



# MULTIPLICATION & EMPOWERMENT

2023 Gratitude Report



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# OUR MISSION

To empower people and to impact the world with greater courage and integrity on behalf of Jesus Christ

## Our Purpose

To equip and encourage Christ followers around the world to share their faith in the context of today's realities.

## Our Vision

We desire that Christ followers within the global Wesleyan family become agents of transformation by sharing the Gospel through the power of the Holy Spirit.





# INSIGHTS FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The ideas of multiplication and empowerment are critical aspects of the work of WME; and they relate not just to WME, but to the ripple effect created when those we impact move outward to impact the lives of others. The first followers of Jesus understood this. They knew that the spread of the gospel depended not just on their own sharing, but on empowering others to share as well. Like the first followers of Jesus, we have worked to multiply and empower in exactly the same way. This has been at the heart of our work in 2023.





# Multiplication

We have increased the number of leaders impacted by the Order of the FLAME by training and empowering them to equip new followers of Jesus and raise up new leaders in their own areas. We have increased the number of young adults impacted by Metanoia by launching regional Metanoia gatherings to equip these emerging leaders to bring the gospel into their workplaces. In 2023 we were able to launch a new FLAME community in the Philippines and a third FLAME Fellows mentoring cohort in the United States. We held a regional Metanoia gathering in Brazil and provided follow up opportunities for cohort-based mentoring. We continued to grow the number of leaders worldwide who are connected to WE419 and to expand the resources available on this wonderful platform.

# Empowerment

Empowerment is critical to multiplication. Without it, multiplication is impossible. And yet, empowerment goes beyond training and equipping. It involves releasing those who have been trained and equipped to go and do likewise. Giving them the freedom and your blessing to take what you have taught and use it to teach others. WME is committed to empowering others. We are grateful the leaders who have experienced our work – whether through Metanoia, the Order of the FLAME, or WE419 – are moving outward. It is a joy to see them using what they have learned as they plant churches, disciple others, and create faith-sharing movements throughout the world sharing movements throughout the world.

# REGIONAL METANOIA GATHERING – BRAZIL

## Expanding Opportunities

Young adult gatherings have been part of World Methodist Evangelism for over 40 years. Since 1980, WME has empowered young leaders to live as grace filled, faith sharing, disciples of Jesus Christ. Between 1980 and 2010, over 6,500 young people, from 60 countries participated in our International Christian Youth Conferences on Evangelism (ICYCE).

In 2018, building on the strength of ICYCE and emphasizing the importance of spiritual transformation, WME rebranded the event and Metanoia was formed. The meaning of Metanoia centers around conversion, reformation or repentance, or a transformation. Interestingly, this word can be translated in almost every language.

Much of WME's work involves experiences that gather Christ followers for in-person learning, interaction, and engagement. In the aftermath of Covid and as travel between countries has become increasingly more difficult, it became clear that global gatherings would remain a challenge. In light of that, we made the decision to re-envision our Metanoia gatherings and hold annual regional events and then work towards a global event once every three or four years. We felt this strategy would allow us to continue our mission of empowering and encouraging young adults and mentoring them in discerning their call to follow Jesus.

Our hosting of regional Metanoia events began this year with Metanoia South America, held in Londrina, Brazil. Young adult leaders from across the global Wesleyan Methodist family in South America gathered together for one week to connect with each other and with God in worship, study, training, and encouragement with the purpose to live more fully as committed disciples of Jesus Christ, to share their faith with boundless love and boldness, and to lead their generation to impact the world with greater courage and integrity on behalf of Jesus Christ.

Over 80 participants from six different countries participated.





# METANOIA ACADEMY

## Training and empowering young laity for the work of evangelization

During the event in South America, there was a noticeable desire by the participants for a deeper emphasis on calling and a stronger connection to calling emerged. We realized these young adults desired more than just this week-long interaction.

Through conversations with several attendees and discussions with some of WME's partners who have a heart for laity and young adults, Metanoia Academy was designed.

Metanoia Academy is an ongoing, monthly, 2-hour long virtual gathering of young adult leaders from around the world. Each gathering aims to accomplish 3 things:

**Equip** emerging leaders for ministry beyond the 4 walls of the local church, focusing on ministry in the marketplace and the public square.

**Expose** emerging leaders to examples of fruitful ministry happening in diverse contexts around the world.

**Engage** emerging leaders in spiritual formation and deep connection with one another.

At each gathering, participants listen to an engaging presentation from a marketplace and/or public square leader, participate in a time of discussion and Q&A, and move into small groups for prayer and spiritual formation.

Through these gatherings, participants become better equipped to respond to opportunities and challenges in their own contexts. Additionally, they are strengthened by deepening relationships with likeminded leaders from around the world.

There are currently more than 30 people actively participating.

Lay evangelists often have greater ability to connect with groups of people that clergy may struggle to reach, such as their peers, co-workers, neighbors, etc. Their personal witness and relationships open doors for evangelization that clergy alone cannot. Thus, equipping young people with evangelization skills prepares them to live out their baptismal calling in the workplace and in their community.





# ORDER OF THE FLAME

## New Chapter in the Philippines



### Strengthening Ministry

Our inaugural gathering for the Order of the FLAME - Philippines was held in October in Candaba, Pampanga.

Through the Order of the FLAME, clergy are encouraged to see themselves not only as pastors assigned to particular congregations, but as mission evangelists for their entire communities, reaching out on behalf of Jesus Christ to all those beyond the walls of their church.



We believe that the Order of the FLAME is a significant, shaping experience that encourages an environment where leaders from different traditions, races, cultures, and backgrounds can come together around a shared commitment to Jesus Christ. The FLAME community is bound together by a commitment to being mission evangelists in the communities in which they serve, and by their willingness to offer themselves as channels of God's prevenient grace to all people. The FLAME community is united in the belief in the power of the Holy Spirit to heal and transform, and we join together to proclaim and demonstrate that Jesus Christ reconciles all things, and his Gospel is good news for all creation.



Because the Order of the FLAME is not limited to one denomination, gatherings are a unique opportunity to form friendships, learn, and grow with ministry colleagues from across the entire Wesleyan Methodist family.

It is our hope that this new FLAME community will be a source of inspiration, learning, encouragement, and training for clergy in the Philippines and all of Southeast Asia. We pray that God would be glorified, and the people of this region will more fully come to know Jesus Christ.

The Order of the FLAME (Faithful Leaders As Mission Evangelists) is a covenant community within the Wesleyan Methodist family that equips, nurtures, and encourages young clergy and their spouses in evangelism and mission.



# THIRD COHORT OF FLAME FELLOWS





**MENTORING HELPS** new clergy develop practical wisdom and navigate the challenges of transitioning from seminary to full-time ministry. Even with excellent training, new pastors quickly realize their formal education did not fully prepare them for the realities of ministry.

A wise mentor can be an invaluable resource in making this transition successfully.

Research shows that effective mentoring focused on specific ministry issues is the most important factor in determining the impact on a new pastor's growth and success. Maintaining this clear focus is crucial - it's easy for mentoring conversations to get sidetracked without intentionality. Both one-on-one mentoring and group mentoring are equally effective for clergy. The key for group mentoring is skilled facilitation to ensure a focus on spiritual formation and ministry topics.

**MENTORING EMPOWERS** new clergy by allowing them to gain expanded knowledge and experience from those further along in ministry. The biblical example of Priscilla and Aquila mentoring Apollos illustrates how mentors can help pastors operate at their full potential.

Overall, mentoring provides new pastors with practical wisdom, focused guidance on real ministry issues, and empowerment from more experienced ministers - all of which strengthen their ability to have an effective ministry from the start.





# Meet Rev. Amanda Stratton, Pastor, DeKalb First United Methodist Church, one of the FLAME Fellows from 2023

My faith journey has been a lifelong adventure! At the age of 11, I discovered Christ and my calling to serve God through Alpha Courses in my local Episcopal Church. Alpha led me to connect with the Methodist church, which ultimately led to staff youth and family ministry positions, outreach ministries, and pastoral ministry.

I was ordained as an Elder in the United Methodist Church in 2022 and was nominated by FLAME member Rev. Dr. Sarah Wanck, who was my mentor in a different leadership cohort, to participate in FLAME fellows in the Fall of 2023. I had never heard of WME or the FLAME and had zero expectations for what was about to happen in my faith journey.



The Fellowship of the FLAME fortified my passion for sharing the gospel and ignited my love for the worldwide, connectional Body of Christ. From ministries in Memphis, lasting friendships forged amongst Cuban revivals, and clergy connections across multiple denominations at Epworth by the Sea, this past year has been incredible. I no longer experience my calling to pastoral ministry as restricted to a church or even a single community but rather as a calling to BE a conduit of the Holy Spirit in the world. This ministry is not limited by denominational affiliation or location but rather ignited by sharing our common faith.

I will forever be changed by the way FLAME Fellows opened my eyes to the movement of the Holy Spirit around the world. It has become an essential part of my faith journey, both personally and as a pastor. I've never been so excited to be called to share the good news that Methodist Evangelism is alive and happening worldwide!

# GRATEFUL FOR ALL OF YOU

When we think of the impact you have achieved for the Kingdom of God, we are filled with gratitude!

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# 2023 FINANCIAL REPORT

<b>TOTAL ANNUAL GIFTS</b>	<b>\$657,790.20</b>
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b> (Contributions, program revenue, other revenue)	<b>\$829,199.77</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$670,916.19</b>
<b>BALANCE</b>	<b>\$158,283.58</b>

## \* A WORD ON OUR END OF YEAR BALANCE

This balance reflects several Capacity Building gifts that will carry over into 2024 to help fund ongoing initiatives



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