

Minutes: Indiana UM Delegation Meeting

September 18, 9:00-12:00

Zoom

Present: Russ Abel, Mary Fridlund, Derek Weber, Chiyona Bourne, Marti Lundy, Nathan Lundy, Albert Hildago, Ronnie Bell, Shannon Priddy, Adriane Curtis, Mike Womack, Kim Arnott, Daniel Cho, Chris Hancock, Amy Land, Meg Lassiat, Lisa Schubert Nowling, Rob Fuquay, John Lomperis, Aleze Fulbright, Ian Hall

Worship:

- Derek Weber/Chris Tiedeman
- Question for reflection in groups- where is God leading you? What plans do you have? What does the future look like?
- Video from Rethink Church on Hispanic Heritage Month
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G4JEKJbbvs4>

Knowing one another:

- Our covenant – Christian Conferencing Guidelines (read together) -Russ
 - Accountability – How are we living this?

Knowing our work:

- Jurisdictional Conference November 2021 - Zoom
 - Potential agenda items:
 - Anti-Racism work
 - Episcopal Leadership – role of bishops, future episcopal areas
 - Future of the UMC
 - We don't know too much at this point!
 - Keep in mind- It is a place to gather though and inspire action in areas where people do have authority
 - Question- is anyone aware of some kind of draft statement that may be presented as far as the future of the church?
- The future United Methodist? What are our hopes and how can we bring encouragement toward those hopes?

Groups: Come up with 3 questions (assuming that General Conference meets)

What are the right questions?

What should we be asking?

What order to we need to vote for separation?

**How do we update the protocol?

How/when can we get the Christmas covenant passed?

Is the protocol still an option at this point? What needs to be rewritten?

***What if the protocol doesn't pass?

**Without a protocol, how do we not let churches fade away?

At the close of General Conference, what next?

What really matters? (to be a church)

Questions from groups:

What if the protocol doesn't pass?

Without a protocol, how do we not let churches fade away?

How do we update the protocol?

How do we best honor God in the midst of our differences?

Is there a way to truly split amicably?

What are the opportunities we might have to work together to serve God?

What is important in the life of the church?

What does renewal in the church mean for you?

Who do we want to be as a church and at the personal level? What does that look like?

If the protocol doesn't pass, what's the alternative?

What happens if GC doesn't happen?

What are the community boundaries for each entity?

What happens with clergy and church as they disaffiliate? How can we care for them?

How do we move forward with grace?

What is the role of the episcopacy?

How do we engage pastors and prepare their churches for what's ahead?

How do we separate gracefully?

What is the role of the GMC in the process?

Would there be a way for the GMC to be established without a General Conference?

How does the post separation church continue to advocate for the intersectionality of justice issues?

What does itinerancy look like?

What resources will be made available to local churches making decisions?

What does it look like to be connectional?

What do you notice about the questions?

-There is a lot of unknown

-The questions that remain are about the organization of the church and how we are structured

-Organization of the church vs. mission of the church

-We didn't hear about celebrating differences

-We didn't hear about honoring God's word and God's work

-Negated by process and aspirations

What are the best ways to seek answers to these questions?

-To ask them continually to keep us on point

-Who do we ask? Leadership, anyone who will listen?

- Tuning into different voices and commentaries
- Have conversations
- A lot of prayer
- Sit in the stillness
- Maintaining focus
- Keep the faith communities going (including online communities)

- Empower laity- an opportunity to answer these questions is through laity leadership and ownership of the direction of the church
- Seek input and perspective from across theological and ideological perspectives- two of the authors of the protocol have passed away- did that work stop with the protocol? Who is continuing to draw people together across lines to try to move the church forward?
- re-learn the art of listening and conversation
- encourage intentional conversation
- pray earnestly and fast weekly
- help facilitate intentional conversations in local churches to inform them so they aren't caught off guard
- collaborate with other ACs
- prayer earnestly and fast weekly

Small group to continue this conversation and bring a report back to October's meeting:

- Chiyona Bourne
- Mary Fridlund
- Greg Pimlott (?)
- Chris Hancock

Knowing our opportunities:

- Updates from Caucus groups?
 - In Mainstream UMC still active? Yes, but it's slow since not much to be acted on
 - UM Action is having steering committee in a few weeks
- Meeting schedule (Zoom)
 - October 9, 9:00-12:00 on Zoom
 - Potential: November 6, 9:00-12:00 (probably will not have this meeting, but potential in case something develops)
 - January 15, 9:00-12:00

Sending: Russ Abel