



The Bar for Ministry Has Been Set!

THE CALL AND COMMISSION OF THE CHURCH

Matthew 22:37-39

The Great Commandment:

- love God
- love our neighbors
- love ourselves

Matthew 25:35-50

Our Call as a Church:

- responding to the spiritual needs of our neighbors
- the emotional needs of our neighbors
- the physical needs of our neighbors

Matthew 28:19-20

The Great Commission:

- go
- make disciples
- baptize
- teach

Paragraphs 201-204

- preach the Word faithfully
- administer the sacraments regularly
- actively lead people to accept and profess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior
 - edify believers to become faithful disciples of Jesus Christ
- minister to the needs of people in our community through our members
 - cooperate with other churches to meet the needs of our neighbors.

The Gifts he gave were ... to equip the saints for the work of ministry,
for building up the body of Christ, until **all of us** come to the unity of
the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God,
to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ.

Ephesians 4: 11-13 NRSV

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.

It is the **redemptive fellowship** in which the Word of God is preached by persons divinely called and the sacraments are duly administered according to Christ's own appointment.

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.

The Function of the Local Church

The church of Jesus Christ exists in and for the world.

It is primarily at the level of the charge consisting of one or more local churches that the church encounters the world.

The local church is a strategic base from which Christians move out
to the structures of society.

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,

as minimal expectations of an authentic church.

Relation to the Wider Church

The local church is a connectional society of persons who

have been baptized,
have professed their faith in Christ, and
have assumed the vows of membership in The United Methodist Church.

They gather in fellowship to

hear the Word of God,
receive the sacraments,
praise and worship the triune God, and
carry forward the work that Christ has committed to his church.

Such a society of believers,

being within The United Methodist Church and subject to its Discipline,

is also an inherent part of the church universal,

which is composed of all who accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, and

which in the Apostles' Creed we declare to be the holy catholic church.

Care of Members—Each local church shall have a

definite evangelistic, nurture, and witness responsibility

for its members and the surrounding area and a

missional outreach responsibility to the local and global community.

It shall be responsible for ministering to all its members, wherever they live, and for persons who choose it as their church.