



*"The mission of the United Methodist Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world."*

So, what exactly does that mean? Are we to go out into the world spreading the good news of Jesus Christ? Are we to be transformed ourselves? What does a "transformed world" look like? Who are we as Christians and United Methodist and how do we transform anything?

The mission statement for the UMC brings lots of questions. Let's face it, not everyone is equipped or even comfortable being an evangelist, but everyone has a story to tell. So why is this new upstart pastor bringing up this subject already? Well, I would have liked to wait a little while longer in order to better know each of you, but I have already been asked by several folks to start a new member class. I must admit that sometimes we place too much emphasis on membership and not enough on discipleship though. Members ARE disciples so we must explore discipleship and how it effects each of us.

I was once a member of the US Army. I was once a member of the Chamber of Commerce. I was once a member of the American Red Cross. I have been a member of the UMC since age 17. Doesn't being a disciple of Jesus Christ carry more importance and responsibility than any of these memberships? I like to think so. People don't want to join the church just to be a member. People want to be part of something bigger than themselves and want to learn and grow as members of the family of Jesus Christ. We can do that in a United Methodist 101 class and our individual calling as transformed disciples.

The United Methodist 101 class is a fun and exciting journey for members and non-members alike. If it has been a while since you explored your "Methodist" roots and you wish to learn more, come to the class. We will learn and grow together as disciples.

The class consists of four weekly sessions of 1 ½ hours in duration. I would like to begin the classes in concert with the start of school in late summer. I'm open to dates and time so if you're interested let me know what your preference might be.

Pastor Dale