

WHAT IS LIBERATION?



LIBERATION IS...

- **Liberation is** freedom from oppression. Liberation is the biblical invitation to abundant life and unconditional love. Liberation is ending the structural and systemic injustices that keep everyone from flourishing equally and equitably.
 - In 2020 — this “Job-like” year — extraordinary injustices, inequalities, and inequities have been *revealed*. The call to liberation acknowledges that not everyone lives with the same amount of freedom. With the dual pandemics of coronavirus and anti-black white supremacy raging, we believe that liberation from oppression is urgent and must be pursued urgently at all costs.
- **Liberation is** a spiritual and social way of living — *a posture toward the future, grounded in past struggle and present resilience that proclaims: God loves us into freedom.*
 - Liberation is *not* some radical political theology. In reality, liberation is a *deeply* Christian posture of possibility that preaches flourishing and fulfillment for all. Jesus preached liberation — Jesus was a liberationist, so in being disciples we are all called to be liberationists.
- **Liberation is** living out Isaiah’s prophetic message as embodied in Jesus’ Gospel: *“The Spirit of our God is upon us, because the Most High has anointed us to bring Good News to those who are poor...to proclaim release to those held captive...to cast vision for those who want to perceive God’s new thing ...to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of our Liberator’s favor”* (Luke 4:18-19).

WHAT ARE HOPES FOR THE LIBERATION PROJECT?

- We hope to make liberation a “household term” in Methodist congregations. We hope to challenge the UMC to become a denomination that centers liberation at the heart of its mission — because liberation is at the heart of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

WHY REMAIN IN THE UMC?

- Liberation is **Wesleyan**...The UMC can still become its best self and be a denomination that is grounded in the Gospel-call of liberation. Our Wesleyan theological foundations in grace and holiness organically lead to liberation. The unity of grace and social holiness is social justice — liberation.
- Liberation is our **baptismal vow** to “accept the freedom and power God gives us to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves.”
- Liberationists aim to “*do no harm*” by amplifying the voices of the oppressed rather than advocating for what we think they need. We “*do good*” by seeking freedom from oppression and helping others do the same. We “*stay in love with God,*” by following the call of the liberating Spirit. These **three “simple” rules** are at the foundation of Wesleyan spiritual practice.
- Methodist spaces should be fertile ground for liberation theology. The LP is the sprouting green leaves of justice-seekers — grown from seeds sown in the UMC and the Methodist traditions from which we were formed.