

Tuesdays Table

Should I Stay Or Should I Go?

The purpose of this resource is to help guide your engagement of the “Tuesdays at the Table” conversation. This is merely a frame for the conversation you’ll have or the raw materials to shape a conversation unique for the table you’re sitting at.

As you participate in the conversation...

- **Keep an open mind.**
- **Stay curious.**
- **Look for new ideas.**
- **Speak from your heart.**
- **Respect the ideas of others.**

Access a video of the “Should I Stay or Should I Go?” conversation [here](#).

Though we cannot think alike, may we not love alike?

May we not be of one heart, though we are not of one opinion?

John Wesley (Sermon 39, “Catholic Spirit”)

Let us pray.

Let the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts be pleasing to you, Lord, our rock and our redeemer. - *Psalms 19:14*

Guiding questions.

- What characteristics of God make God appealing to you?
- What disagreements have helped you grow? What about your approach to those disagreements encouraged that growth?
- What message do you think John Wesley was trying to convey when he said, “Though we cannot think alike, may we not love alike? May we not be of one heart, though we are not of one opinion?” Where does this message resonate in your life?
- What does it look like when we love one another?
- How does your context influence your understanding of God’s love and God’s mission?
- How is love at the heart of God’s mission in the world?
- Why do you think Dr. Field referred to The United Methodist Church as a “countercultural church”? Would John Wesley have said the same? If so, why?
- How do you understand the “United” attribute of “The United Methodist Church”?
- What adjective describes the church has you know it? As you believe God would have it?

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Take action.

- Think of someone who embodies the adjective you believe describes the church as God would have it. Write them a quick note to thank them for being a visible witness.
- Identify one place where God's love is breaking through in your community. Schedule time on your calendar to be present in that space (e.g., education of underserved children, youth bible study, food poverty ministries, migrant-related ministries, collegiate ministries, disaster relief, elder care, unhoused ministries, or time with a friend who is hurting or celebrating).
- Keep a daily journal or log this week of places you've seen God's love present in your life or the lives of those around you. Share what you noticed with your faith community.
- In your conversations this week, while someone is speaking, practice paying more attention to what is being said than to how you will respond. Note if that's difficult or easy for you and why.
- Have a conversation with someone who thinks differently than you do. Ask them how they understand God's love. Exchange stories about the a time you witnessed God's love at work in the world. What did you notice afterward? What did you hear that was new or surprising?

Resources.

By the Water and the Spirit: Making Connections for Identity and Ministry by Gayle Carlton Felton

“Catholic Spirit” (Sermon 39) by John Wesley

The General Rule of Discipleship of the UMC

“Grace Upon Grace”, the mission theology statement of the UMC

Our Purpose is Love by David Field

“Our Theological Task”, Book of Discipline 2016

This Holy Mystery: A United Methodist Understanding of Holy Communion by Gayle Carlton Felton

“Service of Baptism”, UM Book of Worship