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GOD'S Movement

THE MAGAZINE OF THE WESLEYAN CHURCH

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in CHRIST

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*A messy
impossible
beautiful*

MOSAIC



MOSAIC MIDTOWN CHURCH IN DETROIT, MICHIGAN, IS “A MESSY CHURCH, BECAUSE YOU GET PEOPLE WITH ALL DIFFERENT VIEWS [OF] HOW TO DO LIFE.”

That’s how Rev. Mick Veach describes his church. The multicultural, multi-economic church earned its name as a description of the way the church has come together as a mix of people from diverse backgrounds. Through the simple, slow efforts of the church to build day-to-day trust in the Detroit community, many people are discovering that Jesus wants to transform and restore their lives. This mosaic of people “puts together a beautiful picture that shows what Christ can do.”

Learn more about Mosaic Midtown Church.
mosaicmidtown.org



THIS MOSAIC OF PEOPLE
“PUTS TOGETHER A *beautiful picture* THAT SHOWS WHAT CHRIST CAN DO.”

Veach said Mosaic began with a question: “Is it possible?” Citing racial tensions and national unrest, he wondered, “We all say that when Christ comes back, we’ll all be at the foot of the cross and celebrating him. What if we had the courage to say, it’s actually ... this side of the cross that we can see the power of the gospel?” By reaching out to the community using simple methods like handing out free ice cream for hours every Tuesday, Mosaic became a place of restoration for people of different income levels and backgrounds.

“Mosaic is a church of all shapes and forms and sizes of people that declare that the kingdom of God is for everybody—regardless of what you’ve done on a Saturday night,” said Veach. “The cross is big enough for you, and forgiveness and hope are for everybody.”

Michael Newton is among those who have found hope in Jesus at Mosaic. Newton is a Detroit native whom Veach met at a treatment center for substance abuse. Newton’s childhood role models demonstrated to him that value could be found in what he describes as “the street life,” which eventually led to dealing drugs and subsequent jail

Watch video
wes.life/mosaic

time. Newton had encounters with Christ that culminated in his going to the treatment center, a “refuge” in the midst of chaos, where he surrendered his life to God.

“I don’t want anybody to think that this is all rainbows, because there’s definitely a battle,” said Newton. “The struggle is real ... but God has built a foundation in me.”

Upon meeting Veach, Newton became involved in Mosaic, which helped provide the community he needs to follow Jesus. Both Newton and Veach cite scenery

and community as essential components to transformation. Without making a change in environment and finding a new community, most people will find walking with Christ difficult, if not impossible. And Mosaic aims to be a place where all kinds of people can find that community.

The stories of those finding Christian community at Mosaic are as varied as its members. Originally from Cairo, Egypt, Wafaa Hanna was raised a Presbyterian among a Muslim majority. She struggled to see Muslims with “Jesus’ heart” in

THE WORK OF CHRIST HAS PRODUCED A MOSAIC OF PEOPLE AT WHAT SOME MIGHT CALL AN *impossible church*.

the midst of their discrimination. After many years of practicing medicine in Detroit, Hanna and her husband began attending Mosaic. It was there Hanna discovered God’s call for her to witness to Muslims around her in the United States.

Hanna has earned the title “Muslim magnet” as a physician in a Beaumont hospital, because of the connections she has built with Muslim patients under her care. This journey, however, took God’s transformative work to change her heart. Hanna reminds us that healing is good, even if it can hurt. After all, “we use a scalpel to heal the patients.” And at Mosaic, she has found a pastor who “uses a spiritual scalpel with the congregation.” The result is lifelong Christians like Hanna finding renewed hope in Christ.

Altogether, the amazing transformations happening at Mosaic may not be replicable. This is because, according to Veach, “God works uniquely in every situation.” God’s work may not be easily boiled down to a few actionable principles but instead may manifest itself on the terms of a local community’s needs.

“We did it all upside down,” said Veach. “We went after everybody.”

“Sometimes God does what God wants to do in spite of what the experts say,” said Veach. The experts might have said that what happened with Mosaic wasn’t possible—but because Veach and others dared to beg that very question, the work of Christ has produced a mosaic of people at what some might call an impossible church. 🌱



ELIZABETH KING
is completing the second year of her Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship in rural Taiwan.

Strong ENOUGH TO send?



I'm energized by the action-oriented conversations about church multiplication taking place throughout The Wesleyan Church! Churches of various sizes, locations and histories are engaging—and there is a question that is often being asked:

Are we healthy enough to multiply?

Recently I spoke to a group called “Healthy Growing Churches.” We had an invigorating discussion around the age-old question, “Which came first, the chicken or the egg?” More specifically, which makes us healthier, a church growing strong enough to multiply or a church multiplying?

When I served as a local church pastor, we took church health seriously. Every year we had our annual checkup. One year we would use the Natural Church Development assessment, while the next year we would use REVEAL. We found that alternating between the two gave us the best overall sense of our well-being. We had a church health team that translated our learnings into best practices.

But we also discovered that sending out people and resources created health. When we sent out people, that required others to step in and step up. When we sent out resources, that made the need for others to invest more compelling.

Generosity is a muscle, and exercise builds its strength.

The act of sending was life-giving. Generosity fosters vitality.

Here's something we had to face. While we would never say “never” to the act of faith required in sending, the impact of saying, “not now,” is the same as saying “never.” No action is taken, and no sending occurs.

Is your church exercising faith by sending people or resources to reach a new ZIP code? Just watch what God does to make your church healthier as you step out in faith! 🐦



DR. WAYNE SCHMIDT
General Superintendent
The Wesleyan Church

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Transforming lives, churches, and communities through the hope and holiness of Jesus Christ.

Vol. 12, No. 2

wesleyan life

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ISSN 2327-414X (print) ISSN 2327-4158 (online)

Wesleyan Life is published three times annually, free to The Wesleyan Church schools and churches. Home delivery is available for a minimum donation of \$12 (U.S. dollars); \$15 (USD for Canadian); and \$25 USD for all other international addresses.

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Published by Wesleyan Publishing House
P.O. Box 50434, Indianapolis, IN 46250-0434

Member:



wesleyan life

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ON THE COVER

Celebrating 50 Years—In 1968, the Pilgrim Holiness and Wesleyan Methodist Church merged. We reflect on this milestone in gratitude to God and renew our commitment to a common mission. 🐦

IN THIS ISSUE

Equipping healthy churches to **multiply** new faith communities



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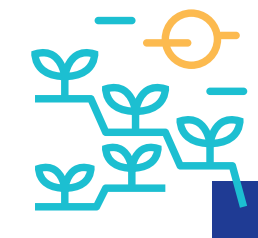


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We are commissioned
and empowered to be a
disciple-making movement
in multiplying locations
(Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:8).



Who is your **why?**

“Why do you do the things you do and who do you do them for?” That was a children’s video theme song when our two oldest children, Aaron and Bethany, were little. I don’t know if they think about it now that they are adults, but that song is often in my head. “Why do I do the things I do and who do I do them for?”

Every Christian faces these two questions. Denominations do too. It’s just the way God works. The Holy Spirit keeps us accountable for our motives.

Why are we so passionate about church multiplication? It’s not because it’s the new cool thing. North America has become a mission field. Souls are going into eternity every day, and we want them to go to heaven, but too many are not.

Church multiplication is still the most effective way to reach new people for Christ. Ralph Moore says, “If we are going to penetrate our world for Jesus, we must multiply our congregations while we add converts to them.”



**Church
multiplication**
is still the most
effective way to
reach new people
for Christ.

Who are we doing this for? For Jesus. Plain and simple. And why?

Who is your why? The person that represents your passion. Someone you led to the Lord in the past and that deep joy still drives you to leave the 99 and find one more. Or that person whom you still pray for and represents the people whom are far from God.

Joe and Elaine Mroz are my why. It happened on Easter Sunday 1988. Our Buffalo, New York, ministry began hard and dry as many church plants do. But when Joe and Elaine visited Eastern Hills Wesleyan Church with their two little girls and gave their hearts to Jesus that same day, I knew I could keep going. They came back, began to grow and got baptized.

When I opened the preschool that fall, their daughter, Jeanette, was one of my first students. If you visit Eastern Hills preschool today, you will meet Jeanette because she brings her daughter there now. They are a family transformed.

When I think about the why of church multiplication, Joe and Elaine are my why. Their family tree is forever changed because they were introduced to Jesus in our church.

Who is your why? 🌿



ANITA EASTLACK
is executive director of Church Multiplication and Discipleship.

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in the area of evangelism at
wes.life/evangelism

I was wrong about church planting

I never wanted to be a church planter. I was comfortable in established churches rich with history, heritage and impact. I saw potential in the established local church.

It was hard for me to “get on board” with multiplication. I held certain assumptions about church planting—until the Holy Spirit initiated a head and heart shift.

Assumption 1:

Church planting isn't necessary if we could make the established church relevant again.

My leadership was invested in fine-tuning environments, language, branding and leadership styles to adapt to culture. If I could get the formula right, more people would come, and more lives would be changed. It's not enough to be relevant. We need to be necessary. I needed to shift my value of relevance to gospel-centeredness.

Assumption 2:

Church planting is for rebels.

Church planters are unique. They are passionate but humble. Most will share freely about failures, hard lessons learned and ways they rely on others. I needed to shift my proximity and be closer to these humble and courageous leaders.

Assumption 3:

Church planting is just another program or growth strategy.

I assumed church planting was a denominational brand expansion or survival tactic. Rereading Acts and early church accounts convinced

me otherwise. Multiplication is the overflow of Christ's heart. Mission cannot be contained. I had to shift from a survival mindset to a legacy mindset.

Assumption 4:

Healthy churches grow and so does my leadership.

God is less concerned about what he will do under my leadership and more interested in what he will do through my leadership. Would I be available for ministry where I wasn't the hero and more interested in kingdom objectives than validating my identity? I needed to shift from a hero mindset to a hero-maker mindset.

Assumption 5:

Multiplication overemphasizes evangelism and underestimates discipleship.

The longer I serve, the more I realize people encountering a salvific relationship with Christ are saved

into a mission. Jesus deploys them to seek and save the lost. Evangelism happens for discipleship and to be a disciple is to evangelize. I needed to shift my discipleship heartbeat to reflect the heartbeat of Christ.

I was wrong about multiplication. Championing multiplication is championing the heart of Christ. 🌿



STEVE HUBBARD
is the founding pastor of Awaken Church in Grand Ledge, Michigan.

Five reasons to plant with The Wesleyan Church

If you are thinking about planting a church with The Wesleyan Church (TWC) or know someone who should plant with TWC, keep reading. I am a Wesleyan church planter, writing from the trenches about my experiences with my broader church family. Wesleyans aren't perfect. No organization is. But here are five reasons why I think you should consider planting with TWC:

1. Missional Focus

We believe in the power of God to change lives, and we are focused on moving the mission of God forward in our world. This focus is displayed at denominational, district and local leadership levels. Rather than being worried about the status quo, TWC has proven a willingness to take risks and try new things. TWC truly embraces a movement-over-model mentality.

2. Established Church Planting Systems

We didn't start focusing on church planting yesterday. In the last 15 years, TWC has planted over 450 churches in the United States. We have learned many lessons (some the hard way) and have systems in place to assess, train and coach our church planters. In addition, we are constantly trying to

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get better at this process. Most recently we developed the Church Multiplication Collective to assist us.

3. Partners in the Journey

One of the worst feelings in church planting is of being alone. When you plant with TWC, you won't be alone. You will be connected to other planters who can encourage you, prod you and be a champion for you. In addition, you will be connected with a coach, someone who has church planting experience and who will be committed to walking with you through the adventure of a lifetime.

4. Wesleyan Pastors Stick

A recent study of our pastors five years after their ordination revealed that 86 percent were still in ministry. When the pastors coming into a denomination choose to stay, something good is happening.

5. Wesleyan Ministerial Loan Grant and Pension Fund

None of us are in ministry for the money. If you happen to be going into church planting because you think there is a pot of gold at the end of this rainbow, you will be one unhappy leprechaun. However, there are a few financial benefits of planting with TWC including financial help for schooling, financial grant opportunities for launching and a pension fund to help later in life. 🍀



ANDY MERRITT
is the planter and lead pastor of Rivertree Church in Jackson, Michigan.

! **MORE INFO**
about the Church
Multiplication Collective at
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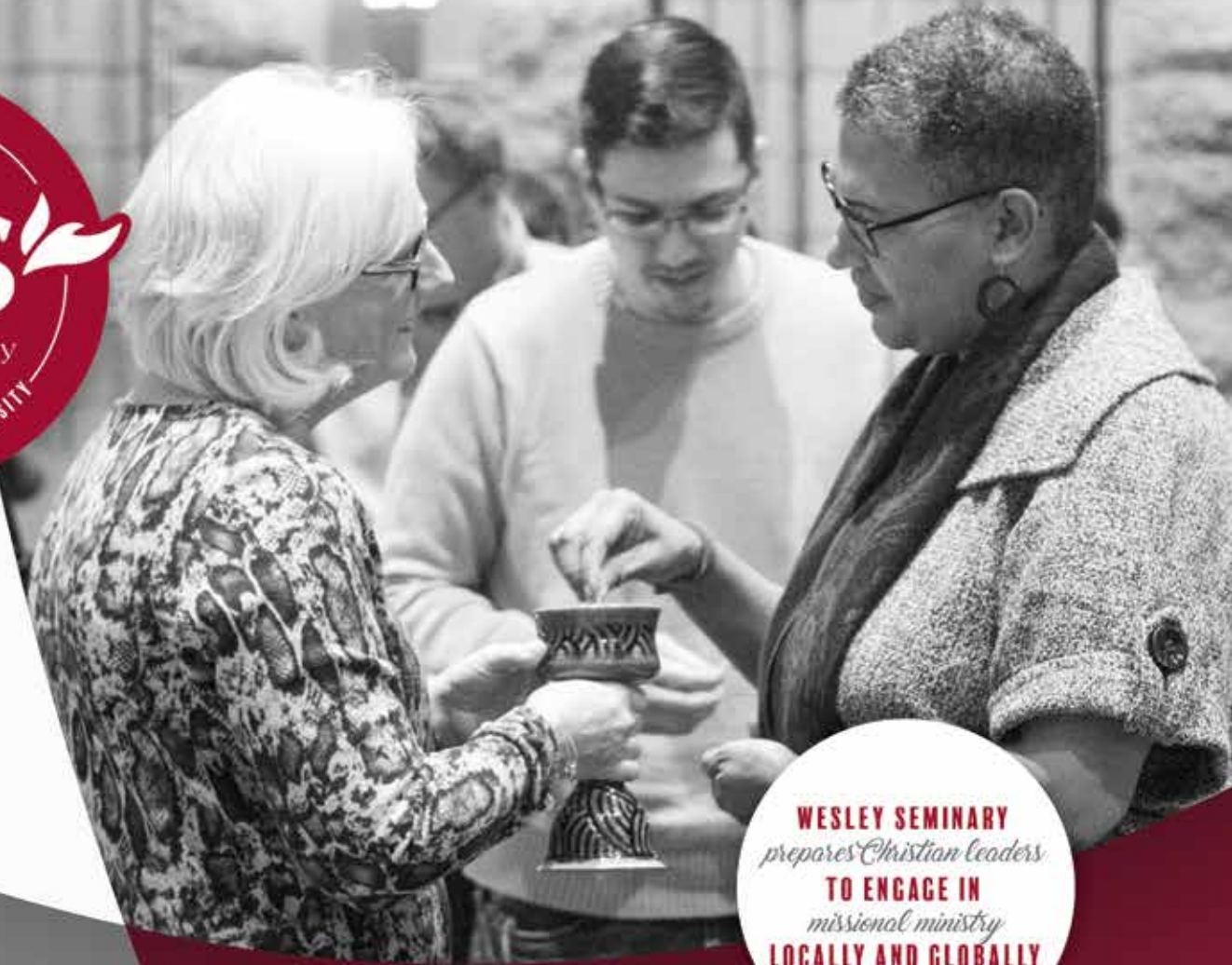
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"The Church Multiplication Collective has been tremendous for our multiplication leaders. The resource page is a primary entry point for developing launch-able leaders. There are practical next steps, key learning components and the top resources available. All in one place. Well done!"

— Wes Smith, district superintendent



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TIMING



Andrea Abrahamson left ministry with no plans to return. The departure occurred shortly after finishing an MBA at Cornerstone University in Grand Rapids, Michigan. “I started in ministry when I was relatively young—knowing the Lord was calling me to it, but not having a category in my mind,” said Abrahamson. “I served in some creative arts departments, then left working in the church and thought, ‘I’m never going back.’” Abrahamson eventually found her way into The Wesleyan Church (TWC), where she felt a call toward church planting. She enrolled at Asbury Theological Seminary to study church planting, but the thought of planting a church was unnerving, eventually leading

her to seek employment at an established church upon graduation. Around this time, Dr. Ed Love, now TWC director of Multiplication, began noticing the absence of churches in the Greater Lansing, Michigan, area. Love and Chris Conrad, West Michigan District superintendent, started to imagine how God might meet the need for churches within Lansing. “Our total attendance in Lansing churches was under 600,” said Conrad, “while our total attendance in Grand Rapids churches was over 4,000 ... this wasn’t just about Wesleyan churches ... if you looked at the Lansing landscape, the entire area was under-churched.” After identifying the need for discipling communities, Love and Conrad began praying for a network of church planters who could support each other as they attended to the spiritual needs in Lansing. They named this burgeoning network, The Lansing Initiative (TLI).

Having grown up in the thriving Grand Rapids community and having moved on to a career in an established church, Abrahamson was seemingly an unlikely candidate to move to Lansing. Though her call to plant a church was suppressed for a season, “God made it very clear where I should be planting—and made it clear that the time was now!” “About a week later, I called Ed [Love] and said, ‘I think I’m finally ready—what do I do?’ So, Ed started talking with me about Lansing,” said Abrahamson. “I just started taking day trips and talking with people about the city, driving through neighborhoods, sitting in coffee shops and I felt God burdening my heart for the city.” Since moving to Lansing in September of 2017, Abrahamson’s read on the cultural landscape has changed her engagement with Scripture. “Sometimes in our [launch team] larger group conversations, I’ve wondered, ‘How do we preach the Good News of Jesus

instead of harping on issues?’ How do we re-present the beauty of the gospel in our community?” **“Obviously formation and confronting issues have to happen, but I’ve challenged myself to communicate the beauty of Jesus in the larger context while in the smaller context confronting issues as they need to be addressed.”** The people God has brought into these conversations have been demographically surprising to Abrahamson. “One member of our team grew up in a universalist church, and her daughter who is around fourteen years old said, ‘I think I’m going to be an agnostic.’ Her mom said, ‘Let’s find a church.’ Now, several months later, her daughter is starting to talk with me about—though she didn’t use these words—how God is speaking to her heart,” Abrahamson said. “They’re hearing Jesus talk to them, even when they can’t name it as such. Our team is heavy on baby Christians and light on seasoned disciples. But this is heartening to me because Jesus took people who were hungry and ready to grow—and he taught them.”



Andrea Abrahamson

GOD MADE IT VERY CLEAR WHERE I SHOULD BE PLANTING—AND MADE IT CLEAR THAT THE TIME WAS NOW!

As the launch team leans into God's activity in Lansing, they hope to see discernible changes in their community.

"If Transformation Church is truly praying, 'Your kingdom come in Lansing,' we are going to see actual, statistical, measurable shifts that say, 'That's not

just the church growing; that's the kingdom,'" she said. "People are being broken free from addiction, marriages are reconciling, kids are graduating high school, drugs are lessening and our city has come to life in a new way."

As The Wesleyan Church places an emphasis on transforming presences in every ZIP code, The Lansing Initiative is a model for missional communities. "TLI is another sign of what we're trying to do, which is win people to Jesus and to believe God for greater things: not just for what we can produce, but for supernatural things," said Conrad.

Under Abrahamson's leadership, Transformation Church's launch team continues to work, pray and befriend their neighbors as they prepare to launch their first service in September 2018.

"Coming into this season of church planting, in all the areas I'm feeling inadequate, I'm realizing how adequate God is," said Abrahamson. "He doesn't call us to abandon us; he calls us to form and shape us. In areas where I've been worried about my own weaknesses, he shows his strengths more and more."

"Pray that when Jesus works, he works through his church," Abrahamson said. "And that when we pray, we pray knowing you might be the one he sends into the field. That might be planting a church, but that might be getting to know your next-door neighbor." 🐦

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“

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HOW ADEQUATE
GOD IS.

”



ETHAN LINDER
is the college, young adult and connections pastor at College Wesleyan Church in Marion, Indiana.

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DISCIPLES

EST.



1968

ANNIVERSARY

MADE NEW
in CHRIST

A Milestone in Mission: the Wesleyan jubilee

Those who experienced 1968 remember it as a momentous year. Martin Luther King, Jr., was assassinated that spring, Bobby Kennedy that summer. America's cities were battlegrounds in the struggle for civil rights and platforms of protest of the Vietnam War. President Lyndon Johnson announced he would not seek reelection, and television cameras recorded disruptions both outside and inside the hall in Chicago where the Democratic National Convention was held as protestors famously chanted, "The whole world is watching."

The Wesleyan Church was created in 1968 when two like-minded denominations became "One—That the World May Believe," a rallying cry taken from John 17. This year marks a Wesleyan Jubilee, in a sense—the fiftieth anniversary of the merger when the Wesleyan Methodist Church of America and the Pilgrim Holiness Church joined hands under the banner bearing that slogan.

No one would suggest that the whole world was watching the birth of The Wesleyan Church in June of 1968, of course, but at age 50 the denomination is making its mark in that world—a world even more in need of the gospel than it was in 1968. By any measure, it has been an historic half-century for Wesleyans.

For one thing, Wesleyans have seen **historic growth**. Several denominational mergers occurred in the 1950s and 1960s, most involving churches much larger than the Wesleyans. One after another, mergers of comparable or greater size from that period have resulted not in growth but in decline, some registering as much as a 50 percent drop. On the other hand, Wesleyan worship attendance worldwide has more than quadrupled, from 130,000 soon after merger to more than 550,000 in 2017.

A major reason for this growth is the phenomenal rise in the number of large churches in the denomination. At merger, only two Wesleyan congregations topped 400 per Sunday in worship attendance.

Now Wesleyans claim some of the fastest-growing churches in the United States and Canada. Well over a score of churches average more than 1,000 every Sunday, and 12Stone, "one church in many locations" on the outskirts of Atlanta, Georgia, averages more than 17,000 in its multiple venues. Faithfulness isn't necessarily measured statistically, and many smaller churches are thriving, but barrier-shattering churches are redefining the possibilities.

Many of those fast-growing churches are led by products of an **historic youth movement** fostered in the aftermath of merger. Fifty years ago youth ministry was almost universally the responsibility of local church volunteers. Few congregations had a youth pastor on staff. Then 4,300 people attended a 1974 Wesleyan Youth convention in St. Louis, Missouri, which had anticipated less than half that number, and 6,600 attended the next one in Urbana, Illinois, four years later. Youth conventions became the largest gatherings of Wesleyans



UNLEASH God's Movement



WATCH THE 50TH
ANNIVERSARY VIDEO
wes.life/50years



BOB BLACK recently retired from the religion faculty of Southern Wesleyan University, where he had taught since 1986. He co-authored, with Keith Drury, *The Story of The Wesleyan Church*, the official denominational history. Find the updated 50th anniversary copy of *The Story of The Wesleyan Church* at wphstore.com.

ever recorded. Soon youth pastors became the “second hire” in Wesleyan churches, and thousands of teens found outlets for Christian service in denominational youth programs like YES Corps and LIFE Corps.

An **historic initiative in compassionate ministry** was announced in the 1996 General Conference in Indianapolis, Indiana. That’s when Wesleyans first heard about World Hope International, a Christian relief and development agency affiliated with The Wesleyan Church and dedicated to combating poverty, suffering and injustice. Founded by Jo Anne Lyon, World Hope gained international headlines in only its second year of existence when its program to provide artificial limbs for victims of atrocities in the brutal civil war in Sierra Leone, West Africa, caught the attention of the world. World Hope caught the attention of the church, too. Its mission recalls the antislavery efforts of the Wesleyan Methodist reformers in the days before the Civil War and the early Pilgrim ministries which offered hope to orphans, unwed mothers and former prostitutes, efforts which they understood to be “applied holiness.”

Lyon’s leadership was recognized when she was elected one of three General Superintendents in 2008 and then, in an **historic election**, became the church’s single General Superintendent in 2012. There were precedents for the shift to a solo superintendent—both the Pilgrims and the Wesleyan Methodists had had a single leader at some point in their histories—but the move was unparalleled in the history

of the merged church. For that leader to be a woman was an eloquent endorsement of women in ministry, a hallmark of early Wesleyan Methodist and Pilgrim traditions.

Other historic highlights deserve mention ... the new missions paradigm in the “partnership” principle of Global Partners, the accelerated growth of Indiana Wesleyan University and the rise of Wesley Seminary, Earle Wilson’s 24-year tenure as General Superintendent (which set records for longevity), the pivotal role of the Wesleyan Investment Foundation in the success stories of countless churches and schools and many more ... but anniversaries invite us to look to the future as well. A milestone like this is not only a good time to look back in gratitude to God, but also the perfect opportunity to renew our commitment to a common mission.

*Anniversaries invite us
to look to the future*

General Superintendent Wayne Schmidt has challenged the church to multiply itself until it has a transforming presence in every ZIP code. It is a goal worthy of a people who know full well that there is a greater Jubilee ahead when God’s kingdom is established forever. Generations have sung it: “Earth shall keep her Jubilee! Jesus saves! Jesus saves!”

Until then, the task at hand is faithfulness in Year Fifty-one. 🌱



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BY TRICIA RIFE

Ten-year-old Otto Eidsness has a lot of friends. What his friends don't know is that while they are his friends, they are also his disciples because he is a disciple who makes disciples. His friends are found in Camelot Intermediate School and at GracePoint Wesleyan Church in Brookings, South Dakota. Rev. Jessey Mook leads the GracePoint children's ministry

for kindergarteners through fifth graders called KidsPoint. Mook describes Eidsness, an athletic and outdoorsy kid, as kind, enthusiastic and with charisma that surpasses his age. Eidsness, his parents and three siblings attend GracePoint. Mook noticed that the kids at GracePoint, including youth older than Eidsness, naturally gravitated to the fourth grader. When Eidsness

decided he "wanted to be part of something," and joined the KidsPoint worship and dance team, boys older than he joined the team also, a fact Mook says demonstrates influence. Eidsness had decided the girls had led dance team long enough and it was time for boys to take part. "Perhaps he can't verbalize the discipleship now, but that is what he is doing," said Mook. "He took it home, meaning

what we've been teaching actually sunk in and changed his heart. "Otto is authentic, and that authenticity is attractive to the other kids," Mook said. "They are learning to love as Jesus does—all because of one kid engaging in practical discipleship." The group is growing in numbers, leadership and faith development.



"THEY ARE LEARNING TO love as Jesus does—ALL BECAUSE OF ONE KID ENGAGING IN PRACTICAL DISCIPLESHIP."

KidsPoint is ethnically diverse and a good reflection of Brookings' 30,000 people. Home to South Dakota State University, blue and white-collar jobs make up the city's economy. "The church reflects what the community looks like," said Mook.

Diversity doesn't faze Eidsness one bit. He makes friends with all kids—no matter their race, economic status or social status.

When asked how Eidsness loves others so naturally, Mook said, "I think it's a genuine interest and liking for everyone. Every single kid is friend potential to him."

When asked what it means to be a leader, Eidsness said, "You treat others well and show others the way. If you're being kind to someone, they're probably going to be kind to someone."

Kids are noticing Eidsness' ability to love others well and are beginning to live the same way. Eidsness said being Jesus to others means, "being kind, sharing, not hurting people, not putting someone down, listening to my parents and playing easier in sports."

Mook, in his fifth year at GracePoint, recalls how he heard a conference speaker say that kids never come up to you and say,

He makes friends with all kids—NO MATTER THEIR RACE, ECONOMIC STATUS OR SOCIAL STATUS.

"I remember that sermon." No, they always recount how

you treated them as kids years back.

"My youth pastor is the reason I'm in ministry today," said Mook. "I can't tell you one thing he ever said in a sermon, but I can tell you the way I saw him treat the kids in my school that I didn't like. I can tell you how he treated every single teen like they were the most important kid on the planet. I want every kid to know that when they come into KidsPoint, I think they are the most special person in the entire world."

"When I'm around kids, I want them to see me trying my best to be like Jesus to others. I take seriously my responsibility to lead kids by example," Mook said. "This is the driving force of why I'm in ministry. I don't just want my kids to know about the Bible. I want them to live it."

Eidsness' friends are watching him and beginning to do the same thing—sitting with the marginalized kids at school and playing with the quiet kids at church who sometimes attend with smelly and dirty clothes.

Mook is discipling Eidsness and Eidsness is discipling his friends. Each is a disciple who is making a disciple who will make a disciple—in intermediate school and in children's ministry settings and for years to come. 🌿

Learn more about GracePoint

Wesleyan Church.

gracepointwesleyan.org



FOOTBALL & FAITH



Middle school student, Damian Williams, eyed various Easter service advertisements.

Part of a poor, inner city family living in New Castle, Pennsylvania, projects, he had been reading the New Testament and resonated with Jesus' teaching about living water flowing through his followers. Williams told his mother he wanted to attend church on Easter. She said they didn't have the proper clothes.

Based on his New Testament reading, Williams told her God could solve that problem and prayed God would rain money from heaven. Soon afterward, he found a \$100 bill lying on the sidewalk. A Salvation Army thrift store visit

resulted in proper clothes for Williams, his mother and his younger sister. A bus picked them up and took them to First Wesleyan Church, New Castle.

The pastor, Rev. Ken Figgs, and youth pastor, Rev. Robert Wuethrich, saw leadership potential in Williams and encouraged him to enter the ministry. While attending Indiana Wesleyan University, he accepted an

internship at New Hope Wesleyan, Williston, North Dakota, where senior pastor, Rev. Mark Gorveatte, hired him as youth pastor.

Later, as Red Cedar Church pastor in Rice Lake, Wisconsin, Williams heard a prayer by Bill Bright, founder of Campus Crusade for Christ (now Cru), encouraging pastors not just to build large churches but to focus

on sending leaders into all "mountains" of society. Bright identified the seven "mountains" as church, family, entertainment, media, education, business and government, and said pastors should "take the gospel to the center of the marketplace."

Williams returned to Pennsylvania in 2003 to plant a church in inner city Pittsburgh as a lay person partnering with a pastor. After identifying the pastor, the church was planted. Within six months, offerings were so low the church was in danger of closing. Williams began seeking a revenue source to help fund the pastor's salary. Relationships with members of the Pittsburgh Steelers of the National Football League (NFL) prompted Williams to form a ministry in 2005, Leadership League, to provide leadership coaching to traveling Steelers fans.

A vision emerged for Williams to advance the gospel through every "mountain" in every city of every nation which is taking shape primarily through the NFL. Leadership League created the Pittsburgh Steelers Cruise, which lets fans get acquainted with Steelers players and management while vacationing on a cruise ship. Simultaneously, fans learn leadership principles based on the Steelers' "Forged in Leadership" values.

Leadership League has expanded to include Green Bay Packers and San Francisco 49ers ministry cruises and plans to bring other NFL teams on board.

A vision emerged for Williams to advance the gospel through every "mountain" in every city of every nation.

Leadership League is connecting The Wesleyan Church with NFL players and other marketplace leaders to establish regional multiplication initiatives.


A recent NFL cruise resulted in 73 salvations, 12 baptisms and more than \$200,000 raised for kingdom expansion.

Leadership League is connecting The Wesleyan Church with NFL players and other marketplace leaders to establish regional multiplication initiatives called "Kingdom Forces." These regional initiatives are intended to connect "apostolic multipliers" across all seven mountains of influence.

Williams became involved in The Wesleyan Church (TWC) Marketplace Multipliers emphasis through Rev.






Scott Rhyno, TWC chief development director. Williams and Rhyno met at Kingswood University while Williams served on the board of trustees and Rhyno worked there. Marketplace multipliers are entrepreneurial laypersons who make their living by engaging in the marketplace rather than in the church.

When asked how he would advise other entrepreneurs who would like to help a local church but don't have the right connections, Williams said, "I would tell them, 'Don't be too


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pushy.' It's easy for a business person to come across as bossy because they're used to being in charge." He also advises entrepreneurs to be patient and consider, "What can your pastor teach you about love, compassion and being Christlike?"

His advice to pastors is to recognize that although entrepreneurs look successful and confident, they may feel lonely and isolated. "Also remember," Williams added, "to love them and not just their wallet. Recognize that God has given the marketplace leader a ministry outside the local church." He recommends pastors think of entrepreneurs as chief spiritual officers in the mountains of influence where the Lord has planted them. He added, "Multiply yourself by equipping them to be disciple-makers through their work."

When asked what he finds most fulfilling about his marketplace ministry, Williams said, "Reaching

people through the marketplace who are not going to attend church initially." He also loves being able, when people come to Christ through Leadership League or on a cruise, to help them get involved in the right church.

"Breakthrough happens through these apostolic partnerships—a local church partnering with a marketplace multiplier," Williams said. When entrepreneurial leaders are exposed to great leadership principles, along with spiritual dynamics, great things happen.

"We want to blend the strategic with the supernatural." 🐦



RON MCCLUNG

is assistant general secretary for The Wesleyan Church.



Story



Sabbath VOWS

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co-pastors regain Sabbath practice

Rev. Lexa Ennis had to find a way to regain her Sabbath practice. She was feeling burned out and physically exhausted. She knew something had to give.

Ennis and her co-pastor husband, Mike, serve in a thriving body of local believers at Broadview Wesleyan Church in Broadview, Illinois, an under-resourced area on the west side of Chicago.

Seventeen years ago, before she was married and ministering in Chicago, time spent with God was an integral part of Ennis' life. The rural Iowa native fondly remembers regular times with God behind a barn, watching the sun set over the cornfield. She savored those life-giving moments.

But as the years passed, life became more complex. While so many positive pieces made up her life—ministry studies, a husband, two children and a multiethnic church—Ennis found that a new rhythm had imposed itself upon her. Her ministry experience proved richly rewarding, but there was a cost.

"It was like whiplash where I felt stripped of that Sabbath time," she said. "There is always more to do, a sense that it is never finished, always a higher level to achieve. It is constant."

Over time, Ennis found that it became "really hard to shut my mind off, to shut my heart off from heavy situations and lives."

Like most pastors, she found it easy to ignore her own limitations and margins in favor of helping others. Eventually Ennis began to notice early signs of possible burnout, such as feeling physically worn out and experiencing lower energy levels. This realization led her to believe something had to change.

"It was like whiplash where I felt stripped of that Sabbath time."

While on a mission trip three years ago, Ennis attended a seminar on practicing Sabbath that challenged her to reclaim her former God-ordained rhythm.

"I had to learn to slow down," she said. The Ennises intentionally regained Sabbath practice. They sit down each year and look at their annual calendar centering their Sabbath practices around school schedules. Each spouse has a personal day to practice Sabbath: Tuesday for Mike and Thursday for Lexa. To mark the end of their respective Sabbaths, they engage in either a game or an intentional moment of connection together as a family.

Ennis protects that day from anything ministry related. For one day, she avoids ministries she has to do and does activities she wants to do. She understands Jesus' teaching that the Sabbath is a gift from God for our wellbeing, not a legalism. The Hebrew word for "Sabbath" simply means "to stop," to cease from all work.

"For me, Sabbath is a whole kind of rest, a rest for my mind, my emotions, my heart, my body, my soul. I do things that restore my soul and body."

She wisely begins to prepare herself before her Sabbath day arrives.

"I start the night before by mentally beginning to shut my mind off from ministry. On my Sabbath, I do not read

Would you like to Reclaim Sabbath in 2018?
wesleyan.org/reclaimsabbath

ministry-related books, but works that are more renewing." Other activities that breathe life into her soul include gardening, journaling, writing and prayer.

Sabbath practice extends to their church too. The couple wisely talked to their lay leadership team about the nature of Sabbath and their plans for reclaiming a Sabbath rhythm for themselves.

Ennis was delighted with the team's response. "They were supportive 100 percent! That has been a huge help to us. They help us protect it." The Ennises

have since preached and taught about Sabbath practice so others can also learn of God's design for them.

Ennis has finally reclaimed a Sabbath rhythm that is "renewing and sustaining." She senses deeply that "Jesus is my bread" in sustaining her life.

It took time to find a rhythm that would allow both Lexa and Mike to practice Sabbath while leading their

church. Following their God-given desires for practicing Sabbath has helped them be better leaders, strengthened the bonds of family

and increased their sense of hearing God in daily life.

If God himself rested and was refreshed by practicing Sabbath (Exodus 31:17), they must do the same as they lead and disciple others in Chicago. 🌿



"For me, Sabbath is a whole kind of rest, a rest for my mind, my emotions, my heart, my body, my soul."



DAVID HIGLE
is director of Clergy Development and Clergy Care for The Wesleyan Church.

**STOP.
REST.
PRAY.
PLAY.**



Events

Following are events designed to help The Wesleyan Church flourish. Explore each link to learn more about how you can increase your faith, knowledge and wellbeing.

2018		
22-23 JUNE	RENUEVO • <i>Campamento Familiar Hispano Wesleyano</i> wesleyan.org/renuevo	
26 JUNE		50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WESLEYAN CHURCH Hear how God has used the past to shape our present and drive our future as we celebrate our 50th anniversary <i>#50together</i> . May we and those we encounter continue to be <i>#MadeNew</i> through the hope and holiness of Jesus Christ!
21-22 SEPT	GRADUATE STUDENTS' THEOLOGICAL SEMINAR wesleyan.org/graduate-students-theological-seminar	
OCTOBER	PASTOR APPRECIATION MONTH wesleyan.org/pastorappreciation	
4-6 OCT	CALL & RESPONSE • <i>The Past, Present and Future of Black Christians in America</i> callandresponseconference.com	
31 OCT	CCDA • <i>Wesleyan Church Multiplication Collective Shoulder Day</i> wesleyan.org/ccda	
2019		
9-12 JAN		THE GATHERING • <i>Thriving Clergy Conference</i> wesleyan.org/gathering
12-15 MAY		INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE WESLEYAN CHURCH wesleyan.org/icwc

“My husband is blind, so I am caring for him and our six children alone.

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With God’s blessing, my children will grow up strong—and I have hope that He is taking care of all of us!”

—Adama, 45 year-old farmer
Makump Bana, Sierra Leone

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International News

A Christmas to remember

Christmas morning was just beginning in Wisconsin as our family huddled around a cell phone. It was Christmas night in rural South Asia, where we serve as church planters and missionaries with Global Partners. We were in the United States for partnership development and missing our annual Christmas program back in South Asia.

The previous year, we had been intentionally raising up leaders to carry out ministry responsibilities in our absence, including leading the Christmas Program. **The Christmas Program is the only time of the year when we, as Christians, can very publicly share about Jesus without consequence.**

Our south Asian country is a Hindu nation and any faith besides Hinduism is often viewed as a threat to the country’s rich culture. Political opposition against Christians is strong, at times to the point of violence. Even though there is “freedom of religion” legally, there is not freedom to share your faith or encourage others to change their faith, especially as foreigners. We must be wise and cautious about sharing the gospel.

As we boarded a plane for America that August, we had to trust God cared more about the work in our community than we did and would guide those leading in our absence.

We began hearing reports of things not only going on but growing. New people were coming to Sunday worship and the weekly men’s group grew in numbers and unity.

Christmas program practice begins in October. The program includes the story of Jesus’ birth, singing and lots of dancing. Not only do believers from our church participate, but community members as well.



LEARN MORE: www.globalpartnersonline.org

The program is a significant outreach opportunity to our town of about 35,000 people. Less than one percent are Christian and our Wesleyan church plant is the only regular Christian gathering.

So, huddled around the cell phone, we watched the Christmas program in amazement. Attendance surpassed seating capacity. People were standing and sitting outside because there was no room in our 20” x 30” church.

That Christmas program gathered 370 people, most of whom were not believers and many of whom heard the Christmas story for the first time. One hundred twenty people afterward attended Christmas morning service (double our weekly Sunday service number).

We know we, as part of an expanded leadership team, are ready to communicate the gospel farther and faster throughout South Asia. 🌿

AUTHOR

Global Partners missionary in South Asia. (Name withheld for security reasons.) Global Partners gives global focus to the mission of The Wesleyan Church.

“In a time when Discipleship and Evangelism have almost become competing subjects and activities, Almost Chosen mends them together as Jesus lived, as Scripture intended. In addition, the authors have given solid research as well as a biblical and historical foundation for better understanding. I highly recommend this book to guide



in the work of the Great Commission in the spirit of the Great Commandment for the 21st Century.”

— DR. JO ANNE LYON
Ambassador, General Superintendent Emerita,
The Wesleyan Church

“This book is the story of evangelism in America and The Wesleyan Church. We have become distracted from biblical evangelism. Almost Chosen calls for a renewed passion for people far from God.”



— WES DUPIN
Founder and Lead Pastor of Daybreak.tv



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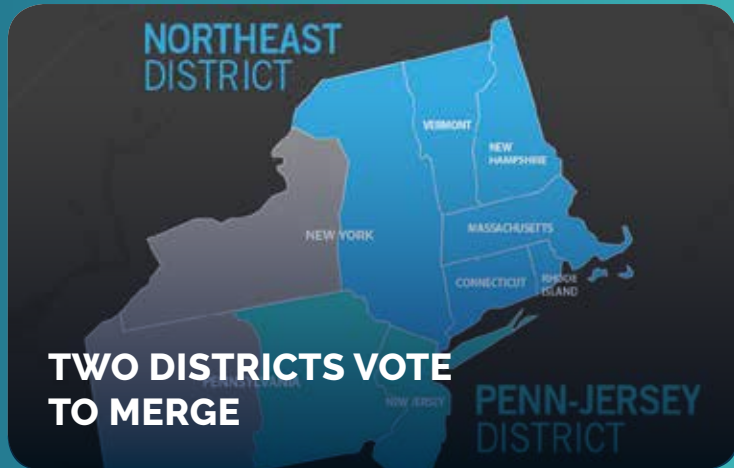
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WESLEYAN ATTENDANCE GROWS 950% AT EXPONENTIAL EAST

More than 400 Wesleyans attended Exponential East, February 26 – March 1, where they learned more about discipleship and church multiplication.

 **FULL STORY**
wes.life/heromakersgather



TWO DISTRICTS VOTE TO MERGE

In February, the Penn-Jersey and Northeast districts of The Wesleyan Church approved to merge.

 **FULL STORY**
wes.life/districtsmerge

Remembered

REV. HOWARD BAREFOOT (86) died February 2. He served at All Tribes Indian School in New Mexico and later pastored churches in Indiana.

REV. NATHAN BEALS (37) died January 24. He pastored in Michigan.

REV. JOHNNIE R. BLAIR, SR. (70) died March 11. He was pastor of Crossroads Community Wesleyan Church, Holton, Indiana.

REV. MADGE BURSCH (95) died February 2. She was a missionary in Zambia.

REV. JACK COOPER (88) died March 1. He pastored in Michigan.

REV. DAVID CRAIL (90) died November 24. He pastored churches in Illinois and Wisconsin.

REV. DONALD DAWALT (87) died February 27. He pastored churches in North Carolina.

REV. MICHELLE DEROSSETT (31) died February 25. She was assistant pastor at Hilltop Wesleyan Church, Liberty, South Carolina.

 **FULL STORY:** wes.life/michellederossett

REV. CASPER FARROW (63) died February 19. He was pastor of Grace Community Church, Buffalo, New York.

REV. W.C. (CARL) JONES (82) died January 22. He pastored churches in Michigan and Pennsylvania.

REV. OLIVER "BUD" LEATHERMAN (95) died March 17. He pastored churches in Kansas.

REV. DAVID LORD (68) died February 26. He pastored churches in North Carolina.

REV. PAUL E. MILLS (85) died March 17. He pastored several churches in North America.

PASTOR EUGENE (GENE) RATZLAFF (67) died March 3. He pastored churches in several states.



DR. WINGROVE TAYLOR (94) died December 26. He was General Superintendent of The Wesleyan Holiness Church (Caribbean Provisional General Conference of The Wesleyan Church).

 **FULL STORY:** wes.life/wingrovetaylor

TIMOTHY "BO" WALDROP (57) died January 16. He pastored East Spartanburg Wesleyan Church, Spartanburg, South Carolina.

REV. FORREST E. "DICK" WHITENER (81) died January 8. He pastored several churches in North America.

REV. ERMA WILLINGHAM (89) died January 26. She pastored churches in Canada.

DR. WARREN M. WOOLSEY (95) died December 24. He was president of Sierra Leone Bible College, near Freetown, Sierra Leone.

 **FULL STORY:** wes.life/warrenwoolsey

News



GLOBAL



GENERAL



COLLEGE



New partnership enhances World Hope International

 **FULL STORY**
wes.life/WHIpartners



Houghton Promise pledges quality and affordability

 **FULL STORY**
wes.life/houghtonpromise



HOLY MOMENT AT WESLEY SEMINARY PRESIDENTIAL INSTALLATION

Colleen Derr is named the first president of Wesley Seminary and her father, Dr. Earle E. Wilson, participated in the historic installation service.

 **FULL STORY**
wes.life/seminaryinstallation




RUGH LEADS SPANISH MINISTRY EDUCATION AND FORMATION

Rev. Johanna Chacon Rugh has joined Education and Clergy Development as associate director of Spanish Ministry Education and Formation.

 **FULL STORY**
wes.life/rughdirector



Hephzibah ministry seeks to increase impact

 **FULL STORY**
wes.life/hephzibahredesign



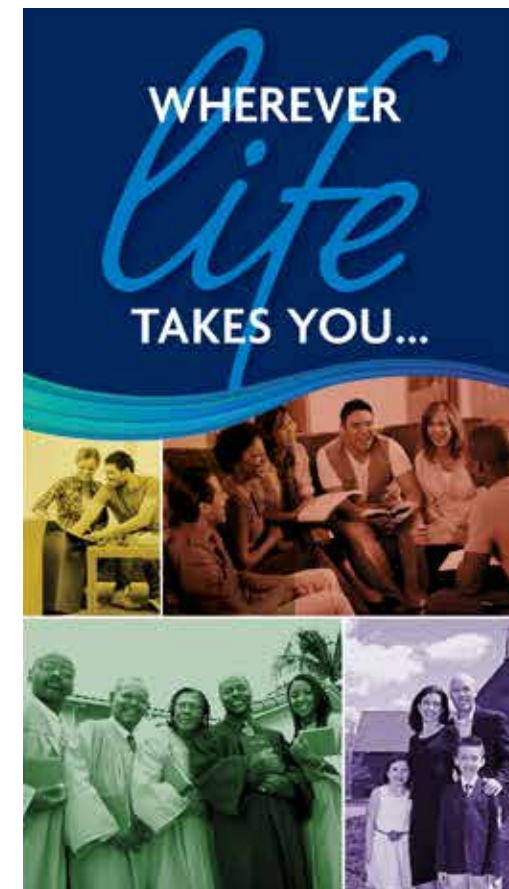
SWU announces first doctoral program

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wes.life/doctoralprogram



Collaboration fuels Superintendent Institute

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