

# WHY GO WESLEYAN?

## A METHODIST NUANCE OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITH

### GOD'S PRIMARY ATTRIBUTE IS LOVE

"God's name and nature is love."  
Emphasis has always been on intensely personal nature of God.

### GOD IS TRIUNE

There is a community of love who is God. The Father has been revealed in Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit.

### ALL CAN BE SAVED

God does not predestine some to heaven and others to hell. All have the opportunity to experience eternal life both now and in the future. Atonement is not limited to the elect.

### OPEN TABLE

Holy Communion is an occasion for the reception of grace. The Lord's Supper is open to all who respond to Christ's love, regardless of age or church membership.

### BIBLE'S PRIMARY PURPOSE IS SALVATION

Issue is not about "inerrancy" or "infallibility." One may or may not affirm its statements about scientific, historical, or cultural matters. Emphasize the essentials. "Agree to disagree" (John Wesley).

### GRACE

God's grace is universally available. God acts first in every moment to offer salvation, and humans freely respond to God's offer.

### JESUS IS THE CHRIST

Jesus' life, death, and resurrection make possible a fruitful relationship with God and hope for transformation in this life and the next.

### WESLEYAN QUADRILATERAL

Christians should consult the Bible, Christian tradition, reason (including science & critical thinking), and contemporary experience (i.e., the Wesleyan quadrilateral) when deciding how to think and act as Christians.

### EQUALITY

Wesley helped set the stage for the affirmation of women pastors and abolition of slavery. Subsequently progress for equality around race, gender, class, sexual orientation and other social justice concerns.

### CHURCH MATTERS

The Church and its practices are crucial to Christian understanding, right living, and compassion toward others and self, and church can even be experienced in small groups.

THE WESLEYAN THEOLOGICAL TRADITION IS DIVERSE, BUT IT OFFERS A DISTINCT VISION OF THE GOSPEL. AND THAT VISION DIFFERS FROM OTHER CHRISTIAN VISIONS. THE WESLEYAN TRADITION AROSE FROM THE IMPACT OF JOHN AND CHARLES WESLEY. THESE 18TH CENTURY BROTHERS BEGAN A REFORMATION WITHIN THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND THAT EVENTUALLY SPREAD AROUND THE WORLD.

### GOD CARES ABOUT ALL CREATION

God values and seeks to redeem all creation: humans and nonhumans. God's love is at work in the whole world.

### RELIGIOUS EXPERIENCE MATTERS

Personal and corporate religious experience, not merely rational consent to Christian doctrines, characterizes the flourishing Christian life. Both heart and head matter.

### ECUMENICAL

The Body of Christ is much bigger than any one tradition or theological perspective. Commitment to a common humanity. "Catholic spirit." Distinction between "essentials" and "opinions", of which are welcomed.

### "BOTH, AND."

Commitment to live in "the middle way." Prioritize a "both, and" rather than an "either, or" in search for truth. Pursuit of grace and holiness, knowledge and piety (head and heart), scriptural truth and continuing revelation, evangelism and social justice, personal and social, faith and works, church and world.

### GRACE UPON GRACE

The Christian pilgrimage, from start to finish, is undergirded by divine grace. Christians are justified and being sanctified by God's grace as they respond appropriately to God's saving and empowering love. Sanctified Christians love God, others, and all creation, including themselves. We are not merely waiting on the afterlife. Transformation and the abundant life are now!

### THE WORLD IS OUR PARISH

Followers of the Christ are not only committed to the vertical relationship with their Creator, but simultaneously to the essential and redemptive relationship of all God's Creation. If the latter is not present, there is something fundamentally wrong with the former. 'The world is my parish' (John Wesley).

### GLOBAL INFLUENCE & CREDIBILITY

The Wesleyan theological vision and traditions inspire nearly 100 million Christians around the world. More than eighty Christian denominations today consider Wesley their primary theological ancestor. Among them are the United Methodist Church, the Salvation Army, the Free Methodist Church, the Church of God (Anderson), Global Methodist Church, and the Church of the Nazarene.

John Wesley said ...

*"No scripture can mean that God is not love, or that his mercy is not over all his works."*

*"Love is the end of all the commandments of God. Love is the end, the sole end, of every dispensation of God, from the beginning of the world to the consummation of all things."*

*"Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can."*