

January 21, 2018

## Mission Moment

Jesus said, "The kingdom of God has come near." What does this kingdom look like and how do we find it?

The kingdom of God does not look like a people divided, nor looks like rule making and gatekeeping. The constant division in our nation and in our world does not resemble the kingdom of God, nor people deciding who is in...and who is out. The kingdom of God happens when Texas or Florida or Puerto Rico floods and people respond with prayer, food and water.

The kingdom of God happens when the church lives out its vow and renounces evil, oppression and wickedness and seeks to be in union with "the Church which Christ has opened to all ages, nations, and races.

One of the seven apportionments in the United Methodist Church is the Interdenominational Cooperation Fund. Our gifts to this fund create opportunities for United Methodists to participate in acting and advocating for global peace and justice alongside others who follow Christ and seek to live as citizens of the kingdom of God in word and deed.

This kingdom of God that Jesus invites all to be a part of is made up of all who believe the Good News Jesus came to earth to bear witness. Our Wesleyan heritage allows us to lean into this spirit of unity, as Wesley put in his sermon, "may we not be of one heart, though we are not of one opinion?"