

Tuesdays Table

Do I have to believe a certain way to belong?

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 “Do I have to believe a certain way to belong?” conversation [here](#).

At the heart of a Wesleyan tradition is a willingness to evolve.

Dr. Ashley Dreff

Let us pray.

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven. Open our hearts and minds to the seasons that have come before. Soften our spirits to embrace the seasons before us today. Grace us with humility to embrace the seasons to come. Amen.

Guiding questions.

- How would you define “tradition”?
- What are a few of the primary experiences in your life that inform your tradition?
- Jaroslav Pelikan said, “Tradition is the living faith of the dead; traditionalism is the dead faith of the living.” Do you agree or disagree? Why?
- How can questioning our traditions be a faithful and Wesleyan practice?
- How do you understand the difference theology and doctrine?
- How are our diverse theological expressions both “beauty and bane”?
- How are you in dialogue with others, God, and yourself to encourage growth?

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Take action.

- Tradition is made up of form and process. Choose a “form”, as Dr. Dreff defined it, and describe how you have chosen to live it out – your “process”. (Example: “Form” – Love God with all your heart, soul, and mind, and love your neighbor as yourself. “Process” – How you love God and love neighbor.)

Resources.

“Catholic Spirit” (Sermon 39) by John Wesley

The incompatibility clause mentioned by Dr. Dreff is ¶ 304.3 in the *Book of Discipline 2016*.

“Our Theological Task: Tradition”, *Book of Discipline 2016* (¶ 105, p. 85)