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There is a fresh wind of the Holy Spirit blowing across the denomination – and it's filled with spiritual conviction moving us to action.

Evangelism is at the forefront because we're realizing that all people need Christ. We see it as we plant more churches in each conference and across the United States.

Yet, I perceive a new humbleness on our part as United Methodists.

- We're learning from the church around the world as it grows by leaps and bounds. And if we're willing to learn from churches and be partners with them, we will truly create a global table of leaders and members who are passionate about Christ.
- We are realizing that leaders can be clergy and lay – and there does not need to be a pre-conceived idea of how to do ministry. No one needs to feel threatened by the growth of lay leadership. Empowering ministry can be done in partnership or as a team. It's creative, passionate, and discerning – and can make a difference in the troubled world in which we live.
- We're learning the local church is the key to offering hope for the world. That's how John Wesley thought about it and perceived it. If we focus on meeting the people where they are, the local church will become part of the community. With our United Methodist connectionalism, in which we hold each other accountable for heart and social holiness, effectiveness and spiritual disciplines, revival will happen again – spreading like fire.
- There is a revival of prayer and fasting among our members, who are questing to be spiritually connected with Christ.

These are signs that make me hopeful, and I, personally, want to be part of this movement across the nation. Yet, as the church, I think we understand that more can always be done. We can continue to:

- Remember our historic Wesleyan convictions of who we are and who we are called to be.
- Reclaim scriptural holiness across the land and a desire to live holy lives, so that we are pleasing to God and loving of God in our ministry.
- Be the conscience of the nation and the world.
- Work on unity instead of divisiveness within our denomination.
- Believe in the redemption of the world and the new movement happening across the denomination.

To do these things, we must act with a sense of urgency. The open window for action demands and needs a response. Between General Conferences, we need to be making disciples of Christ and bringing people to God.

As a church:

- We need to take spiritual leadership seriously, not look at ministry as a vocational milestone, but as a way of pointing people to healing.

- We need to carefully and humbly find ways to learn from the younger generation, involve them in leadership, and realize that they can connect with the youth culture.
- We need to continue to accept the gifts that new, insightful leadership brings to the church – especially those gifts of Hispanic, Korean, and African leadership. They are a great blessing to our denomination.
- We must not surrender orthodoxy for political and social expediency, but balance the two, and remember that obedience needs to guide ministry.
- We must seek bringing people to God with the same passion as we seek social justice.
- We must help seminaries reinvent themselves and look at new possibilities and potentials that include creative educational models and strategies, thus making seminaries academic and practical. What would happen if one of the requirements were to plant a church before graduation?

I envision a church, reclaiming and resurrecting these principles; empowering laity and youth; being rooted in accountability and connectionalism; engaging in ministry of social holiness with a global community and global consequences; and reclaiming what John Wesley began.

I'm hopeful and praying. If we do this, we'll be the salt and light in the community and the world.