

wesleyan life

THE MAGAZINE OF THE WESLEYAN CHURCH



Our *Acts 1:8* DNA

A **CTS 1:8** is in The Wesleyan Church (TWC) DNA. It has been since our ancestors formed the Pilgrim Holiness and Wesleyan Methodist churches, and continued when they merged in 1968. We are the descendants of those through whom Christ created his church saying: “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

You already know this truth because you live it daily in a thousand different ways and places. Many of you are fully **ACTS 1:8** churches serving here, near, and in hard and far places. Many of you want to enhance and expand your mission vision. There are always more places and people to reach!

I and so many others throughout The Wesleyan Church pray for you, seeking ways to support and encourage you. We celebrate your commitment to steward the Holy Spirit’s empowerment as witnesses through your engagement in evangelism and making disciples.



DR. WAYNE SCHMIDT
General Superintendent
The Wesleyan Church

We are hard at work gathering and preparing resources to share with you in the coming months to help you and your ministry leaders collectively assess and discern your geographic impact.

TWC clergy and laity are fulfilling God’s call in their churches, communities, challenging locations and throughout the world. Sometimes the ministry effort is immediately rewarded, sometimes not or seemingly not at all. You persist, however, because you’re faithful and fueled by the Holy Spirit’s power.

For the past two years, we’ve prioritized praying together before and on Pentecost Sunday. We did so again this year on May 28.

Our prayer has been to become a Kingdom Force movement, so that all will know the transforming power of Jesus Christ, our Lord. That goal, our commission as Christ followers, is why we labor in all places where we’re called and serving all people whom God brings into our ministry sphere.

GOD BLESS YOU. 🙌

THE **wesleyan** CHURCH

Transforming lives, churches and communities through the hope and holiness of Jesus Christ.

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wesleyan life

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The *kaleidoscopic* kingdom

When I was a child, one of my favorite toys at my grandmother's house was a well-worn kaleidoscope. I was fascinated by how the colorful particles in the scope collided into mesmerizing patterns. As I slowly twisted the kaleidoscope, it was as if I was being called into more and more creativity and opportunity.

The kingdom of God is kaleidoscopic. God is always calling us into more faith, hope, love and mission.

Early in the book of Acts, Jesus was teaching his disciples about God's kaleidoscopic kingdom, and mentioned

being empowered by the Holy Spirit to fulfill his missional purpose. In **ACTS 1:8**, Jesus declared, "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Interestingly, **ACTS 1:8** is Jesus' response to the disciples when they asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?" (1:6). Jesus clarified by stating, "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set ..." (1:7). Then, Jesus showed his disciples the kaleidoscopic kingdom and called them to go into Jerusalem and Judea and Samaria and the ends of the earth.

It is important to note, in between

each geographical location there is a *kai*, the Greek word for "and." Jesus wanted his disciples to recognize the importance of being his witnesses beyond their current context and having a *kai* approach in their ministry.

What is also intriguing about the book of Acts is how Luke structures it according to Jesus' geographical vision. Some scholars divide Acts into three stages: mission to Jerusalem (Acts 1-8:3), mission to Judea and Samaria (Acts 8:4-12:25) and mission to the ends of the earth (Acts 13-28). This geographical structure is important to recognize, but we don't want to miss another cultural dynamic going on as the disciples were discovering how to extend their ministry beyond Jerusalem. Jerusalem can be viewed as a

The church in the 21st century must *hear the echo* of **ACTS 1:8** afresh and apply it to their Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and the ends of the earth.

local mission; Judea is a similar culture but different context; Samaria is a different culture but somewhat relatable; and the ends of the earth is a totally different culture. Every step the disciples took beyond Jerusalem caused the disciples to think more like a cross-cultural missionary.

It took a while for the first disciples to understand what it meant to reach the ends of the earth. But once they did, the announcement of the good news of Jesus and the formation of new faith communities became a groundswell movement. Eventually, Jesus' words clicked and the disciples realized they were called to be a sending church.

Jesus' vision was not only for the first disciples. It was for every disciple in every era. Jesus' call for his disciples to spread out geographically and within other cultures should still be part of every church's M.A.P. (Missional Action Plan). The church in the 21st century must hear the echo of **ACTS 1:8** afresh and apply it to their Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and the ends of the earth. In some contexts, because of the global diaspora — dispersion from original homelands — reaching Samaria and the ends of the earth may be close to home.

I'll be honest, leading a local church would be much easier if Jesus hadn't said those words. As a church leader, it would be much simpler to only think about missional activity in my community. But **ACTS 1:8** causes me to ask the following questions:

- How can my church equip disciple makers to go into every part of my Jerusalem where people live, learn, work and play?
- How can my church prepare and send disciple makers and church planters into my Judea and Samaria?
- How can my church send and support cross-cultural disciple makers and church planters to reach the ends of the earth?

As you consider the ramifications of God's kaleidoscopic kingdom, it may be helpful to invite your church into a time of prayer and discernment. Consider how the Holy Spirit is leading and how God has uniquely gifted you and your church to reach your Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and the ends of the earth.

What if every Wesleyan church had a customized **ACTS 1:8** vision and was doing their part to raise up pioneering leaders and sending them into new places and people groups? When we rely on the Holy Spirit's empowerment, God will give us everything we need to reach the here, near, hard and far places! 🌟



ED LOVE is executive director of Church Multiplication and Discipleship of The Wesleyan Church.

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El reino caleidoscópico

Cuando era niño, uno de mis juguetes favoritos en la casa de mi abuela era un viejo caleidoscopio. Me encantaba ver a través del visor cómo las partículas de colores chocaban en patrones fascinantes. Al girar lentamente el caleidoscopio, era como si fuera llamado a más y más creatividad y oportunidad.

El reino de Dios es caleidoscópico. Dios siempre nos llama a tener más fe, esperanza, amor y misión.

Al inicio del libro de Hechos, Jesús estaba enseñando a sus discípulos sobre el reino caleidoscópico de Dios y mencionaba el recibir poder del Espíritu Santo para cumplir su propósito

misional. En Hechos 1:8, Jesús declaró: “Pero, cuando venga el Espíritu Santo sobre ustedes, recibirán poder y serán mis testigos tanto en Jerusalén como en toda Judea y Samaria, y hasta los confines de la tierra”.

Interesantemente, **HECHOS 1:8** es la respuesta de Jesús a los discípulos cuando le preguntaron: “Señor, ¿es ahora cuando vas a restablecer el reino a Israel?” (1:6). Jesús aclaró diciendo: “No les toca a ustedes conocer la hora ni el momento determinados por la autoridad misma del Padre...” (1:7). Luego, Jesús mostró a sus discípulos el reino caleidoscópico y les dio el llamado de ir a Jerusalén y Judea y Samaria y a los confines de la tierra.

Es importante tener en cuenta que entre cada ubicación geográfica hay

un *kai*, la palabra griega para “y”. Jesús quería que sus discípulos reconocieran la importancia de ser Sus testigos más allá de su contexto actual y tener un enfoque *kai* en su ministerio.

Lo que también es interesante sobre el libro de Hechos es cómo Lucas lo estructura de acuerdo con la visión geográfica de Jesús. Algunos eruditos dividen Hechos en tres etapas: la misión a Jerusalén (Hechos 1-8:3), la misión a Judea y Samaria (Hechos 8:4-12:25) y la misión a los confines de la tierra (Hechos 13-28). Es importante reconocer esta estructura geográfica, pero no queremos pasar por alto otra dinámica cultural que estaba teniendo lugar mientras los discípulos descubrían cómo extender su ministerio más allá de Jerusalén. Jerusalén puede ser percibida

como una misión local; Judea es una cultura similar, pero con un contexto diferente; Samaria es una cultura diferente, pero algo relacionable; y los confines del mundo es una cultura totalmente diferente. Cada paso que daban los discípulos más allá de Jerusalén les hacía pensar más como misioneros transculturales.

Los primeros discípulos tardaron un tiempo en comprender lo que significaba llegar a los confines de la tierra. Pero una vez que lo entendieron, el anuncio de las buenas nuevas de Jesús y la formación de nuevas comunidades de fe se convirtieron en un movimiento de masas. Con el tiempo, las palabras de Jesús tomaron sentido y los discípulos se dieron cuenta de que estaban llamados a ser una iglesia misionera.

La visión de Jesús no fue solo para los primeros discípulos. Era para cada discípulo en cada época. El llamado de Jesús a sus discípulos a expandirse geográficamente y dentro de otras culturas debe seguir siendo parte del P.A.M. (Plan de Acción Misional) de cada iglesia. La iglesia en el siglo XXI debe escuchar nuevamente el eco de **HECHOS 1:8** y aplicarlo a su Jerusalén, Judea, Samaria y los confines de la tierra. En algunos contextos, debido a la diáspora global (dispersión de las tierras originales), llegar a Samaria y los confines de la tierra podría no estar tan lejos.

Para ser honesto, dirigir una iglesia local sería mucho más fácil si Jesús no hubiera dicho esas palabras. Como líder de iglesia, sería mucho más sencillo pensar únicamente en la actividad misional en mi comunidad, pero **HECHOS 1:8** me hace plantear las siguientes preguntas:

- ¿Cómo puede mi iglesia equipar discípuladores para ir a cada parte de mi Jerusalén donde las personas viven, aprenden, trabajan y juegan?
- ¿Cómo puede mi iglesia preparar y enviar discípuladores y plantadores de iglesias a mi Judea y Samaria?
- ¿Cómo puede mi iglesia enviar y apoyar discípuladores y plantadores de iglesias transculturales para llegar a los confines de la tierra?

La iglesia en el siglo XXI debe *escuchar nuevamente el eco* de **HECHOS 1:8** y aplicarlo a su Jerusalén, Judea, Samaria y los confines de la tierra.

Al considerar las ramificaciones del reino caleidoscópico de Dios, puede ser útil invitar a tu iglesia a un tiempo de oración y discernimiento. Considera cómo el Espíritu Santo te está guiando y cómo Dios te ha dotado a ti y a tu iglesia para alcanzar a su Jerusalén, Judea, Samaria y los confines de la tierra.

¿Qué pasaría si cada iglesia wesleyana tuviera una visión personalizada de **HECHOS 1:8** y estuviera haciendo su parte para levantar líderes pioneros y enviarlos a nuevos lugares y grupos de personas? Cuando confiamos en el poder del Espíritu Santo, ¡Dios nos dará todo lo que necesitamos para llegar a lugares cercanos, difíciles y lejanos! 🌟



ED LOVE es director ejecutivo de Multiplicación de Iglesias y Discipulado de la Iglesia Wesleyana.

Planting in Jerusalem



Joe Bullocks hadn't planned to be in ministry. "My father's a pastor; I grew up around ministry ... I moved out of my parent's house at 16 when I got a job and got a house. I wanted to be rebellious for a while and experience life on my own. I did that for about two-and-a-half years." A portion of his extended family were drug dealers at the time. "You see the lifestyle they were living — I wanted to be a part of that," Joe explained.

Around this time, Joe met the woman who would become his wife. Von came from a very hard upbringing but agreed to go to church with Joe. "I brought her to church one Sunday. The Holy Spirit was talking to her and she ended up joining my dad's church. Then she said, 'we're not equally

yoked; I can't be with you.'" Joe knew at that point he needed to get his act together. "I often say that I brought her to church but she introduced me to Christ." Joe returned to Christ, and he and Von were married in 2002.

They did ministry together for a good while. Rev. Bullocks served as everything from a deacon to a minister to an elder but things were changing. "Our hearts were burning towards the end — we can bring so many people together into church, but it seems people forget where they came from. They wouldn't show the love of Christ like Christ was shown to us. We're losing people," he added.

Joe and Von left that ministry in search of what was next. In the transition period, he commuted from his city to help his friend, Terry Vaughn, church plant in South Bend, Indiana. While there, he met Dr. Mark Gorveatte, with whom he began to share his new vision for what might be next. Dr. Gorveatte asked where Rev. Bullocks might be interested in planting. He shared his heart was burning for his home city of Benton Harbor, Michigan.

In time, Joe and Von moved up to Benton Harbor and began Purpose Church Ministries. They started with small groups of many kinds — young girls, married, men, women — and ran those for about seven months. Rev. Bullocks notes, "They were getting so big we had to make a change — they were getting to a size of 15-20 when you really want no more than eight to ten people." At this point, they started a once-a-month Sunday service, bringing everyone together.

Rev. Bullocks believes these groups enrich his community. "So many people suffer in silence. People are looking for non-judgmental space where they can feel comfortable to lay it all out." It's difficult to walk into a Sunday service alone.

Small groups are a *great transition* point for entering into spiritual spaces.



"It's an easier stepping stone for some people to start with small groups. That's different than what I grew up with, but God was leading me in how to move. It's also an easier way to raise funds to start a church that way," he noted.

Purpose Church Ministries aren't just keeping the good news to themselves. John Freed, director of Church Multiplication at the Great Lakes Region of The Wesleyan Church, spoke about the Bullocks' impact on their Jerusalem. "Benton Harbor ... has recently been rocked by a water crisis. Their brand-new church plant has been a distributor of clean water and resources. Also, Joe and Von believe in discipline and raising up young leaders. On their launch Sunday, I witnessed many young people excited to serve and lead. This young congregation is full throttle for the raising up of future missionaries, pastors and leaders." Rev. Bullocks also hopes this small groups method could spread to other churches.

As Rev. Bullocks looks to his congregation's future, he notes their biggest hurdle isn't a lack of people but resources. Benton Harbor is a poor area. He noted recently at a district meeting that "It costs to make disciples, literally.

Jerusalem

People don't know anything but tithes and offerings; a lot of people are on welfare." He's looking for more creative ways to raise money and develop new ways to do ministry. "Even my salary, I donate it back to the church. I'd rather see souls than profit off the money." Rev. Bullocks is the kind of leader who will stop at nothing to reach his community in the name of Jesus. 🙌



ELYSE GARVERICK serves as a content specialist (communications) for the Indiana Conference of the United Methodist Church and is a graduate of Indiana Wesleyan University, Marion, Indiana.



Our hearts were burning towards the end — we can bring so many people *together* into church, but it seems people forget where they came from."

REV. BULLOCKS



! READ about Purpose Church Ministries. purposechurchministries.org

Setting the table in Judea



“

What are the needs for our *neighborhoods*? How can we practically show Jesus' love?”

REV. MELINDA PRIEST

near them, asking these questions in prayer: “What are the needs for our neighborhoods? How can we practically show Jesus' love?” As the church community prayerfully asked God, they were directed to the immigrant population.

Since Boston's a transient area, many in the church knew how it felt to have family far away, to be new to the community and learn a new way



of being. Rev. Priest wanted space “for those from other countries to find their place at the table, be part of the family.” This sparked the start to opening an Immigrant Connection (IC) site within their church.

The Department of Justice (DOJ) maintains strict guidelines for an IC center. For confidentiality purposes, the office must have a locking door. Therefore, Awaken City Church stopped renting from the local school and searched for a place for the IC site and other community outreach expressions.

Shortly after their process began, ACC encountered an obstacle: finding a space affordable enough for the church. Because of Boston's high rent costs, this proved difficult. In their search, the team discovered that one of their congregants had a storefront available for lower rent than other options.

ACC also has a daughter church, Public Church in Boston's Fenway neighborhood, led by Pastor Amanda Oicle. Pastor Amanda's dream was to

Wesleyans have a long history of acts of devotion (love toward God) and compassion (love toward neighbor). Awaken City Church (ACC) in Boston, Massachusetts, is finding fresh ways of loving God, neighbor and the often overlooked.

! **DISCOVER** more about ACC's work with Immigrant Connection. awakenboston.org

“There's beauty in every tribe, every nation together representing the kingdom of heaven at the table,” said Rev. Melinda Priest. In 2019, Rev. Priest and her family moved to Boston and planted ACC. Boston's a transient, diverse community, teeming with opportunities for relationships. “There's so much diversity in this community, but that doesn't stop people from talking to one another — there's really a community,” Rev. Priest reflected.

Seeing the opportunity for more connection, Rev. Priest and others started to pray for Judea, the places

“ Church isn't about coming and seeing; it's about *coming and being* with others, to worship everywhere we go, to love well.”

REV. MELINDA PRIEST

open a coffee house ministry. When a storefront came open next to ACC's space, the two churches prayed, planned and raised funds to repurpose it into a coffee shop called Public Coffee. The coffee shop is open to the public, offering space for people to gather, feel loved and accepted. Public Coffee becomes ACC's kids' ministry space on Sundays.

! **READ** more about Public Church. publicchurchboston.com

! **LEARN** more about Public Coffee. publiccoffeeboston.com

This process hasn't been easy as COVID-related delays lasted over a year, but it's been worth it. IC at ACC has now been accredited, have two accredited DOJ legal representatives, a legal assistant and a great group of volunteers. The site offers 10-week classes (four times a year) for non-English-speaking individuals to learn conversational English in addition to citizenship classes; “We want to provide a pathway for someone to gain the dignity and opportunities they deserve,” said Rev. Priest.

ACC hopes to keep building their clientele and continue to serve their neighbors. Their mission statement guides their hopes for the next season: “We will together be able



Judea



to serve more people with different resources and provide legal services; we want to build a place of belonging where immigrants can really be seen. We want to help alleviate worries about basic human rights such as being able to work freely, have a home and reconnect with family abroad,” said Rev. Priest.

ACC has learned that “God calls us to be like Jesus and we're on a mission wherever we are — if it's near or far,” said Rev. Priest. ACC is stepping into Christ's character through practical ways — simply meeting people where they are — handing out food, sitting with people; loving others like we're called to do. “There's a space of belonging ... changing the city through one-on-one relationships, one day at a time, in partnership with the Holy Spirit and other faith communities who share the same heart for our city,” said Rev. Priest. The important thing is willingness to be in that space, look for where God is being active and jump in — changing the city through relationships and systems.

In a world that's so diverse, an IC site is one way to embrace the diversity around the corner and the world— providing opportunities to be Jesus' hands and feet in our neighborhoods. Rev. Priest ends with a final admonition on how IC has reframed the purpose of the church for ACC's congregation: “Church isn't about coming and seeing; it's about coming and being with others, to worship everywhere we go, to love well.”



SARAH LINDER is a lay minister for congregational care at College Wesleyan Church in Marion, Indiana, and a stay-at-home mom.



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A portrait of a young man with curly hair, wearing a white and purple basketball jersey, smiling.

David Rosa '25 wanted to attend a college that would prepare him well for a life of service in health care, give him a chance to play basketball and provide a Christian community while away from his home in Puerto Rico. Now living on campus, the basketball team has become like family, the professors are encouraging, and the Houghton community is a friendly, welcoming and safe place to be. David is confident he will have the preparation he needs to help others heal as a physical therapist while he serves God.

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A Modern Day Samaria



“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth” **ACTS 1:8**.

Most of us know these familiar words from Acts 1 that Jesus spoke to his disciples. Jerusalem certainly made sense as a starting point for the spread of the gospel and Judea beyond it ... but why Samaria? It would be challenging for the Jewish disciples to take the gospel into Samaria. Yet Jesus spoke with authority; there was no negotiating going to Samaria with the gospel.

Pastor Emma Adams and her husband Alphie understand the vision which Jesus laid out in **ACTS 1:8** to go to the hard

places. In Seaford, Delaware, both Emma and Alphie were tired of seeing friends lost to the snares of drugs and addictions. The pain of losing friends motivated them to launch Hope Church, but it wasn't without hardship.

Pastor Emma and Alphie's core launch group were unchurched people who didn't have a preexisting value of tithing and serving, which are vital for any church launch. Hope Church's launch date was scheduled for September 2020 but was delayed a year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In their first year, *Jared, a regular member of the worship team, died of an overdose. Pastor Emma admitted that when Jared died, neither she nor Alphie knew how to navigate the loss. Ministering in a modern-day Samaria is challenging.

Without fully realizing it, they were already equipped for ministry at Hope Church because of how God brought hope to their own lives. Both Emma and Alphie started drug and alcohol use in their teenage years

which continued into adulthood, but God intervened and Emma gave her life to Jesus. She experienced an immediate cleansing from drinking, smoking, pornography and drug use. Emma began to read her Bible and practice prayer. She then sensed a call of ministry but did not know what to do with it.

Alphie was simultaneously amazed and bummed at the complete transformation he witnessed in Emma. Their marriage almost ended but the Holy Spirit was working in Alphie. He studied the apologetics of Christianity and remembers the Holy Spirit telling him, "You've seen and read the facts: you can choose to believe it or not." Alphie chose to believe.



! LEARN more about Hope Church, Delmarva.
hopedelmarva.com

In those early days of believing, Emma and Alphie experienced multiple years of several heartbreaking church encounters and were at times ready to give up on their young faith.

Through the pain and struggle, the Holy Spirit stirred in Emma's heart a desire for church planting. She had a vision of sitting at a table with people from all walks of life. Each had a place at the table and God had brought them there through Emma's ministry. In time, Emma and Alphie healed from their hurt, began the process of becoming church planters and subsequently launched Hope Church.

Neither the pain and hardship experienced by Pastor Emma and Alphie nor the hardship of ministering in Delmarva is fruitless. The driving theme for Hope Church is that you can belong before you believe.



“The *gospel* is preached, sin is preached against, but you belong here,”

ALPHIE ADAMS

The church's most effective outreach is the word getting out that lives are being changed.

**Jenn, a former heroin addict, now has her first apartment furnished through the support of Hope Church. She works in a recovery unit, distributes Bibles and shares the gospel.*

**Doug, an inmate reached through Hope Church's prison ministry, is now discipling other men in the prison. Hope Church funded his education in Christian counseling, which he uses to help others heal from unresolved trauma and pain.*

**Avery was hesitant to be baptized because the clapping and cheering of the celebrating congregation was too loud for her special needs. The people at Hope Church quieted down so she could participate in baptism also. Afterwards, Avery was excited to tell Pastor Emma, "I am filled with the Holy Spirit."*

A former member of the Latin Kings is now ONE YEAR clean and was baptized February 25, 2023, despite being assaulted while exiting a Narcotics Anonymous meeting.

All these people and more belong to the kingdom because the Holy Spirit has come on Pastor Emma and Alphie to be witnesses in the Samaria of Delmarva. 🙌



JACOB GIBSON is senior pastor at LifeSpring Wesleyan Church, Richmond, Indiana, and graduate of Indiana Wesleyan University and Wesley Seminary, Marion, Indiana.

When one journey ends and another begins



There were Wesleyan Brazilians being called to missions. We're no longer needed in the roles we had held for 30 years. The Brazilian national church was strong and growing," Jill explained.

*Jill and *David, Global Partners missionaries who faithfully served Brazil for 30 years, were blessed to see the Brazilian national church begin to send their own missionaries out into the world. To arrive at this point of completing the 5 Phases — the driving force behind the mission of Global Partners — Jill and David have spent years remaining faithful to serving the far ends of the earth.

As the couple has transitioned to South Asia, they're able to act as a bridge for the Brazilian church to send missionaries to South Asia. This is a direct reflection of an international Wesleyan initiative, which aims to bring the gospel from "Everywhere to Everywhere."

In addition to bridging Brazilian missionaries to South Asia, David will set up online classes to train local

pastors for ministry and national leaders to train other pastors. "Since this is a role David knows very well," Jill said, "it can become easy to question what my role should be."

But just when Jill needs it most, someone ends up asking her to lead something or preach for them. For her, those moments are continuous affirmations from the Lord. "Thank you, Jesus, for confirming through things that I can offer as well," she said.

The Lord has certainly sustained and encouraged the couple with his Word and faithfulness, but the Brazilian Wesleyan Church's love and support carried them as well.

"Without these relationships we wouldn't have lasted. They loved, encouraged and embraced us," Jill wrote. "As we move to South Asia, we've once again felt welcome. We're also reminded there are many who've never heard, and the need is an urgent one."

Aryanne Batista, director of missions for The Wesleyan Church of Brazil, met Jill and David when

“There's nothing we love more than missions. Going into the world, seeing how the Lord is calling people with that same desire to do whatever it takes — it's just a joy to see. God is so faithful to call all people,”

JILL*

! DISCOVER the 5 Phases of global church multiplication.
wes.life/5phases

she was 12 years old. As someone who feels blessed by their love, time, resources and example, Aryanne said seeing the two of them accept the challenge of moving to another country in obedience to the Lord is encouraging.

"We can see the action of God and his purposes being fulfilled through them," Aryanne said.

Already, Jill and David have welcomed a Brazilian couple that traveled to South Asia for their internship in preparation to be launched into the mission field. The Brazilian couple jumped in and served in whatever ways they felt Jesus leading them, while Jill and David were there cheering them on along the way.

"It's been neat to see how the Lord is using the Everywhere to Everywhere initiative in such creative ways," Jill said. For example, in South Asian places that aren't always welcoming to North Americans, they've discovered their Brazilian partners blend in more naturally.

Witnessing Brazilians travel to South Asia with a heart and willingness to serve as missionaries is meaningful on a personal level. Seeds that God used the North American church to plant in both places over the course of decades are bearing fruit, and they're seeing it firsthand.

"There's nothing we love more than missions. Going into the world, seeing how the Lord is calling people with that same desire to do whatever it takes — it's just a joy to see. God is so faithful to call all people," Jill reflected.

Rev. *Christopher, a South Asian national leader, has developed a partnership with Jill and David throughout their



transition. He wrote that just as Ecclesiastes says there's "a time for everything," Jill and David visited South Asia "not a day early nor a day late."

Rev. Christopher explained that the Wesleyan work in the nation where he leads is a little more than 25 years old. The church now needs to strengthen the Wesleyan ministry in terms of organizational structure, Wesleyan theology, preparing the first batch of pastors for ordination and so on.

"We've been blessed by their years of experience in service to the Lord, and at this point of our ministry, we couldn't have asked for a greater blessing in terms of seasoned partners," Rev. Christopher wrote.

In continuous surrender to the Lord, Jill and David trust their lives will be used to reach the unreached.

“As I daily come in contact with those who don't know Jesus yet, I have the opportunity to let him touch their lives through me,” Jill said. “What a privilege it is to go and be used by him.”



HEATHER AUKER is the communication supervisor for Global Partners of The Wesleyan Church.



Story

RENEWING VISION AND BUILDING RESILIENCE

The Gathering 2023 hosted over 1,500 Wesleyan clergy, families and community leaders for a time of relationship, vision and renewal.

“The Gathering was a wonderful opportunity to see God moving among us!” said Rev. Johanna Rugh, executive director of the Education and Clergy Development Division (ECD) of The Wesleyan Church (TWC). “ECD is grateful for the leadership that Rev. Becci Wood (G23 director) and her team provided during this event. Seeing God’s people worshipping and fellowshiping together was a wonderful reminder of how much our hearts longed for a time like this. It was beautiful to be able to witness so many ministers who attended with their families, and others who were refreshed by this time.”

Since the last Gathering in 2019, the landscape of local church leadership has changed. Pastors have had to reckon

with a pandemic-shaped church (first, a pivot to online ministry instead of in-person gathering; then a return to in-person ministry with lower attendance and often fewer volunteers).

The Gathering 2023 provided nourishing space for pastors to learn what it means to hfully—and sustainably—serve congregations.

Main sessions focused on building resilience in turbulence, following God in faithfulness now to prepare for harder seasons ahead, God’s trustworthiness to sustain and provide nourishment and life, bringing others and being brought to the feet of Jesus and the central importance of love in our congregations. Every topic felt deeply relevant for pastors ministering in congregations that are recalibrating for a post-pandemic “new normal.”

“The Gathering had great main sessions with anointed speakers and worship leaders,” reflected Noah Shigley, youth pastor at College Wesleyan Church in Marion, Indiana. “And The Gathering also did a great job of allowing space for rest or for meeting with other people from the denomination. This was soul filling; and it was a way I experienced God.”

Those dynamic main sessions harmonized with breakout sessions that allowed attendees to do a deep-dive into everything from “strategic finance” to

“men and women thriving together in ministry” to “reimagining our holiness heritage for the next generation.” The diversity of topics met pastors in ways immediately applicable to their congregations, while also offering deep, substantive theological grounding to help churches practice innovation while remaining rooted in Wesleyan tradition.

“The Gathering was a perfect mix of seminars to stir your thinking, inspiring main rallies, and time for rest



The *Gathering* was
a perfect mix of
seminars to stir your
thinking, inspiring main
rallies, and time for
rest and reconnecting
with old friends,”

REV. SCOTT CONN

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“
Our *hearts rejoiced* to see different generations, nationalities, calls to the ministry, all united by the same desire to seek the face of God and being blessed with the ministry of the Word during the main sessions and seminars,”

REV. JOHANNA RUGH

and reconnecting with old friends,” said Rev. Scott Conn, senior pastor at Laurel Wesleyan Church in Laurel, Delaware.

A new addition to The Gathering allowed for children to have a formative time, as well. Wonderspace provided an opportunity for kids to explore imaginatively through “Big Blue Blocks,” a glow party, and various avenues of faith formation. One of the greatest assets WonderSpace brought was a way of memorizing Scripture through “Story Sticks” — small wooden sticks with joints that help storytellers convey Bible stories with a dynamic visual aid.

“Our son got introduced to ‘Story Sticks’ at Wonderspace,” one attendee said. “He had such a positive interaction with using those as a way to engage

Scripture that we decided to implement them at our church to help students engage with Bible memorization in an embodied way.”

As much as the programming offered rich content for pastors to learn, some of the real beauty of The Gathering happens between programming: in the connections, new and old, that can emerge when pastors and families are together without having a primary focus on doing business in the church.

“I see The Gathering like a big Christ-centered family reunion with a whole lot of other benefits,” said Rev. Amber Cook, lead pastor at Grace Fellowship in Princeton, Indiana. “The best part for me was reuniting with

ministry partner friends who are like family from the other side of the world. The connection opportunity is always a highlight for me. I also was blessed by the worship times together.”

“Our hearts rejoiced to see different generations, nationalities, calls to the ministry, all united by the same desire to seek the face of God and being blessed with the ministry of the Word during the main sessions and seminars,” said Rev. Rugh. “The way the participants responded to God’s Word was an answer to our prayers. It’s our hope that the time ministers spent at The Gathering has blessed their families and congregations upon their return and we pray that we’ll have the opportunity to see each other again soon.”

ETHAN LINDER is the pastor of discipleship at College Wesleyan Church in Marion, Indiana, and contributing editor at The Wesleyan Church’s Education and Clergy Development Division.



! **LISTEN** to the sessions from The Gathering 2023.
wes.life/g23resources

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Seeking *Faith*

There's a rising spiritual openness and hunger in our world. **Do you feel it? Have you seen it?**

Evidence of it keeps popping up as God's Holy Spirit is pouring out. People everywhere are longing for God and seeking a deeper understanding of Christian faith. This eager seeking is an incredible opportunity for believers, and specifically Wesleyans, to prayerfully step in and close the gospel gap.

The Wesleyan Church's (TWC) Articles of Religion (AoR) are core to who we are, and how we live and serve. Prominently positioned in Part 1 of "The Discipline of The Wesleyan Church 2022," included within The Constitution of the North American General Conference, the Articles of Religion are, in part, "...for the advancement of God's Kingdom among all people..."

A new AoR series, designed to further unpack for Wesleyans each Article of Religion, provides discipleship

moments by introducing, or for some re-introducing, the basic tenets of Christian faith as well as these beliefs and doctrines of TWC.

"Understanding Christian faith more fully benefits us individually as we seek God, desiring to learn to love him with all our heart, soul, *mind* and strength," said General Superintendent Dr. Wayne Schmidt. "Increasing clarity in how we conceptualize our common beliefs also has the collective benefit of uniting us in our Christian faith."

Theologians from across TWC, who celebrate and embrace the Articles of Religion, have joined together to share their knowledge and gifts with us. These *ministers* have volunteered their time and labor, providing their unique perspectives shaped by varying ministry, cultural and missional experiences. Many chose their article topic due to a particular theological passion, or correlating research and scholarly work. We benefit from their sharp minds, warm hearts and are grateful for their contribution. 🙌

➤ **JANUARY 23** AOR SERIES INTRO

Each AoR video and accompanying article will be available in Spanish and English.

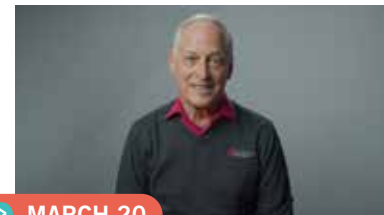
Wayne Schmidt



➤ **FEBRUARY 20**

Faith in the Holy Trinity

Steve Lennox



➤ **MARCH 20**

The Father

Jerome Van Kuiken



➤ **APRIL 17**

The Son of God

Richard Eckley



➤ **MAY 15**

The Holy Spirit

Tom Armiger



➤ **JUNE 19**

The Sufficiency and Full Authority of the Holy Scriptures for Salvation

Colleen Derr



➤ **JULY 17**

God's Purpose for Humanity

Mark Wilson



➤ **AUGUST 21**

Personal Choice / Sin: Original, Willful & Involuntary / Sin After Regeneration

David Holdren



➤ **SEPTEMBER 18**

Repentance and Faith

Yamil Acevedo



➤ **OCTOBER 16**

The Atonement

Patrick Eby



➤ **NOVEMBER 6**

Justification, Regeneration and Adoption

Bob Black



➤ **DECEMBER 18**

Sanctification: Initial, Progressive, Entire

“

How we conceptualize our *common beliefs* also has the collective benefit of uniting us in our Christian faith.”

WAYNE SCHMIDT

Belinda Selfridge



➤ **JANUARY 22**

The Church

Chase Rashad



➤ **FEBRUARY 19**

The Gifts of the Spirit

Daniel Rife



➤ **MARCH 18**

The Sacraments: Baptism and the Lord's Supper

Aaron Perry



➤ **APRIL 15**

Good Works

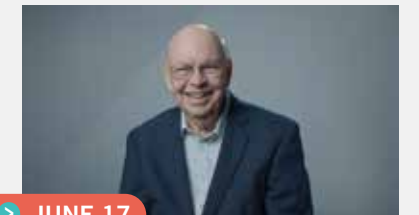
Devon Smith



➤ **MAY 20**

Marriage and Family

Ron McClung



➤ **JUNE 17**

The Second Coming of Christ / The Resurrection of the Dead

Bud Bence



➤ **JULY 15**

The Judgement of All Persons / Destiny

EDITORS Angela Alvarado, Chris Bounds, Josh McNall, Jonathan Morgan, Mike Tapper, Jerome Van Kuiken, Janelle Vernon

TRANSLATORS AND EDITORS Yamil Acevedo, Johanna Rugh, Kristel Shepherd

! **EXPLORE** The Articles of Religion series. wes.life/AoR



ANGELA ALVARADO

is the assistant editor for the Communication and Administration Division of The Wesleyan Church, an ordained elder and graduate of Wesley Seminary, Marion, Indiana.



En *busca* de la fe

Hay una apertura espiritual y un hambre crecientes en nuestro mundo. **¿Lo sientes? ¿Lo has visto?**

La prueba de ello sigue apareciendo a medida que el Espíritu Santo de Dios se derrama. Por todas partes la gente anhela a Dios y busca una mayor comprensión de la fe cristiana. Esta ansiosa búsqueda es una increíble oportunidad para que los creyentes, específicamente los wesleyanos, intervengan en oración y cierren la brecha del evangelio.

Los Artículos de Fe (AdF) de La Iglesia Wesleyana (LIW) son fundamentales para entender quienes somos, cómo vivimos y servimos. Con una posición destacada en la Parte 1 de “La Disciplina de la Iglesia Wesleyana 2022”, incluida dentro de la Constitución de la Conferencia General de América del Norte, los Artículos de Fe son, en parte, para “...el avance del reino de Dios entre todas las naciones...”.

Una nueva serie de AdF, diseñada para analizar cada artículo de fe para los wesleyanos, ofrece momentos

de discipulado al presentar, o para algunos, presentar nuevamente, los principios básicos de la fe cristiana, así como estas creencias y doctrinas de LIW.

“Comprender la fe cristiana más plenamente nos beneficia individualmente a medida que buscamos a Dios, deseando aprender a amarlo con todo nuestro corazón, alma, *mente* y fuerzas”, dijo el superintendente general Dr. Wayne Schmidt. “Una mayor claridad la forma en que conceptualizamos nuestras creencias comunes también tiene el beneficio colectivo de unirnos en nuestra fe cristiana”.

Los teólogos de toda LIW, que celebran y abrazan los Artículos de Fe, se han unido para compartir sus conocimientos y dones con nosotros. Estos *ministros* han ofrecido voluntariamente su tiempo y trabajo, aportando sus perspectivas únicas formadas por diversas experiencias ministeriales, culturales y misionales. Muchos eligieron el tema de su artículo por una pasión teológica particular, o por una investigación y un trabajo académico correlativos. Nos beneficiamos de sus mentes brillantes y cálidos corazones, y estamos agradecidos por su contribución.

➤ **ENERO 23** INTRODUCCIÓN A LA SERIE DE LOS ADF

Todos los videos y artículos estarán disponibles en español e inglés.

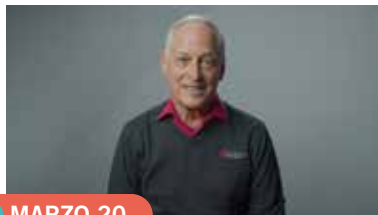
Wayne Schmidt



➤ **FEBRERO 20**

Fe en la Santa Trinidad

Steve Lennox



➤ **MARZO 20**

El Padre

Jerome Van Kuiken



➤ **ABRIL 17**

El Hijo de Dios

Richard Eckley



➤ **MAYO 15**

El Espíritu Santo

Tom Armiger



➤ **JUNIO 19**

La suficiencia y la plena autoridad de las Sagradas Escrituras para la Salvación

Colleen Derr



➤ **JULIO 17**

El propósito de Dios para la humanidad

Mark Wilson



➤ **AGOSTO 21**

Elección personal / Pecado: original, voluntario e involuntario / Pecado después de la regeneración

Patrick Eby



➤ **NOVIEMBRE 6**

Justificación, regeneración y adopción

David Holdren



➤ **SEPTIEMBRE 18**

Arrepentimiento y fe

Yamil Acevedo



➤ **OCTUBRE 16**

La expiación

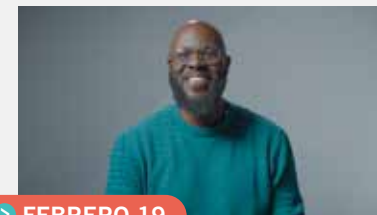
Belinda Selfridge



➤ **ENERO 22**

La iglesia

Chase Rashad



➤ **FEBRERO 19**

Los dones del Espíritu

Daniel Rife



➤ **MARZO 18**

Los Sacramentos: el Bautismo y la Cena del Señor

Aaron Perry



➤ **ABRIL 15**

Las buenas obras

Devon Smith



➤ **MAYO 20**

Matrimonio y familia

Ron McClung



➤ **JUNIO 17**

La segunda venida de Cristo / La resurrección de los muertos

Bud Bence



➤ **JULIO 15**

El juicio de todas las personas / Destino

EDITORES Angela Alvarado, Chris Bounds, Josh McNall, Jonathan Morgan, Mike Tapper, Jerome Van Kuiken, Janelle Vernon

TRADUCTORES Y EDITORES

Yamil Acevedo, Johanna Rugh, Kristel Shepherd

! **EXPLORE** la serie de los Artículos de Fe visitando. wes.life/AoR



ANGELA ALVARADO

es editora asistente de la División de Comunicación y Administración de La Iglesia Wesleyana, ministra ordenada y graduada del Seminario Wesley, Marion, Indiana.



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GENERAL BOARD CONVENED FOR FINAL 2022 SESSION

Newly elected quadrennial board closes the year
with the 147th General Board session.

 **FULL STORY**
wes.life/GB-Nov22

News



GLOBAL



GENERAL



COLLEGE



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OneCon has created an ecosystem
of churches working together across
denominational lines to listen for God in
their communities.

 **FULL STORY**
wes.life/OneCon



One in three

The doctrine of the Trinity invites us to
lean in to God and his Word, seeking to
understand so we might build our faith.

 **FULL STORY**
wes.life/1-in-3



Kingdom-style leadership

Three district leaders explain being called
by God, not as women, but as servants.

 **FULL STORY**
wes.life/kingdom-style



Called to transformation

Oklahoma Wesleyan names their first university pastor, Rev. Torrey Martin.

 **FULL STORY**
wes.life/call2transform



WE BELIEVE

Wesleyan contributors create
discipleship moments, preserving
and passing on our faith through
the 2023-2024 Articles of
Religion series.

 **FULL STORY**
wes.life/webelieve

Remembered

“Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith.” *(Hebrews 13:7)*

REV. ROBERT (BOB) W. ALLRED (78) died August 19. He pastored in the North Carolina West District.

REV. BARRY LYNN ASHBROOK (68) died January 31. He pastored in the Shenandoah District.

DR. MEREDITH “MED” JAMES BAILIE (89) died August 29. He pastored in the Great Lakes Region.

PASTOR ETHAN ALEXANDER CLARK (30) died December 22. He pastored in the North Carolina East District.

REV. WILBER JOEY CLARK (74) died December 18. He pastored in the Northwest District.

REV. JACK COOPER died July 25. He pastored in the Great Lakes Region.

REV. ARTHUR N. DAVIS (93) died January 9. He pastored in Australia and the Crossroads District.

REV. BENJAMINE S. DROWN (88) died September 29. He pastored in the Wisconsin District.

REV. DAVID EUGENE DUNCAN (65) died December 11. He pastored in North Carolina East and West Districts.

REV. JOSEPH ALBERT EDWARDS, JR. (82) died January 20. He pastored in the North Carolina West District.



REV. J. RICHARD ERNST (88) died February 23. He pastored in and served as district superintendent of the former Iowa District.

REV. FREDA MAE FARMER (99) died February 13. She served as a missionary to Indonesia with Wesleyan World Missions (now Global Partners).

REV. KENNETH GOODEN (83) died November 25. He pastored in the Kansas District.

REV. DR. KENNETH LAYTON GORVEATTE (86) died September 17. He pastored in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, Canada, and Alabama, Indiana, Maine and Virginia, United States.



REV. JOHN HEAVILIN (93) died June 19. He pastored in Wisconsin and served as district superintendent of the former Wisconsin District.

DR. MARILYN R. HUNTER (85) died October 21. She served as a missionary to Haiti with World Mission (now Global Partners).

REV. ROY A. KELLY (84) died October 17. He pastored in the Penn York District.

REV. WILLARD KISER (78) died September 2. He pastored in the North Carolina West District.

REV. FRANK KLASSEN died July 25. He pastored in the Great Lakes Region.

REV. JAMES PAUL LANDREY (83) died November 23. He pastored in California and Texas and served overseas as a missionary and crusade worker.

REV. JOSEPH EDWARD LARAKERS (80) died October 17. He pastored in Chicago, Illinois, and served as a missionary to Haiti.

REV. FRED MIKESSELL (60) died December 21. He served as a missionary in Africa.

REV. CURTIS WILLIAM PEACOCK (94) died November 29. He pastored in Indiana and Michigan.

REV. BILL PEVY (87) died October 30. He pastored in Florida and Virginia.

REV. EDWARD D. PURCELL (79) died October 17. He pastored in the Kansas District.

REV. GLEN ROLAND RANEY (95) died September 10. He pastored in the Crossroads District.

JAMES ARTHUR SAYRES (94) died November 16. He served as a pilot and missionary in Guyana, South America.

REV. RON SCHMIDT (88) died October 2. He pastored in Michigan.

REV. DR. CARL SCHULTZ (91) died August 18. He pastored in the Western New York District, and taught and served as chairman of the division of Religion and Philosophy at Houghton University.

REV. CAROL ANNE SCHWEIGART (66) died August 5. She pastored in the Western New York District.

REV. JOHN S. SIMMONS (77) died October 15. He pastored in the Indiana South District.

REV. PAUL STEWARD (90) died September 21. He pastored in South Dakota and served as a missionary to Bolivia, South America.

REV. IRA MOULTON TAYLOR (100) died December 29. He pastored in Canada and the United States.

REV. GLEN WESSEL (91) died January 9. He pastored in Kansas, Montana, South Dakota, Tennessee and Wyoming.

REV. EUGENE WHITE died July 25. He pastored in the Kentucky-Tennessee District.

REV. WAYNE WINGFIELD (85) died August 31. He pastored in North Carolina and Virginia.

REV. DR. DONALD D. WOOD (79) died September 23. He pastored in Greensboro, North Carolina, and served as dean of students and professor at Southern Wesleyan University.

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