

# Mission and Justice begin here

## Global Mission Wheel



**M**ission means different things to different people. This would not be a problem or dilemma if we had unlimited resources, finances, personnel or time to deal with each and every area that individuals and churches deem to be mission. The purpose of the *Global Mission Wheel* is to facilitate the Churches of the Florida Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church into a narrower definition of mission.

This is not to say that mission should be viewed narrowly, but that our corporate definition, understanding and interpretation of mission have common foundations, strategies and goals. Mission is expressed and made visible through the activities of the Church when it has opportunities to practice its faith in the world. Mission is a ministry by the whole people of God. It is a Christian worldview encompassing faith, hope

and love (1 Corinthians 13:12-13). It is the Great Commission of Jesus Christ (Matthew 28:19-20). Mission is moving the Good News message of the Gospel from a concept written on a page to a living witness. It is *Missio Dei* (God's Work), in which God has chosen humanity to accomplish His evangelistic purpose in the world.

A vibrant, living Church provides the framework for *mission* to go forward into the world. *Mission* occurs when all four-quadrants of the wheel are actively engaged by the whole people of God. The *Global Mission Wheel* offers not only a visual instrument of *mission* methodologies but also a catalyst in which God's *mission* will go forward within our Church. There is one *mission* only. God's *mission* to His world and we are privileged to join Him in that *mission* to the world.

Central to the four-quadrants is CHRIST OVER ALL. *Mission* originates with God. God is a missionary God who sent His Son into the world. The arrows which bilaterally intersect CHRIST OVER ALL illustrate that *mission* is not only the movement of God's love toward people – but an attribute of God – moving freely between all four-quadrants.

The evangelistic outreach of the Igniting Ministry has used the phrases -*Open heart. Open mind. Open doors. The people of the United Methodist Church.* – to co-ordinate a comprehensive series of efforts offering resources to assist local churches - to help local churches reach out – to increase awareness among non-members of a willingness to visit a United Methodist Church and to renew a sense of commitment in the United Methodist Church. The strategy of the *Global Mission Wheel* is to build upon that mission endeavor. The *Wheel* adds *Open Hands*.

*Open Hearts* offers Spiritual Formation as motivation for *mission*. The methodology is a journey of discovery for the individual through the Spiritual Disciplines. Discipline implies instruction and correction, the training that improves, molds, strengths and perfects character. *Open Minds* proposes a Bible and Theological Foundation as motivation for mission. The methodology of Mission Education is expressed through the mandate for the Christian to teach, preach, witness, proclaim, evangelize, exhort,

rebuke, reprove, beseech, warn and persuade. *Mission* seeks God's will through the study and application of Scripture in our lives. *Open Doors* invite Partnerships as motivation for *mission*. The methodology of Hospitality is expressed and made visible through relationships. It incorporates neighborliness and intentional communication in which *mission* is witness and dialogue - both local and abroad to all faiths – to all peoples. *Open Hands* presents Action as a motivation for *mission*. The methodology is that the human element begins where the people are. *Mission* is never done *to* people but *with* people. Creative Energy encompasses a practical application of activities that may incorporate hard work, commitment, time, energy and an attitude of understanding.

The top two-quadrants of *Open Hearts and Open Minds* are interconnected with the word *Being*. We experience CHRIST OVER ALL through *Open Hearts* and *Open Minds* when we are engaged in *Being* – experiencing the reign and rule of the Kingdom of God through His Word and Disciplines. The bottom two-quadrants of *Open Doors* and *Open Hands* are interconnected with the word *Doing*. We experience CHRIST OVER ALL through *Open Doors* and *Open Hands* when we are engaged in *Doing* – experiencing the awareness of God's love and care for His Creation through others and with others.

The lines that divide the quadrant are not solid. *Open Minds, Open Hearts, Open Doors, Open Hands* have the ability to transcend and move beyond limits or obstructions within their individual quadrants.

The four-quadrants are encircled with the words *Justice – Mercy – Love – Grace – Peace – Compassion – Forgiveness – Empowerment* - reminding us that *mission* is the movement of God's love toward people.

*Worship* is the enclosing circle that embraces the whole of the *Global Mission Wheel*. God intends that His church will be a worshipping and witnessing community. *Worship* is our opportunity to come together as a faith community and celebrate the redemptive, transforming power of *The Good News of Jesus Christ*.

## Appendix-8