

## **LIBERATION AT THE HEART OF OUR MOVEMENT - “DO THIS AND YOU SHALL LIVE”**

As people committed to following Christ in the Wesleyan way the invitation to come to life fully lies within loving our neighbor as ourselves. This is the unhoused neighbor, the LGBTQ+ neighbor, the underemployed and uninsured neighbor. In the shadow of the Special General Conference — and sensing an opportunity to act on decades-long calls for full inclusion and more representation in our structure — we seek to broaden the current conversations around the next iteration of The United Methodist Church to include the most marginalized and least heard among us.

To do so, we propose that every activated layperson and clergy person who feels compelled to use their power in creating “the new thing” supports the creation of multiple Open Space events focused on bringing their best thinking and experiences to the following question: ***What does a liberation-centered Methodist church look and feel like?*** We believe these events will allow for fuller participation of people who have a vested interest in a deeply Wesleyan progressive witness and rely less on structures that support formal power (delegates, jurisdictions, bishops, etc).

### **THE OPEN SPACE PROCESS**

The Open Space process allows for self-organizing, promotes collaboration and shared leadership, as well as requires people to take responsibility for their ideas. The integrity of this process lies in centering the voices and experiences of people of color and queer folk.

In committing to this process, we can expect the following outcomes:

- Broad, grassroots participation
- Energy, commitment and shared leadership
- Shared responsibility for what does and does not happen post-Special GC 2019
- Action plans and recommendations
- A record of the proceedings

### **LOGISTICS AND PERSONAL COMMITMENT**

Please orient yourself to the guidelines created by UM Forward, a collective committed to centering people of color, queer, and trans voices. The guidelines are attached along with instructions on Open Space Technology.

These Open Space events will inform the new movement and church emerging along the edges of formal power structures, and we ask for your commitment. Upon signing, you agree to take responsibility for the event (provide refreshments, chart paper, and secure a gathering space), to read through the guidelines, and send generated discussion reports to the link provided within 24 hours of the event. (Name)\_\_\_\_\_

This can be a meaningful process to actively engage the next steps of our Methodist becoming! Thank you for trusting this process and making space for more voices to be heard.

Attachments: OMF collaboration guidelines, How to Run an Open Space