

Guided summary for the March 21, 2026 Webinar: What does it mean to “Lead Courageously”? You are invited to watch the archived webinar and use the guided summary below.

[View full webinar on YouTube](#)

Webinar participants:

Bishop Ruben Saenz, Jr., 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

Bishop Tracy Smith Malone (Moderator), resident bishop of the Indiana Conference and first Black woman to serve as President of the Council of Bishops

Bishop Ande Emmanuel, elected to the Episcopacy in 2024 by the West Africa Central Conference, serving the Nigeria Episcopal Area and Mission Districts of Senegal and Cameroon

Angela Pupino, certified candidate on the elder track in the Baltimore-Washington Conference and Master of Divinity student at Wesley Theological Seminary

Dave Uriel Angelo Rombaoa, president of the National United Methodist Youth Fellowship in the Philippines and co-chair of the Young People’s Connectional Network

Purpose: Explore how Spirit-filled leadership, rooted in our Wesleyan heritage and ecclesiology, equips the church to lead courageously in local communities and worldwide connections.

Opening Prayer:

Gracious and ever-present God, today as leaders of your church across the worldwide connection — bishops, clergy, laity, young adults, and faithful servants from Texas to Tanzania, from Switzerland to the Philippines — we gather to discern what it means to lead courageously.

Not with the courage of our own ambition, but with a bold, Spirit-emboldened courage that steps into the tombs of a world that desperately needs resurrection.

Embolden us, Holy Spirit, as we explore what it means to be the church yet to be.

Give us the courage to offer our leadership faithfully, generously, and not to lead from fear, but from faith. May this time together not be just another meeting, but a holy moment where your vision shapes ours, where the grassroots wisdom of your people becomes a road map we follow, and where we will leave more committed than when we came to love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously.

We pray this in the name of the one who is the resurrection and the life, Jesus the Christ. Amen.



1. How does the Holy Spirit shape and animate your understanding of ecclesiology?

[Listen to 1st Clip: 14:16 – 16:25](#)

“Ecclesiology is not merely about institutional form but about a living, Spirit-filled community shaped by grace. The Church exists as the Body of Christ, called to proclaim the gospel, nurture believers, and serve the world in love.”

– Bishop Ande Emmanuel

How do you experience your congregation as a living, Spirit-filled community rather than simply an institution? What does that mean for how you lead?

2. How does connectionalism unite and empower the church?

[Listen to 2nd Clip: 16:43 – 17:55](#)

“Local churches have some freedom in how they live out their faith in local contexts in worship and ministry, but they are still bound to all other United Methodists in a covenant of support and accountability.”

– Angela Pupino

How have you experienced the covenant of connectionalism strengthening your congregation’s ministry? Where have you felt the support of the wider church?

3. How does the Holy Spirit move beyond structure to cultivate courageous leadership?

[Listen to 3rd Clip: 18:23 – 20:05](#)

“The Holy Spirit is not limited to our structures. The Spirit works through connectionalism, forming leaders in community, but also beyond it — especially when systems become slow to respond or struggle to include emerging voices.”

– Dave Uriel Angelo Rombaoa

Where have you seen the Holy Spirit at work beyond formal church structures in your own context? What does that call you to do or become?



4. What characteristics does the Holy Spirit stir in a courageous leader?

[Listen to 4th Clip: 20:41 – 23:20](#)

“Courageous leadership is not about power. It is about obedience to God’s call.”

– Bishop Ande Emmanuel

How does your congregation create space for the Holy Spirit to develop courageous leaders — even when it challenges the status quo and institutional norms?

5. When we look at courageous leaders, who are we missing from that story?

[Listen to 5th Clip: 40:37 – 46:38](#)

“We are missing the stories of young people, women, lay leaders, and grassroots communities — especially those serving in contexts where resources are limited but faith is strong. If we are not listening to voices at the margins, we may be missing where the Spirit is already at work.”

– Dave Uriel Angelo Rombaoa

Whose voice or witness has been missing from your congregation’s story of courageous leadership? How might you begin to name and include it?

6. What gives you hope when you think about our new vision as a church?

[Listen to 6th Clip: 1:07:59 – 1:14:22](#)

“My hope for our future is grounded in our Methodist history. The Methodist movement has been nimble, thoughtful, contextual, led by the Holy Spirit — willing to go to places that other people were not willing to go, willing to minister in real gaps where people didn’t have community, or care, or love.”

– Angela Pupino

What gives you hope when you think about our vision — to love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously? Where do you see the Spirit calling your church to step into greater courageous leadership in the world?

Upcoming Event: October 2026, Leadership Gathering, Calgary, Alberta, Canada

[Find more webinar resources at ResourceUMC.org/LeadershipGathering](https://ResourceUMC.org/LeadershipGathering)

