Delegate Reflection
Rob Fuquay

I am incredibly honored to represent the Indiana Conference at the upcoming 2020 General and Jurisdictional Conferences which are shaping up to be historic gatherings. The stakes could not be higher for the future of our denomination and more importantly for our mission and witness. I am a pastor at heart and have always believed the significance of the United Methodist Church is the local congregation. While our global work to relieve suffering, further education, and advance social justice makes me proud to be a United Methodist, it is the health and vitality of local churches that makes our global ministries effective.

We must reclaim our passion for making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Our mission has been marred by division and infighting. While separation over differences of human sexuality is regretful to me (I think we can remain one church even with our differences, but that’s just me), the time has come to do what we must in order to freely pursue our common mission with unity and focus. I believe we must keep the United Methodist Church in tact while making provision for amicable separation of those groups who believe the time has come to create new Methodist expressions. The recent Protocol of Reconciliation and Grace through Separation seems to be the breakthrough we’ve all been praying for and now wait with anticipation to see how this proposal will make its way into General Conference. If we must separate my commitment is to find a positive, mutually rewarding way to go forward agreeably and support one another as disciples who share the same spiritual heritage.

Such a decision will present more critical challenges to face such as restructuring the church for missional effectiveness, making financial choices that keeps our mission agencies supported, defining what it means to be a global church with contextual freedom, and opening the doors for ALL people regardless of age, race and sexual orientation to have equal participation in the church. In this we will hold in tandem the Good News of God’s grace and the call to holy living.

Nothing about this work has been easy so far. Everything about it holds the potential of new life. I am excited to be a part of helping United Methodists in Indiana and beyond define and live into a new vision of a church with Wesleyan values and “proclaim to every people, tongue and nation that God, in whom they live and move, is love.”