

# Minutes from Indiana UMC Delegation Meeting

## August 14, 9:00-12:00

### Zoom

#### Worship:

- Please read Exodus 15:22-27
- Think and pray about this question: How does this passage describe or inform our work as a delegation?

Let's not frame this time as a time of friends and enemies

-This team is about: listening carefully, seeking to do what is right in God's eyes, and we seek to keep God's commands and decrees- we all don't agree on what these things mean necessarily, but maybe if we trust that the other person has done these 3 things to the best of their ability, that is a way to open dialogue for understanding  
-we have to trust one another because we are still one church, still tasked with a particular way of serving, and we will be a part of an extremely important moment in the life of the church  
-this is way we can think together about it and trust that we have done these things  
-will we be a delegation or two?

#### Knowing one another:

- Our covenant – Christian Conferencing Guidelines (read together) -Russ
  - Accountability – How are we living this?

-Discussion on William's resolution at Annual Conference 2021

#### Knowing our work:

- Jurisdictional Conference November 2021- right not it's scheduled to be in person, but recognizing that it might change. Should know more by the end of August.
- There is financial support for reserves to attend Jurisdictional Conference that will come from the conference
  - Potential agenda items for Jurisdictional Conference: Wayne St. in Fort Wayne
    - Anti-Racism work (Thursday afternoon)
    - Episcopal Leadership – role of bishops, future episcopal areas (Friday morning)
    - Future of the UMC (Friday afternoon)
    - Celebrating retirements (Friday night)
    - Worship
  - And, then Covid...we are waiting to hear if there will be a change from in-person to Zoom.
- Should the Indiana Delegation attend the November 2021 Jurisdictional Conference? – Greg Pimlott- Greg shared a bit of his heart around financially, time-wise, purpose, etc, wondering if it's something we should continue in the future- however, perhaps now is the time to stick together and have faith that God will do something out of "bitter water"
- "A Place for You" – Mary Fridlund, Mike Womack (+information from Aleze)
  - Annual Conference perspective to provide a hospitable welcome that everyone will feel that there is a place for them
  - 45 people attended the Zoom meeting at the end of July
  - goal is to create a way to have conversations, no matter where they land regarding this theological matter
  - beyond that, there are a host of other means that isolate people that will be addressed- gender, race, past decisions
  - discussion around importance of hearing and understanding all perspectives
  - not a platform for caucus groups or other possible denominations
- What has been the impact in our Annual Conference around the Mt. Bethel UMC (Georgia) and the California Korean Church protests? – Mike Womack
  - not a lot of conversation going on about these instances
  - more conversations about "how to survive" and how to stay connected
  - look for ways we continue to be in ministry together

- when these stories make headlines, some of the smaller churches panic- but also provides opportunity for education and helping people understand how we operate in Indiana- we are not taking punitive measures to place pastors based on theological leanings etc.

\*\*\* We will potentially drop to the next segment and return to the following item.

\*\*\* **Everyone** is welcome and invited into the following discussion, however, I also want to be respectful of everyone's time and passions. So, if you are confident you will be aligning with the WCA/GMC, then you are welcome to log off and not be part of this discussion. However, again, everyone is welcome and invited to participate.

- The future United Methodist? What are our hopes and how can we bring encouragement toward those hopes?

\*\*This agenda item was potentially moved to the October meeting date- it was suggested to put some questions before us to be reflecting upon before a conversation occurs

#### **Knowing our opportunities:**

- Updates from Caucus groups?
- Meeting schedule
  - September 18, 9:00-12:00
  - October 9, 9:00-12:00
  - Potential: November 6, 9:00-12:00 (a lot have conflicts)
  - January 22, 9:00-12:00 (this is a CHANGE from a previous date of January 15)
- Other...

\*\*\*At this point I believe it is wise to plan for all these meetings to be via Zoom

**Sending:** Russ

Next meeting September 18, 9-12 on Zoom