

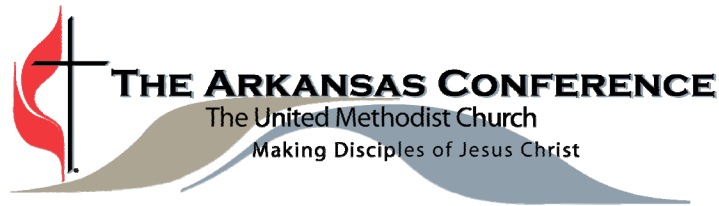
AN APOSTOLATE OF PRAYER

“Imagine Ministry” A Guide for Reading, Meditation, and Prayer August 1, 2009

We ask that pastors, prayer groups, teams in the local church, and individuals use the prayer guide as an intentional daily and weekly study for devotions. This prayer guide is available on the conference web site and will be sent out weekly on the conference email network.

Sources:

- A Guide for Reading, Meditation, and Prayer for all who participate in The United Methodist Way.
- Upper Room Books
- General Board of Discipleship, United Methodist Church
- Scripture quotations are from the NRSV
- Excerpts from “Covenant Renewal Service and Opening Prayer,” copyright 1992 United Methodist Publishing House. Wesley Covenant Service abridged by Ole E. Borgen.
- United Methodist Hymnal



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“Imagine Ministry” A Guide for Reading, Meditation, and Prayer

Week Five: August 30 – September 5, 2009

Read Ephesians 3:1-6 slowly and prayerfully. What word or phrase stands out for you today?

What is “the mystery of Christ” entrusted to you?

How are you making this known to others? Record your reflections.

What is “the mystery of Christ” entrusted to the United Methodists?

How are you making this known to others?

Gil Rendle has written in *Leadership Under Constraints*, “...resources and outcomes are easily confused. An outcome is something one wants to happen or something to be produced. A resource is something needed to accomplish that outcome. Congregations frequently confuse significant resources such as budget, staff, or a building as outcomes. This confusion, for example, often lies at the heart of the familiar depression and disappointment that congregations experience at the completion of a new building. It is likely that the leaders in their work on the new building, lost sight of the real outcome of community connection. They forgot that there was a reason for which they needed the resource of a new building. Some resources such as staff, facilities, budgets and structure

are expensive and demanding and can easily be construed as outcomes within themselves. Congregational and conference leaders must likewise be clear about what are outcomes and what are resources.”

What is the purpose of the local congregation?

The outcome or mission of the local congregation?

What is the purpose of the annual conference?

Wisdom from the Wesleys:

In the minutes of *Several Conversations between John and Charles Wesley and their leaders*, the question was asked:

- Q. 3. What may we reasonably believe to be God’s design in raising up the Preachers called Methodists?
- A. Not to form any new sect; but to reform the nation, particularly the Church; and to spread scriptural holiness over the land.

Quoted from the “Minutes of Several Conversation between Mr. Wesley and Others from the year 1744, to the year 1789”; Works (Jackson edition) 8:325-6