

Mission and Ministry in Relationship

The Mission of the Church

The United Methodist Church has identified as its mission: “to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world” (*The Book of Discipline*, ¶120). Each local church interprets and fulfills that mission within its own context, according to the God-given human and material resources available and the needs of the surrounding community.

Our church has stated as its mission:

The Ministry of the Local Congregation

Paragraphs 201–202 of *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church* define a local church and its function:

¶201. *Definition of a Local Church*—The local church provides the most significant arena through which disciple-making occurs. It is a community of true believers under the Lordship of Christ. . . . Under the discipline of the Holy Spirit, the church exists for the maintenance of worship, the edification of believers, and the redemption of the world.

¶202. *The Function of the Local Church*—The church of Jesus Christ exists in and for the world. . . . The function of the local church, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, is to help people to accept and confess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and to live their daily lives in light of their relationship with God. Therefore, the local church is to minister to persons in the community where the church is located, to provide appropriate training and nurture to all, to cooperate in ministry with other local churches, to defend God’s creation and live as an ecologically responsible community, and to participate in the worldwide mission of the church.

(The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church, 2016 (Nashville: The United Methodist Publishing House, 2016). Used by permission.)