

July 15, 2018

## Mission Moment

Growing up in a conservative Presbyterian congregation in Korea, In-Sook Hwang loved reading her Bible and she knew God must have a very special purpose in her life.

In 1981, now living in Denver with her husband and 2 children, they struggled to feed their little family.

Hwang found a job as a custodian in a United Methodist church. Expecting people to bring their Bibles to church as they did in her native Korea, she was surprised that most brought a potluck dish instead! She was never invited to eat with the congregation, however, was left to clean up afterwards. She remembered, "For the first time I experienced what it felt like being marginalized."

But, she was thankful for the opportunity to clean God's house and one day while cleaning church windows, God's words shone a light into her darkness. "God called me to be his servant, but not to clean church buildings."

Hwang, who had never seen a clergywoman in her life, accepted God's call to be an ordained pastor. She applied to Seminary, received scholarships and eventually began a 30 year vocation as a United Methodist clergywoman, serving as a pastor and district superintendent in Illinois.

Newly retired, the Rev. In-Sook Hwang exclaimed "Thanks be to God for His amazing grace!"

Yes,..... Thanks be to God! Through United Methodist support of the ***Ministerial Education Fund***, our denomination's 13 seminaries help students like Hwang discover their calling.