

March 5, 2017

Mission Moment

John Wesley is credited with saying "I want the whole Christ for my Savior, the whole Bible for my book, the whole Church for my fellowship and the whole world for my mission field." Early on, it seems that Wesley had an idea that unity and wholeness were important in Scripture, as well as in the Church.

It is in this spirit that our United Methodist Church has organized itself in such a way that the church has a method of maintaining unity. That involves appointing people to keep an eye on the direction and unity of the church. Those doing this important work are our bishops.

Bishops are elected clergy who are charged with the task of working toward unity in the whole church.

Our pastors are charged with teaching and preaching the Word, proclaiming the gospel and equipping the people of God with Scripture.

In The United Methodist Church, our bishops hold the responsibility of placing and supporting pastors in local churches, as well as unifying the church. Our generous giving toward our apportionments---specifically gifts to the Episcopal Fund---supports the work of the bishops.

When we support our bishops, they are able to lead us in engaging in ministry with the poor, improving global health, developing principled Christian leaders and creating new and renewing congregations.