

## **Summary of World Café Holy Conversations: Future of the United Methodist Church**

The following is provided as a summary of the February 2020 church-wide discussions, named World Café, regarding proposals that will be considered at the 2020 General Conference of the UMC (GC2020) and our guideposts for navigating the outcomes of this event.

We value Skyland UMC and our congregational family which include important relationships, a certain identity, strength from a broader connection, resources, and security. Even though we face uncertainty and grief, we are being led by the Holy Spirit:

- to pray for the United Methodist Church, its members, leaders, and for GC2020.
- to factually understand what the UMC and we at Skyland UMC are facing in light of GC2020.
- to hold open and respectful conversations, skillfully listening to each other.
- to focus on our mission to “Love, Grow, Serve,” and the many individual missions which are already in place.

Along the way we will honor one another’s discipleship with respect, love, and without judgment. We will value love, grace, kindness, and understanding.

We are not powerless. We can study the Bible and seek education about related topics. We can have fun together. We can communicate with the WNCC delegation to GC2020. We can establish support for all people - those who decide to leave and those who choose to join Skyland UMC. We can continue to engage the topic well without displacing the Gospel as a central focus of worship. We can effectively manage conflicts along the way.

Moving forward from our World Café discussions, and especially in this season of Lent, we encourage everyone to prayerfully consider this and other crucial issues. We commit to find pathways and processes that will allow our congregation to discuss and digest the rulings of GC2020 and we encourage you to participate in those discussions. We will continue to trust in the Lord, travelling with the courage and hope that nothing can separate us from the love of God in Jesus Christ.

*- - Jack Harrison, Administrative Board Chair*