

By now you've heard about the most recent postponement of General Conference. To say that many people are frustrated with that decision would be a serious understatement. 2022 was supposed to be the year Methodism got *unstuck*. It was supposed to be the year like-minded disciples were granted opportunities to fully live into the Spirit's leading and in some cases, to participate in fresh, vibrant movements of Methodism. The most recent General Conference delay has produced understandable disappointment, yet there remains ample reason for optimism and excitement. God is on the move, and delays and discouragements should not deter us from our mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ. As we wait for the unfolding of God's plans in God's time, now is the season to cultivate a fresh commitment to spread the good news of Jesus throughout the world.

One of the exciting visions of the coming Methodism movement is a commitment to global missions. This vision takes seriously the Great Commission in Matthew 28: 16-20, as well as the divine imperative in Acts 1:8 that compels the disciples to witness to the Savior's life-giving activity in "*...Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.*"

Quite simply these words call the church to be in mission wherever the Spirit of God may lead, and every local church should prioritize both local and global missional partnerships. I'm deeply committed to the work of global missions because God has used such ministry to transform my life and deepen my faith. I've found global missions to be a means of grace that God uses to open our eyes to divine activity, but I've also discovered the God will use global missions to encounter us in unexpected, powerful ways.

Tucked away in my office is a cherished picture of a friend staring out into the vast Caribbean Sea, holding a cup of coffee and prayerfully contemplating God's vision for his life. Just a few months before that liminal moment, I asked my friend to consider accompanying me on the trip. He had the skillset and background to rebuild and restore homes ravaged by natural disasters, but I also knew the Spirit was planting within him the desire to rebuild and restore lives to Jesus Christ. So I trusted God to use the experience to stretch my friend, to form him, wrestle with him and clarify his call. And God did. Not long after, my friend took his first steps into a lifetime of pastoral ministry, a journey that was clarified and crystallized during an experience made possible through a global missional partnership.

Friends, that's the heartbeat of global missions. Global missions is all about Jesus saving, transforming and restoring lives. And you don't have to wait for denominational decisions to unfold before you embrace and live into God's heart for the world. Over the past several months, I've had the privilege of facilitating our chapter's *Global Missional Partnership Task Force*. Our task force desires to equip local churches with important tools and resources to begin living out this global vision. If you yearn for your local church to step into the area of global missions, we recommend taking some time to read the Wesleyan Covenant Association's *Global Missional Task Force Report* found on wesleyancovenant.org. Here you'll find simple, practical steps to build a global mission culture in your local church. We also commend to you the work of TMS Global and OMS (One Mission Society), two mission organizations that offer teachings and trainings to help clarify your local church's mission focus. Lastly, we invite you to consider participating in an upcoming mission event co-sponsored by Cherry Run Camp and Dr. Duane Brown, Director of Church Partnerships at OMS. The event will take place Saturday, June 11th at Cherry Run Camp. Be on the lookout for more information regarding global missions! If you'd like to learn more, feel free to contact me at brettdinger21@gmail.com. Blessings!

In Christ,

Rev. Brett Dinger