Mike Womack
Lay Delegate to General Conference

I am a life-long, multi-generational Methodist. My great-great-grandmother was baptized into the Methodist Episcopal Church as a baby in 1828. I met my wife in a Methodist youth group in high school (does MYF ring a bell?). I remember clearly when the UMC formed in 1968. So, I have a long association with and devotion to our denomination.

I never expected to be a member of the Indiana General Conference delegation. It is an honor I take very seriously. I feel a keen sense of responsibility to pass on to my 3 children and 8 grandchildren the love for Jesus and his church that was passed down to me by my faithful ancestors.

My fondest desire would be to see continued unity among the people around the world called United Methodists. But I don’t believe unity through institutional structure is a biblical form of unity. There is room in the UMC for diversity of thought and practice, but it should be within the boundaries of the essential beliefs and practices taught in scripture and passed down to us by the early church, the reformers, and John Wesley himself. In United Methodism, only the General Conference has the authority to set and modify those boundaries. Sadly, much of what is taught and practiced in the UMC today is radically outside the boundaries set by General Conference. Our bishops either can’t or won’t take corrective action. As a consequence, our denomination is already effectively divided. Delegates to General Conference 2020, like myself, may be faced with only two real choices – continue our current dysfunctional morass or make the split official by passing a plan of amicable separation.

While all the delegates don’t agree on the solution to our current debate (or even the nature of the problem), I am privileged to be working with committed followers of Jesus who are all seeking to make decisions and take actions, which will be pleasing to Him and will advance His Kingdom on earth and in heaven. What we will decide in the coming year is important. But how we will decide it is also important. Please pray that we will keep Philippians 1:27 in our hearts and minds as we work toward General Conference in early May 2020.

“Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ.”