difference around the world (2)

The connection - money can help from a children’s group in Sierra Leone to Katrina relief.

Clergy/Laity can serve around the world to help where the church needs it.

Helps us to see how we are knit together when the spirit of Jesus Christ captures us and makes us one.

We need to move from an institution back to a movement.

The apportionments help with education and people.

The UMC helps us to provide and be in ministry with places beyond our neighborhoods in places that we couldn't reach on our own.

It invites the church into our community, expanding what we are able to do.

The UMC equips us to be more contextual and missional in our local community.

The UMC encourages us to put our verbal faith into tangible action, ex. Schools, hospitals, empowering the poor.

The UMC helps us from being self-centered as we see a world bigger than us, ex. Expanding God’s Kingdom together.
2. In light of our commitment to be a world-wide connectional church, what is most important for a truly worldwide General Book of Discipline that undergirds and empowers the mission of the entire United Methodist Church?

Response:
- It should provide order, but as a tool to encourage and empower ministry (3)
- It should honor the connection, while also honoring the specific cultural needs of the mission fields (2)
- It should focus on the Grace of Jesus Christ
- It should must value diversity and relationships in small groups
- It should be more of a mission statement and less rigid with old ‘Dutch rules’
- It should keep us Wesleyan (scriptural holiness, Holy Spirit for interpretation) and grounded in Christ (3)

- **It orders the church, it is a gift for accountability within the church**
- Unity for the global community is very important

- **It needs to be translated into more languages so all can read it (4)**

- It should be bible based and aware of culture
- It should have the same standards for clergy - with bishops (not congregational)
- We need to face equity over gender
- What must a worldwide Book of Discipline include?
- We need to have access to the current book of discipline (2)
- What can US do to start the process to help those in Africa get what they need?

- Wesley would say - Scripture
- Methodism did not grow because of BOD - but as a people’s movement on fire for Christ

- Some don’t even know about the BOD
- The book of discipline should not be seen as a bible
- Some do not want separate BOD’s but to be a single church
- The covenant is the thing that unites us
- It should help to keep outside ideologies from impacting our churches
- The original BOD was small, now committees update it to try and solve things and it doesn’t always work

- Do no harm, do good, stay in love with God - **Our language is important. Our global language should show connection and partnership**