1) The UMC is a world-wide connectional church. Why and in which ways is this relevant in your context?

The local church didn’t create Wesleyan doctrine; it’s been handed down through generations. This historic theology is important. It puts one out into the world because of the ancestors. We all share the common thread.

The world is my parish as Wesley said, therefore it is ours.

The UMC reflects different races and ethnicities through the worldwide connection with those who are different from us (socio-economic, racial, national etc) when we come together as Methodists. (x3)

If we are connectional, we need to have one discipline to stay connected as a church. (x2)

Social Principals bind us and project what Methodism is.

Doctrine of Grace – Not what we’ve done but what God will do and is doing. Grace is most important. (x2)

In small UMCs in other countries, it is a sense of family – we can see the church is growing in the world.

Young adults in the UMC can see the rest of the world and the global suffering – they see themselves become part of the whole. (x2)

It’s like connecting the dots.

Technology connects us in a way that makes the world seem smaller.

Best practices can spread throughout the world.

We are brothers and sisters united in Christ. No matter how small a church is, earthquakes, tsunamis, etc – We do mission with the suffering through connections like UMCOR and Imagine No Malaria and make the love of Christ known. (x5)

“Thy kingdom come, thy will be done.” – we are tied together by God’s Kingdom not only our individual countries, cultures – it’s not about us, it’s about god. It has to be God’s church, not us taking a little piece of us for ourselves.

We can do more through connections than by ourselves.

We have the same objectives in Christ.

We need to get rid of stereotypes and see ourselves as connected.

In connection we can pray over problems in other parts of the world.

All countries, not just the US, serving the world in relationship, not just one-way mission. (x2)

The United Methodist Church serves a purpose of welcome and connection as migration carries people into an ever more diverse world. They find the UMC waiting for them!

Global connection reminds US churches to move beyond their self-centered comfort zone.
2. In light of our commitment....

This process should have primary management outside the United States. (x2)

The Bible is the one book that can help us all, not a Book of Discipline written by humans; that should guide us, then one country or individual won’t dominate and we won’t be forced into one cookie-cutter pattern for all. (x4)

Each district should send a missionary to work somewhere else, all missionaries shouldn’t come from the US.

**Previously missionaries were church planters; now it should be about living together.**

“Less is more,” keep it flexible, BUT how do we decide what is essential? (x2)

In the church we should pattern ourselves after the example of Christ, also taking what is positive from different earthly cultures, loving as Christ loved, and remaining in unity. (x3)

Taking care of immediate needs must be combined with justice; love must be the foundation.

**We need a Global Book of Discipline that helps us celebrate growing diversity in our global connection, not one that limits and penalizes diversity.** (x2)

The Book of Discipline should not be reduced to addressing smaller purposes.

We have to be careful not to take scripture out of context.

Writing a Book of Discipline for a large, diverse entity with as many cultures and languages as the UMC is a daunting task.

**The Book of Discipline should show the foundations we agree on and let change occur within wide cultural contexts, but still resting on the solid foundation. Imagine everyone getting a ball of dough; the dough is made up of elements we all agree on, but let each culture/country stamp out their own design.**

The Book of Discipline is an answer-center, but does not take into account different contexts and cultures.