



A NEW VISION FOR THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Love Boldly
Serve Joyfully
Lead Courageously

Shaped by a profound Wesleyan heritage, the people of The United Methodist Church are stepping in faith into a new season of ministry. Since 2021, the Council of Bishops and the Connectional Table have journeyed together in prayerful collaboration, seeking God's wisdom and discerning a hope-filled vision for this unfolding era in The United Methodist Church.

THE VISION

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.

LOVE BOLDLY:

We passionately love God and, like Jesus, embrace and include people of every age, nation, race, gender, and walk of life. [Matthew 22:37-39 | John 13:34-35]

SERVE JOYFULLY:

With the heart of Christ, we journey alongside the most vulnerable among us, offering care and compassion with joy. [Psalm 100:1 | Nehemiah 8:10 | John 13:14-15 | 1 Peter 4:10]

LEAD COURAGEOUSLY:

Following Jesus' example, we seek to resist and dismantle all systems of evil, injustice, and oppression, striving for peace, justice, and reconciliation. [Joshua 1:9 | Ephesians 6:10]

In this new season, God is calling United Methodists to embody this vision as we

- Grow and form disciples
- Develop Christ-like leaders
- Stand in solidarity with the poor and the most vulnerable
- Seek health and wholeness for all people and creation

A collaborative effort of the Connectional Table and the Council of Bishops, this new vision statement is the result of a multi-year process of discernment to capture these kernels of truth rooted in scripture and lead the United Methodist Church forward into a hope-filled future.

Learn more about this vision at ResourceUMC.org/Vision.



A NEW VISION FOR THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Love Boldly
Serve Joyfully
Lead Courageously

THE CALL TO ACTION

This renewed vision is more than words—it is an invitation to embrace joy and hope as we live God’s mission. It also provides us with a clear, Christ-centered framework for missional unity and collaboration across our worldwide connection.

We encourage the use of the vision statement in its entirety—rather than in parts—to ensure its full theological and missional impact is communicated clearly and consistently.

In the months ahead, the Council of Bishops and the Connectional Table will work with our General Agencies to create resources that inspire and equip pastors, congregations, and church leaders to live into this vision. **These resources will be available at ResourceUMC.org/Vision**

Here are some ways you can use this vision to guide ministry in your church:

○ **Pray:**

Dedicate time to pray and fast for a movement of Holy Spirit in your church as The United Methodist Church embarks on this new season of mission and ministry.

○ **Share the message:**

Use multiple formats to introduce your congregation to the new vision. Resources are coming soon at ResourceUMC.org/Vision.

» Consider a sermon or sermon series, to educate on the theological foundation of the new vision and inspire your congregation to live into it.

» Announce The United Methodist Church’s new vision in your bulletin and newsletters.

» Post videos and graphics on your social media. Engage your audience by asking them to share in the comments how your church loves boldly, serves joyfully and leads courageously.

○ **Celebrate your stories:**

Share the creative ways your church is embodying the vision in your community.

○ **Begin to incorporate the new vision** into your church’s DNA by using the strategic alignment questions included in this document.

○ **Engage children and youth:**

Be intentional about introducing the vision to younger generations. Create opportunities for children and youth to participate in embodying the vision and to share their unique experiences and stories from their local context.



A NEW VISION FOR THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Love Boldly
Serve Joyfully
Lead Courageously

LOCAL CHURCH LEVEL ALIGNMENT WITH THE NEW VISION

The following strategic questions are designed to help local church leadership teams adapt their strategies to embrace and live into this vision effectively:

Strategic Realignment

1. How can our existing strategies, ministries, and initiatives align more closely with the vision of loving boldly, serving joyfully, and leading courageously?
2. What areas of ministry might need to be reshaped or prioritized to embody this vision?
3. How can we integrate the core tenets of the vision into our church vision statement and guiding principles?

Questions for Strategic Reflection on the New Vision

LOVE BOLDLY:

1. How can our church actively embrace and include individuals from diverse backgrounds in our ministries?
2. What steps can we take to reflect Jesus's bold love in our interactions within the community?
3. How can we break down barriers and create spaces where everyone feels truly welcomed?

SERVE JOYFULLY:

1. Who are the most vulnerable members of our local community, and how can we serve them with joy and compassion?
2. How can we cultivate an environment where serving others becomes a joyful expression of our faith?
3. What partnerships or collaborations could enhance our service to the community?

LEAD COURAGEOUSLY:

1. What are the systems of injustice or oppression we feel called to resist and dismantle in our community?



A NEW VISION FOR THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Love Boldly
Serve Joyfully
Lead Courageously

2. How can we lead courageously in addressing issues of peace, justice, and reconciliation in practical ways?
3. What support or resources do leaders in our church need to embody courageous leadership?

Questions for Action and Implementation of the New Vision

GROWING AND FORMING DISCIPLES:

1. What discipleship programs or initiatives can we develop to deepen spiritual growth in our church?
2. How can we encourage every member to take steps in their personal journey of discipleship?
3. What are creative ways we can engage people of all ages in forming disciples?

DEVELOPING CHRIST-LIKE LEADERS:

1. How can we identify and nurture emerging leaders within our congregation?
2. What training or resources do leaders need to effectively embody this vision?
3. How can leadership practices in our church align more closely with the example set by Jesus?

STANDING IN SOLIDARITY WITH THE POOR AND VULNERABLE:

1. What specific needs exist among the poor and vulnerable in our community, and how can we address them?
2. How can we amplify their voices and advocate for their well-being?
3. What long-term initiatives can we pursue to ensure ongoing support?

SEEKING HEALTH AND WHOLENESS FOR ALL:

1. How can our church contribute to physical, emotional, and spiritual wholeness in our community?
2. What role can we play in caring for creation and promoting environmental health?
3. How can we integrate health and wholeness into our worship, education, and outreach programs?