

Dear Saints on a Mission,

The mission of the United Methodist Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. The Book of Discipline notes that “local churches provide the most significant arena through which disciple-making occurs”. Through the leadership of clergy and lay persons, individuals come face to face with those who have taken on the mantle of Christian discipleship, become acquainted with Christian service to others and the sustaining benefits of prayer, acquired an understanding of the great connectional relationship each church has with other local churches, and been taken into the faith through baptism and profession of faith. The local church is made stronger by the linkages formed by the United Methodist Church. United Methodists worldwide are able to recognize that though we are of different cultures, we are able to function as one body through the United Methodist connection.

The primary tasks of the Church are summarized in the Book of Discipline as follows: “the heart of Christian ministry is Christ’s ministry of outreaching love...all Christians are called through their baptism to this ministry of servanthood in the world to the glory of God and for human fulfillment”. Christians are called to empty themselves for others so that God’s love will be realized. In the face of a hurting world, Christians recognize that they are called to go to the ends of the earth without hesitation or reservation.

We are also called to faithful stewardship of the world. This faithful stewardship involves taking hold of the Christian life in such a way that there is no doubt about our purpose or who we serve. When others hurt, we hurt. When the world is broken, we too are broken.

Through prevenient grace our hearts are opened to an understanding that all, whether they realize it or not, are led by the Holy Spirit. We are commissioned to show them the way through our words and actions. We are called to lead others to acceptance of the workings of the Holy Spirit and knowledge of God’s will. The Church can show that service is a manifestation of the leading of the Holy Spirit and therefore an affirmation of God’s call to sacrificial unconditional love.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Dennis