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Especially at a time like this – when we have a war raging in Iraq and the U.S. government goes in different directions than many of the people wish -- the church has a responsibility to get involved in the decision-making process; to speak out and advocate for the voiceless; and to be a voice of faith in the governmental processes.

Yet as a church, we also must remember we are global in nature, so our actions must reflect this.

In advocacy, The United Methodist Church could play a stronger role. Church leaders could be more visible and speak out. The denomination could become engaged in the issues that are affecting God's children around the world:

- War
- Torture
- Terrorism
- Peace to people on this earth
- Education for children
- Healthcare
- Poverty
- Immigration
- Care for elderly

Too often, people talk about how governments control the issues and how money and corporate interests affect the decisions. But the truth is, the church could play a role in the decision-making process, ensuring that those who are voiceless are given voices. The church comprises a lot of voices! And if the church and its leaders begin to advocate on behalf of the nations, in the name of our faith, we will be able to change the world.

However, to make a difference, we have to unite ourselves. I see the church trying hard to unite, yet everyone notices the membership declining, and the younger generation diminishing in numbers and involvement. Yet, the blessing of being a global church – with many different backgrounds and diversity, is that we can learn from each other. Some ethnic groups are maintaining a younger population and treating their young people as valued members of their church. Can't we find the lesson in this?

Across the denomination and within our communities, we are from diverse backgrounds, ethnicities, and languages. So why not have worships, programs and events together so that we can truly be united? Why not learn from and listen to one another, so we can truly understand each other, then speak together as one voice? Why can't we be inclusive and diverse in all that we do? We may struggle with difficult issues between countries and conferences, but can't we find the common goal? Can't we see the global picture -- remembering who are neighbors are -- so we can truly be The One in God's love?

When we unite, and respect the inclusivity and diversity of each other, and the common goal presented to us by Jesus Christ, then we will be strong in our voice to the world and be able to advocate for the “least of these.”