

Love Boldly

Guided summary for the January 24, 2026 Webinar: What does it mean to “Love Boldly”. You are invited to watch the archived webinar and use the guided summary below.

[View full webinar on YouTube](#)

Webinar participants:

Bishop Ruben Saenz, resident bishop of the Horizon Texas Conference and Co-Convener of the Leadership Gathering Design Team

Stephanie Henry, lay person in the Pacific Northwest Conference and Co-Convener of the Leadership Gathering Design Team

Dr. Ashley Boggan, General Secretary of the General Commission on Archives and History

Rev. Dr. Erika Stalcup, ordained deacon in the Switzerland-France-North Africa Annual Conference, serving Village Mosaïque UMC in Lausanne, Switzerland

Rev. Marian Royston, elder in the North Alabama Conference, serving St. Paul UMC in Birmingham, Alabama

Rev. Prof. Peter Mageto, Vice Chancellor of Africa University, a United Methodist–related institution in Mutare, Zimbabwe

Purpose: Explore how Wesleyan theology rooted in God’s prevenient grace and passionate love for the world can shape a hopeful future.

Opening Prayer:

Eternal God, we gather from many lands, many languages, and many contexts yet joined by one spirit and one faith. We thank you for the audacious vision that has brought us together: That your church might be shaped not for us, but with us.

We confess that we do not always know the way forward, but trust that you walk with us and are already waiting for us far into the future. Jeremiah reminds us, You know the plans You have for us. Plans for our welfare, plans for hope, and plans that invite us to seek You with all our hearts and find You in that seeking.

So, we ask You, Holy Spirit, open our ears to one another, open our hearts to the voices we have not yet fully heard, and open our imagination to futures we have not yet glimpsed. Grant us the courage to love boldly, not with a love that is naïve or weak, but with a fierce incarnational love of Jesus Christ, who emptied himself for the whole world’s sake and calls us to do the same.

As we listen, help us to see the face of Christ. As we participate and share through the survey, help us name our hopes and our visions, help us speak not from fear or self-interest, but from the deepest wisdom of your Spirit. We pray for those who will gather in Calgary in October 2026. Give us the grace to build together, brick by brick, voice by voice, hope by hope, a church that looks more like the beloved community you have always envisioned. We pray this in the name of Jesus Christ, who loved boldly, served joyfully, and leads us courageously into Your future. Amen.



1. What is theology?

[Listen to 1st Clip: 14:48 – 16:14](#)

“God is in conversation with these people, and his people are responding to God’s Word.”

– Rev. Prof. Peter Mageto

Reflect on some important theological conversations you have been having lately.

2. Why is theology important?

[Listen to 2nd Clip: 17:07 ---17:57](#)

“I think that our theology is what animates our holy imaginations about what is possible, about what we can do, and about what we can see.” – Rev. Marian Royston

Reflect on what animates or sparks your holy imagination in your context.

3. What is distinctive about our Methodist or Wesleyan Theology?

[Listen to 3rd Clip: 20:47 –23:16](#)

“Theology is a verb. It’s not a destination. It’s not a set of fixed understandings that we all need to arrive at and agree upon in order to call ourselves Methodist ..., but it’s a journey that we embark upon together, and it’s something we do in community.” – Rev. Dr. Erika Stalcup

[Listen to 4th Clip: 27:00 – 28:20](#)

“... our Wesleyan theology ... stands out because it’s based on what God is doing and how good God is, and not how terrible or horrible we are. It doesn’t center us; it centers God and what God is doing in the world and the way that we’re being formed by the love and the goodness of God. And in a world that seems to be filled with fear and filled with anxiety and uncertainty right now, that does stand out.” – Rev. Marian Royston

How are you living out Methodist theology in your context in a distinctive way?

4. What is a concrete story of “Loving Boldly” in your context?

[Listen to 5th Clip: 33:58 – 35:58](#)

“For me, loving boldly is not a phrase; it is active living. It is the true call of what John Wesley reminded us again of the social holiness – whether that’s called the social gospel. It is a daily call. It is a daily mission. So whether you are within a congregation, you are in the village, you are in the street, you’re on the roadside, loving boldly is a missional call.” – Rev. Prof. Peter Mageto

What is a concrete story of “Loving Boldly” in your context?



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5. How does our theology pull us to engage with/towards community? How do we refuse the false binary of spiritual formation and justice/mercy?

[Listen to 6th Clip: 50:32 – 52:00](#)

“. . . I think that when we refuse the false binary between justice and mercy and spiritual formation, then that means that we want to participate in full transformation, because otherwise it’s kind of incomplete. And so, we can’t really say that we want to be participants in the transformation of the world if we’re not willing to be transformed.” – Rev. Marian Royston

What is a growing edge for your context in both spiritual formation and living out your faith daily?

6. How might you see “loving boldly” shaping The UMC of the future?

[Listen to 7th Clip: 53:30 – 57:13](#)

“But I hope that loving boldly can lead us into at least three things: a Methodism beyond belief, a Methodism beyond the box, and a Methodism beyond borders.” – Rev. Dr. Stalcup

What are your hopes for The UMC of the future?

UMC SURVEY

If you haven’t already, please take a moment to fill out the denomination-wide survey to help us answer the following questions:

- What do you hope the church will prioritize?
- What do you envision for us 50 years from now?
- What message do you want our [October 2026 Leadership Gathering](#) to carry back to the entire denomination?

PLEASE CLICK OR
SCAN TO
PARTICIPATE IN
THE SURVEY:



UPCOMING WEBINARS:



February 21, 2026
Locally Rooted & Globally Connected



March 21, 2026
Christ-centered Leadership

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