

February 5, 2017

Mission Moment

It is undeniable that we live in divisive times, particularly in matters of politics and race. This is not unique to history. In fact, some of John Wesley's last words were written in a letter to an anti-slavery crusader.

While American slavery has gone away, the echo of it continues to be heard. Fear and frustration is still rippling into our present and carrying division along with it. This division goes against the very nature of the gospel and confirms that now is the time for the church to shine the light of Christ's love for all people.

We grow when we lift up and celebrate one another as we are doing this month during Black History Month. Let us celebrate our brothers and sisters in Christ who have worked as pastors and missionaries. We celebrate the faithfulness of those who have served and worshipped in a church that wasn't ready to see them as brothers and sisters until decades later.

One way the United Methodist Church seeks to continue shining light and pursuing unity is through the *Commission on Race and Religion*, which seeks to equip the church in the pursuit of right relationships with God and one another. This important work continues through our giving to the World Service Fund.

Let us celebrate those who have led us toward recognizing we are all created in the image of God and that "together" we are a better reflection of God's creation.