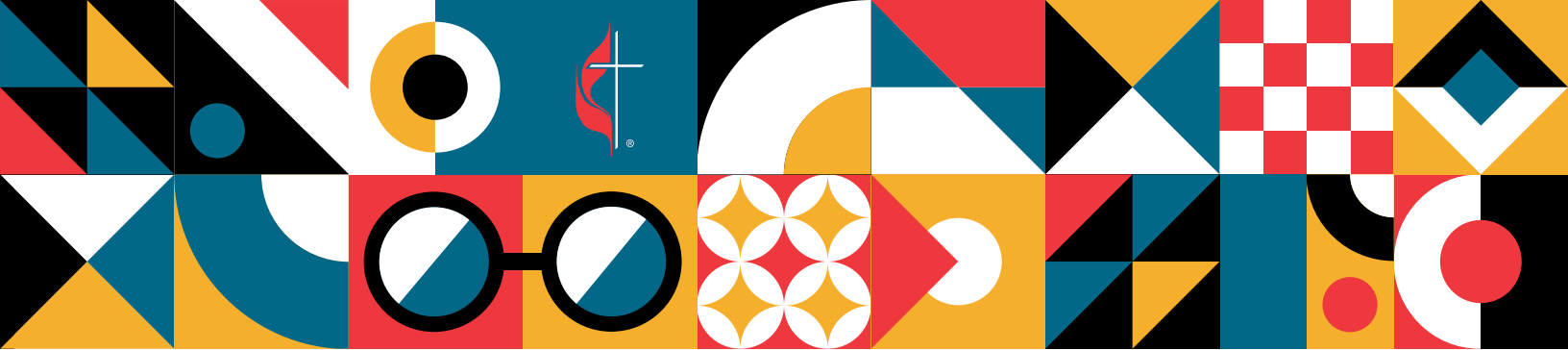




2026

LEADERSHIP

GATHERING

LIVING INTO OUR VISION

OCTOBER 20–24, 2026

Knox United Church • Calgary, Alberta





The United Methodist Church
forms disciples of Jesus Christ
who, empowered by the
Holy Spirit **love boldly**,
serve joyfully, and
lead courageously in
local communities and
worldwide connections.

ResourceUMC.org/Vision

[#LoveServeLeadUMC](https://twitter.com/LoveServeLeadUMC)

Agenda

Date and Time

Tuesday, October 20:	10:00 a.m.—8:00 p.m.
Wednesday, October 21:	8:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m.
Thursday, October 22:	8:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m.
Friday, October 23:	8:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m.
Saturday, October 24:	8:00—10:30 a.m.

Location

Knox United Church
506 4 St SW, Calgary, AB T2P 1S7, Canada



WELCOME TO CALGARY

10:00 a.m.—8:00 p.m.	Registration & Badge Pickup	Knox UC Labyrinth Room
5:00—6:00 p.m.	Community & Connection Dinner	Knox UC Gymnasium
6:15—7:15 p.m.	Leadership Welcome & Gathering Orientation	Knox UC Sanctuary
7:15—7:45 p.m.	Covenant Groups —Introductions & Elections	Covenant Rooms*
8:15—8:45 p.m.	Facilitator/Recorder Training	Knox UC Sanctuary



EMPOWERED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT

8:00—9:00 a.m.	Opening Worship	Knox UC Sanctuary
9:15 a.m.—12:00 p.m.	Opening Plenary Speaker 1: Defining United Methodist Speaker 2: Defining Discipleship Speaker 3: Defining Leadership Speaker 4: Defining Impact Speaker 5: Defining Stewardship Speaker 6: Defining Accountability Panel	Knox UC Sanctuary
12:00—1:30 p.m.	Grab Lunch—Transition & Break	
1:30—5:00 p.m.	Covenant Groups, Day 1 Join Covenant Groups —Follow Day 1 instructions	Covenant Rooms*
5:00 p.m.	Leadership Gathering Adjourns	
5:30—6:30 p.m.	Cohort Conversation —Facilitator & Recorder	Knox UC Gym



LOVING BOLDLY

8:00—8:30 a.m.	Centering Moment	Knox UC Sanctuary
8:30—11:00 a.m.	Morning Reports & Plenary Speaker 1: Our Named Realities Speaker 2: Our Newly Living Practices Speakers: Creative Methodologies	Knox UC Sanctuary
11:00—11:30 a.m.	Grab Lunch—Transition & Break	
11:30 a.m.—3:30 p.m.	Covenant Groups, Day 2 Join Covenant Group —Follow Day 2 instructions	Covenant Rooms*
4:00—5:00 p.m.	Transition & Break	
5:00 p.m.	Afternoon Plenary —“Future-Back”	Knox UC Sanctuary
5:30—6:30 p.m.	Leadership Gathering Adjourns	
5:30—6:30 p.m.	Cohort Conversation —Facilitator & Recorder	Knox UC Gym
5:30—6:30 p.m.	Bishop Meeting	Knox UC Theater



SERVING JOYFULLY

8:00—8:30 a.m.	Centering Moment	Knox UC Sanctuary
8:30—9:00 a.m.	Morning Reports & Plenary Faithful Imagination	Knox UC Sanctuary
9:00—9:30 a.m.	Expansive Stewardship	Knox UC Sanctuary
9:30—10:00 a.m.	Faithful Imagination	Knox UC Sanctuary
11:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.	Grab Lunch	
10:00 a.m.—3:30 p.m.	Covenant Groups, Day 3 Join Covenant Group —Follow Day 3 instructions	Covenant Rooms*
4:00—5:00 p.m.	Transition & Break	
5:00 p.m.	Afternoon Panel: Listening to the Spirit in this Space Naming the “One Recommendation”	Knox UC Sanctuary
5:30—6:30 p.m.	Leadership Gathering Adjourns	
5:30—6:30 p.m.	Cohort Conversation —Facilitator & Recorder	Knox UC Gym



LEADING COURAGEOUSLY

8:00—9:30 a.m.	Closing Plenary Bishops Closing Remarks and Closing Panel	Knox UC Sanctuary
9:30—10:30 a.m.	Closing Worship & Communion	
10:30 a.m.	Adjourn	



Logistics

Venue

Knox United Church 506 4 St SW
Calgary, AB T2P 1S7

The main entrance for the Council of Bishops Leadership Gathering will be on 4 St SW.

Registration Information

Registration will be located in the Labyrinth Room at Knox United Church during the following times:

- Tuesday, October 20: 10:00 a.m.—8:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, October 21: 7:00—8:30 a.m.

After 8:30 a.m. on Wednesday, please visit the office next to the Labyrinth Room for registration-related questions.

Badge Pickup Instructions

To pick up your badge, please present a valid form of photo identification.

Meals

Breakfast

Breakfast will be provided at your hotel each morning. Please be sure to eat breakfast prior to going to Knox United Church for the gathering as breakfast will not be provided at the church. For specific breakfast details, please reference the Know Before You Go email that will have arrived prior to your departure.

Lunch

Lunch will be provided each day at Knox United Church. Lunches will be boxed and easy to transport.

Dinner

Dinner will be provided at Knox United Church on Tuesday, October 20 at 5:00 p.m. For all other dinners a per diem card will be provided to each attendee to have dinner offsite at a location of your choosing. Per diem cards will be distributed during onsite registration. Restaurant List on page 6.

Dietary Needs

Dietary requirements submitted during registration have been communicated to the catering team and will be accommodated. If you have any questions or additional dietary needs, please speak with a member of the catering staff at meal functions for assistance.

Transportation

Airport transportation will be provided upon arrival and for departure. Please refer to your Know Before You Go email that will arrive prior to your departure for information regarding your airport transport.

Hotels are within walking distance of Knox United Church. Transportation will not be provided between Knox United Church and the hotels. Volunteers will be stationed in the hotel lobbies to help direct attendees to the church.

Technology

Wi-Fi

Wi-Fi SSID: Council of Bishops
Password: Calgary88\$\$

Mobile App

Please download the Whova app in the App Store or Google Play.

Weather and Attire

Weather

October weather in Calgary is typically cool, with daytime temperatures averaging 7°C to 12°C (45°F to 54°F) and overnight temperatures often near or below freezing. Attendees are encouraged to dress in layers and bring a light jacket, as weather conditions can vary throughout the day. Rain and occasional early-season snow are possible.

Attire

Please wear the clothing that is most comfortable for you when you are at work in your office. Attire for North American offices is described as ‘business casual.’ That means that men do not wear neckties or suit jackets and women do not wear formal business suits. Generally, this includes slacks/pants and shirts that are open at the collar.

Other items that may be beneficial:

- Medium-weight jacket or coat
- Sweater or fleece layers
- Long pants
- Comfortable closed-toe walking shoes
- Umbrella or light rain jacket
- Gloves and a hat for early mornings or evenings

Please note, coat racks will be available at the church.

Contacts

Logistical Contacts:

For general logistical inquiries in advance of the Council of Bishops Leadership Gathering, please contact Events@Wespath.org.

Onsite Contacts:

Margaret Sanders
Manager, Meeting and Events
msanders@wespath.org
Cell/WhatsApp: (224) 223-2286

Tori Luke
Meeting and Event Planner
tluke@wespath.org
Cell/WhatsApp: (847) 313-0129

Kathy Sinnen
Meeting and Event Planner
ksinnen@wespath.org
Cell/WhatsApp: (224) 536-8996



Restaurant Guide

	RESTAURANT	ADDRESS	PHONE
Low Cost Dining (\$-\$)	Rose Garden Thai Restaurant	112 3 Ave SE	(403) 269-3486
	James Joyce Irish Pub	114 8 Ave SW	(403) 262-0708
	Edo Japan (Stephen Avenue)	225 8 Ave SW Varies	
Casual Dining (\$\$)	CRAFT Market	345 10 Ave SW, Calgary, AB T2R 0A5	(403) 514-2337
	LOCAL Public Eatery	Stephen Avenue Area	Contact via website
	James Joyce Irish Pub	114 8 Ave SW, Calgary, AB T2P 1B3	(403) 262-0708
	National on 10th	341 10 Ave SW, Calgary, AB T2R 0A5	(403) 229-0221
Casual to Business Dining (\$\$-\$\$\$)	Last Best Brewing & Distilling	607 11 Ave SW, Calgary, AB T2R 0E1	(403) 287-6939
	Cactus Club Cafe Stephen Avenue	317 7 Ave SW, Calgary, AB T2P 2Y9	(587) 872-8884
	JOEY Eau Claire	208 Barclay Parade SW, Calgary, AB T2P 4R5	(403) 263-5777
	Earls Bankers Hall	315 8 Ave SW, Calgary, AB T2P 4K1	(403) 265-3275
	Salt & Brick	211 10 Ave SW, Calgary, AB T2R 0A4	(403) 371-3429
Upscale Dinner (\$\$\$-\$\$\$\$)	Ten Foot Henry	1209 1 St SW, Calgary, AB T2R 0V3	(403) 475-5537
	The Guild	200 8 Ave SW, Calgary, AB T2P 1B5	(825) 402-6687
	Pigeonhole 17th	306 17 Ave SW, Calgary, AB T2S	(403) 452-4694
	Pigeonhole Downtown	#205, 225 7 Ave SW, Calgary, AB	(403) 270-1300
	Ruth's Chris Steak House	115 9 Ave SE, Calgary, AB T2G 0P5	(403) 246-3636
	Major Tom	700 2 St SW, Calgary, AB T2P 2W3	Text reservations only

\$

Under \$20

\$

\$20-\$40

\$

\$40-\$75

\$

\$75+

Typical Cost Per Person (CAD)

	RESTAURANT	WEBSITE
CASUAL	One18Empire	one18empire.com
	Annabelle's Kitchen Downtown	annabelleskitchen.ca
	Barbarella Bar	barbarellabar.ca
	Pineapple Hall	pineapplehall.ca
	Thomsons Kitchen & Bar at Hyatt Regency	thomsonskitchenbar.ca
	Milestones Grill & Bar - Stephen Avenue	milestonesrestaurants.com/locations/stephen-ave
	The Derrick Gin Mill & Kitchen	thederrickkyyc.com
PUB	Earls Bankers Hall	earls.ca/locations/bankers-hall
	Klein / Harris	kleinharris.com
	Bank & Baron Pub	bankandbaronpub.com
	Barcelona Tavern	barcelonatavern.com
HIGH END	James Joyce Irish Pub	jamesjoycepub.com
	National on 8th	ntnl.ca
	Unicorn Pub	superpub.ca
	The Local Public Eatery	localpubliceatery.com/neighbourhoods/8th-ave
	Saltlik Calgary	saltlik.com/location/saltlik-calgary
	Teatro Ristorante	teatro.ca
	The Guild	theguildrestaurant.com
	Modern Steak	modernsteak.ca
	Stephen Avenue FinePrint	fineprintkyyc.com
	Centini Restaurant & Lounge	centini.com
	Major Tom	majortombar.ca
	Cucina	eatcucina.com
	Eighth Avenue Trattoria (E.A.T.)	eattrattoria.ca
	Hy's Steakhouse Cocktail Bar	hyssteakhouse.com

Pre-work for All

Every participant must complete the following sentences before coming to the gathering.

- 01
- The reality we believe the Church must address is...

A concise statement naming the most pressing reality identified through the discernment process.
- 02
- The opportunity God is placing before The United Methodist Church is...

Name the greatest opportunity revealed through your conversations.
- 03
- We believe the Holy Spirit is inviting the Church to...

Complete with a clear action or direction rather than a vague aspiration.
- 04
- If The United Methodist Church is to be more fully empowered by the Holy Spirit, loving boldly, serving joyfully, and leading courageously, we recommend...

List your three to five highest-priority recommendations.
- 05
- The Church should STOP...

Identify practices, assumptions, structures, or habits that no longer advance the Church's mission.
- 06
- The Church should START...

Identify new ministries, practices, structures, or ways of thinking that should be embraced.
- 07
- The Church should REDESIGN...

Identify existing systems that should be adapted rather than simply preserved or eliminated.
- 08
- If we could test one bold experiment over the next two to three years, it would be...

Describe one practical experiment that could be implemented and evaluated.
- 09
- For this vision to become reality, these people must be at the table...

Identify essential stakeholders, missing voices, partners, and collaborators—including young people, global voices, local churches, bishops, clergy, laity, agencies, seminaries, and others as appropriate.
- 10
- Our hope for the future of The United Methodist Church is...

A concise vision statement (one or two paragraphs) describing the Church they believe God is calling into being.
- 6 | 2026 LEADERSHIP GATHERING
-

Breakout Sessions

Methodists have long believed that the Holy Spirit speaks not only to individuals but also through the gathered community. From the class meeting to the band meeting, from Annual Conference to General Conference, our tradition has practiced “holy conferencing” as a means of discerning God’s will together. Covenant Cohorts and Covenant Groups continue that tradition. They are not simply discussion groups or brainstorming sessions. They are communities of prayerful discernment, where participants listen for God’s movement among one another, test ideas in conversation, and seek together the wisdom needed for the future of the Church.

Think of the Covenant Cohort as your “larger area of discernment” and your Covenant Group as your “specific lens for discernment.” Everyone in a cohort is exploring the same ministry focus, but the work happens through intimate conversation in smaller Covenant Groups. Together, the three Covenant Groups within each cohort synthesize their insights into a common vision and set of recommendations that will be shared with the wider Leadership Gathering.

Notes

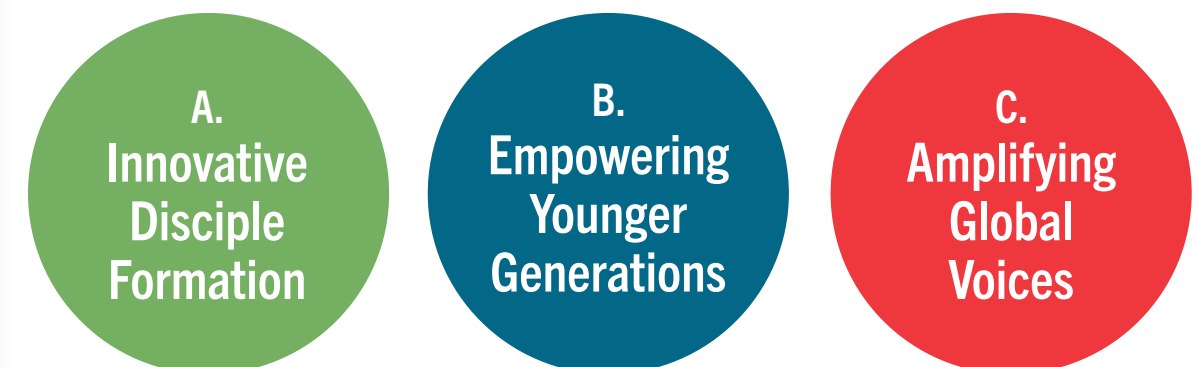
Covenant Cohorts:

A Covenant Cohort is a larger community of participants gathered around one of the five major ministry priorities being explored throughout the Leadership Gathering: Discipleship, Leadership, Impact, Stewardship, or Accountability. Each cohort shares a common area of focus and wrestles with the same overarching questions as they imagine the future of The United Methodist Church.



Covenant Groups:

A Covenant Group is a smaller community of approximately 20 participants within a single Covenant Cohort. These groups are the primary place where listening, prayer, discernment, and holy conversation take place. Throughout the gathering, each group will explore its assigned Covenant Cohort through the lenses of disciple formation, engaging young voices, or strengthening global connectedness. While each group addresses a distinct aspect of the church's life, together they form an interconnected picture of the church God is calling us to become. The work of each group will culminate in a shared set of recommendations and dreams that contribute to the discernment of the entire gathering.



Discerning Together

How do Covenant Cohorts Relate to Covenant Groups?

Think of the Covenant Cohort as your “larger area of discernment” and your Covenant Group as your “specific lens for discernment.” Everyone in a cohort is exploring the same ministry focus, but the discernment work happens through intimate conversation in smaller Covenant Groups. Together, the three Covenant Groups within each cohort synthesize their insights into a common vision and set of recommendations that will be shared with the wider Leadership Gathering.

1 Discipleship	2 Leadership	3 Impact	4 Stewardship	5 Accountability
1A: Innovative Forms of Discipleship	2A: Innovative Forms of Discipleship	3A: Innovative Forms of Discipleship	4A: Innovative Forms of Discipleship	5A: Innovative Forms of Discipleship
1B: Empowering Younger Generations	2B: Empowering Younger Generations	3B: Empowering Younger Generations	4B: Empowering Younger Generations	5B: Empowering Younger Generations
1C: Amplifying Global Voices	2C: Amplifying Global Voices	3C: Amplifying Global Voices	4C: Amplifying Global Voices	5C: Amplifying Global Voices

Breakout Sessions at a Glance

Cohort	Covenant Groups Lens	Covenant Group #	Covenant Group Room	Cohort Plenary Speaker
Discipleship	Innovative Forms of Discipleship	1A	Sanctuary	Beth Ludlum & April Casperson
	Empowering Younger Generations	1B	Sanctuary	
	Amplifying Global Voices*	1C	Gathering Room	
Leadership	Innovative Forms of Discipleship	2A	Gym	Anne Thompson
	Empowering Younger Generations	2B	Gym	
	Amplifying Global Voices*	2C	Boardroom (upper level)	
Impact	Innovative Forms of Discipleship	3A	Gym	John Yambasu Jr.
	Empowering Younger Generations	3B	Youth Room (upper level)	
	Amplifying Global Voices*	3C	Labyrinth	
Stewardship	Innovative Forms of Discipleship	4A	Theater (lower level)	Chris McAlilly
	Empowering Younger Generations	4B	Theater (lower level)	
	Amplifying Global Voices	4C	Gym	
Accountability	Innovative Forms of Discipleship	5A	Sanctuary	Meredith Hoxie Schol
	Empowering Younger Generations	5B	Hampton Inn Shiraz	
	Amplifying Global Voices	5C	Hampton Inn Sam’s	

*Translation services available

Overview

Over three days, our Covenant Groups will engage in a shared process of holy conferencing and faithful imagination. We are not gathering simply to identify problems or generate recommendations. We are seeking to listen deeply—to God, to one another, and to the realities of the church and world—and discern how The United Methodist Church might more faithfully live into its mission and vision.

Our conversations will move through three connected movements:

NAME IT → RESPOND TO IT → IMAGINE IT



NAMING & DIAGNOSING OUR REALITIES

Our first task is not to solve anything. It is to see clearly.

A *“Named Reality”* is a significant condition, change, challenge, opportunity, or tension shaping the life and mission of The United Methodist Church that requires our attention. A Named Reality describes what is true now. It may arise from cultural, technological, theological, demographic, economic, institutional, or ecclesial change.

By the end of Day One, each Covenant Group will prioritize three Named Realities to carry forward.



FROM NAMED REALITY TO NEWLY LIVING PRACTICE

On Day Two, we examine the three realities more deeply.

What have we already tried? What have we missed? Whose voices have been absent? Where are theology, structure, and practice out of alignment?

A *“Newly Living Practice”* is a concrete way the church might embody its theology, mission, and vision differently in response to a Named Reality. It might involve changing how we approach discipleship, leadership, structure, relationships, decision-making, resources, connectional life—or even our assumptions about what “church” must look like.

By the end of Day Two, each Named Reality will have an emerging Newly Living Practice and a possible First Step.



FAITHFUL IMAGINATION

Day Three asks us to push beyond incremental change.

“Faithful Imagination” is the Spirit-led practice of envisioning possibilities beyond the church as it currently exists, while remaining deeply rooted in the Gospel, our Wesleyan identity, and the needs and gifts of the communities we serve. Faithful Imagination holds tradition and innovation together.

By the end of Day Three, each Covenant Group will identify and rank three Newly Living Practice priorities, including the bold possibilities it believes deserve further experimentation.

Remember: We do not need to leave Calgary having solved every challenge we name.

Breakout Sessions: Daily Flow

Day One: Naming Our Realities

The first day is devoted to listening to one another and the Holy Spirit. Before we can imagine the future, we must honestly understand our past and present realities. Participants are invited to approach their conversations with humility, curiosity, and openness, resisting the urge to defend existing structures or prematurely advocate for solutions.

Beginning with the conversation starters provided to each Covenant Cohort, participants will reflect on the profound ways the world and the church has changed since the formation of The United Methodist Church in 1968. They will consider cultural shifts, demographic changes, technological innovation, theological developments, global growth, patterns of discipleship, and changing expectations of leadership and institutions.

As they identify these changing realities, participants will also identify the opportunities they present. Every challenge may also reveal a new possibility for ministry. The conversation then turns inward, asking where these new realities expose places where the church has struggled to live fully into its own theology, mission, and calling.

What is a “Named Reality?”

A Named Reality is a significant condition, change, challenge, opportunity, or tension shaping the life and mission of The United Methodist Church that requires our attention. A Named Reality describes what is true now. It may arise from cultural, technological, theological, demographic, economic, institutional, or ecclesial change. Because we are a worldwide church, we will look beyond isolated local problems toward realities with implications for the whole connection—even when those realities are experienced differently in different contexts.

A good Named Reality says:

This is something about our present context that the church can no longer afford to ignore.

Instead of:

“Young people don’t come to church.”

Consider:

“Traditional patterns of congregational participation and belonging are increasingly disconnected from the ways many younger people form community, identity, and faith.”

The goal is not to assign blame but to develop a shared understanding of the landscape in which today’s church serves.

By the end of Day One, each Covenant Group should be able to articulate:

- The most significant realities shaping the church today.
- The greatest opportunities emerging from those realities.
- The primary tensions between our stated identity and our lived practice.
- The questions that most deserve deeper discernment.

Conversation Starters

Day One: Naming & Diagnosing Our Realities

Questions – Answer these from the point of view of your Cohort (Discipleship, Leadership, Impact, Stewardship, or Accountability) and its Covenant Group lens (Innovative Forms of Discipleship; Empowering Younger Generations; Amplifying Global Voices).

Entering the Space (1 hour)

Everyone answers the following in under two minutes:

What questions, concerns, or remarks are important for you to name now that we are gathered here in Calgary?

What will make this week a worthwhile and faith-filled experience for you?

Transition to Discernment (30 min)

Facilitator reads the mission statement....

What does it mean to make disciples of Jesus Christ?

What does it mean to transform the world?

Facilitator reads the definition of their Cohort Group and Covenant Group lens.

Given your Covenant Group Lens, identify the following (1.5 hours)

What are the most significant realities, both internal and external, shaping your Covenant Group Lens today?

What are the greatest opportunities emerging from those realities?

What are the gaps between who we claim to be and what we actually do?

What of the named above deserves prioritized discernment? (These will create a list of your “Named Realities” that will be narrowed down.)

To address these Named Realities:

What is the work that only the Spirit can do?

What work is ours to do?

What work is ours to do while in Calgary?

Final Question (1 hour)

What three named realities are you prioritizing?

Keep in mind, these realities need to be applicable to a world-wide context. If you have a “regional reality” named, think about the larger reality that connects us.



LG26 Covenant Group

Day One: Naming & Diagnosing Our Realities

This will be filled out online by your elected “Recorder.” We include it here so that you can know the questions being asked and information collected at the end of each day.

Please answer from your Covenant Cohort and Covenant Group lens. Submit one response per Covenant Group at the end of Day One.

Covenant Cohort

- Discipleship
- Leadership
- Impact
- Stewardship
- Accountability

Covenant Group Lens

- Innovative Disciple Formation
- Empowering Younger Generations
- Amplifying Global Voices

Covenant Group number/name _____

Facilitator name _____

Recorder name _____

What are the most significant realities, both internal and external, shaping your Covenant Group lens today?

What are the greatest opportunities emerging from those realities?

What are the primary gaps between our stated identity (who we claim to be) and our lived practice (what we actually do)?

What is a “Named Reality”?
“A Named Reality is something about our present context that the church can no longer afford to ignore.”

Named Reality #1

Named Reality #2

Named Reality #3

Breakout Sessions: Daily Flow

Day Two: Diagnosis & Visioning

Having named the realities facing the church, participants now begin the work of interpretation. Rather than asking simply what has changed, Covenant Groups explore why certain challenges persist and what deeper assumptions or structures may be contributing to them. On Day Two, we examine the three realities more deeply. What have we already tried? What have we missed?

Whose voices have been absent? Where are theology, structure, and practice out of alignment? Then we begin imagining a faithful response.

Participants will evaluate which aspects of our theology, polity, organizational structures, and ministry practices continue to foster faithful discipleship and vibrant mission. They will also identify where inherited systems have become obstacles to the church’s witness.

Special attention should be given to the relationship between theology, structure, and practice. Are our organizational systems actually supporting what we claim to believe? Are there places where our policies unintentionally undermine our mission? But do not get too stuck in the details. It is important to maintain high-level thinking so that visioning can happen. The details are for the next conversations.

Participants are also encouraged to question assumptions that have long shaped the church’s life. Some assumptions may remain faithful and fruitful. Others may no longer reflect the realities of a worldwide, interconnected, and culturally diverse denomination. Throughout these conversations, participants should remain attentive to regional differences, recognizing that what is true in one context may not be true everywhere.

What is a “Newly Living Practice”?

A Newly Living Practice is a concrete way the church might embody its theology, mission, and vision differently in response to a Named Reality. It is more than a good idea or aspiration. It describes something that could actually be practiced, tested, experienced, or embodied in the life of the church.

It might involve changing how we approach discipleship, leadership, structure, relationships, decision-making, resources, connectional life—or even our assumptions about what “church” must look like.

A good Newly Living Practice says:

Because this is the reality we now face, one way we could more faithfully live into who God calls us to be is...

By the end of Day Two, each Covenant Group should have identified:

- Practices worth preserving.
- Practices that now impede mission.
- Misalignments between theology, structure, and ministry.
- Assumptions that deserve renewed examination.
- Emerging characteristics of the church God may be calling us to become.



Conversation Starters

Day Two: Examining Practices

Yesterday we named our realities, today we ask what those realities reveal about us—and whether our current practices remain aligned with our theology and mission.

Answer these questions from the point of view of your Cohort (Discipleship, Leadership, Impact, Stewardship, or Accountability) and its Covenant Group lens (Innovative Disciple Formation; Empowering Younger Generations; Amplifying Global Voices).

Reflect upon “Named Realities” of your Cohort (this information would have been given to the Facilitator during the Cohort meeting on the night prior) (30 min)

What sounds familiar?

What is new? What should be carried forward into further conversations?

Reflect upon “Named Realities” of your Lens (30 min)

What sounds familiar?

What is new?

What should be carried forward into further conversations?

Covenant Groups should divide into 3 smaller groups and discuss the below questions with 1 Named Reality (1 hour)

As a denomination, what have we done in the past to address this reality? What are we doing now?

Within this reality, what did we miss? Whose voices have we not heard? Within this reality, what is still left to do?

What is a good first step to address it?

From Named Reality to Newly Living Practice.... (1 hour)

(You have permission to vision without budgetary constraints.)

What is the first step to get from a “Named Reality” to a “Newly Living Practice”?

What resources are needed to implement it?

What voices are missing to inform it?

Which practices should continue and which should be discontinued?

What misalignments exist within this named reality between our theology, structure, and ministry?

Does the suggested Newly Living Practice realign those?

What assumptions do we still hold?

Where is God calling the future church in this Newly Living Practice?

Covenant Group (1 hour)
Report and debrief (15 min per group)

Day Two Deliverables
The first steps for all 3 realities



Day Two: Diagnosis & Visioning

Share your Covenant Group's diagnosis, vision, and first steps for three Named Realities—one submission per group.

- *Discipleship*
- *Leadership*
- *Impact*
- *Stewardship*
- *Accountability*

- *Innovative Disciple Formation*
- *Empowering Younger Generations*
- *Amplifying Global Voices*

Recorder name _____

A Lived Practice is a concrete way the church might embody its theology, mission, and vision differently in response to a Named Reality.

The reality restated

The reality restated

The reality restated



Day Three: Visioning & Consensus

Divide your Covenant Group into 3 smaller groups. Each smaller group should take one “Newly Living Practice” and answer the following. These will all be turned in to the Recorder.

- *Discipleship*
- *Leadership*
- *Impact*
- *Stewardship*
- *Accountability*

- *Innovative Disciple Formation*
- *Empowering Younger Generations*
- *Amplifying Global Voices*

We believe that _____
might disrupt The UMC in a way that is faithful and missionally focused.

For the sake of the Gospel and the future of the church, we are willing to give up _____ so that _____ can thrive.



LG26 Covenant Group

Consensus Reflection

This will be filled out online by your elected “Recorder.” We include it here so that you can know the questions being asked and information collected at the end of each day.

Why did your group rank Priority #1 first?

Overall, in 2050, our Covenant Group sees a United Methodist Church that:

What tensions or dissent should be preserved alongside the consensus?

Optional final message for the wider church:

Additional notes, tensions, or language the group does not want lost (optional):

Notes



Notes

Handwriting practice lines consisting of 20 horizontal grey lines.





OCTOBER 20–24, 2026
Knox United Church • Calgary, Alberta