

May 31, 2019 – Dr. Mosser's Blog

What is a Methodist?

As we approach Annual Conference in a few weeks, the above question is perhaps on our minds. A de-commissioned comic once said about Methodists on National Public Radio:

We make fun of Methodists for their blandness, their excessive calm, their fear of giving offense, their lack of speed, and also for their secret fondness for macaroni and cheese.

I do believe this: . . . these Methodists, who love to sing in four-part harmony are the sort of people you can call up when you're in deep distress. If you're dying, they will comfort you. If you are lonely, they'll talk to you. And if you are hungry, they'll give you tuna salad.

Methodists believe in prayer, but would practically die if asked to pray out loud. Methodists usually follow the official liturgy [in worship] and will feel it is their way of suffering for their sins.

All this means that, if we are to count you among their numbers, you will know you are a Methodist when: It's 100 degrees, with 90% humidity, and you still have coffee after the service. You hear something funny during the sermon and smile as loudly as you can. When you watch a Star Wars movie and they say, "May the Force be with you," and you respond, "and also with you."

The Biblical tradition is full of passion both very human and as an expression of the potential intimacy one may have with God. We Methodists may not be flashy, but at least we attempt to be genuine and helpful.

**Come, Worship
Stay, Learn
Go, Serve**