

2022 Mission u, July 22-24, Yakima: Wesley UMC

Learning Together for the Transformation of the World

Each year, United Methodists prepare for faithful living and action by participating in Mission u, a transformative education program that offers study on biblically grounded curricula. These curricula are intended to motivate, inform and enrich our commitment to be in ministry for a more just and equitable world, locally and globally.

Using a train-the-trainer model, study leaders attend national training events to prepare to facilitate curricula at the United Methodist regional (conference) level. Those who attend these conference Mission u events are then encouraged to lead the curricula in their district and local groups.

Luke 13: A Transformative Biblical Curriculum for Adults, Youth and Children

In 2022, all three curricula (adults, youth, children) will be on the topic of Luke 13.

Beginning in 2022, we will introduce a new model of Mission u curricula. Instead of creating separate studies that examine spiritual growth, justice, and national and global social issues, we are integrating these commitments into one curriculum. This means there will be one curriculum for adults, one for youth and one for children.

Our goals are to make this curriculum widely adaptable and easy to use in districts, units, and local churches, as well as to create intentional opportunities for intergenerational learning.

Curriculum for 2022

A Transformative Biblical Curriculum for Adults, Youth and Children

Context We find ourselves in a period of incredible disruption and uncertainty.

In the midst of a devastating pandemic, a divisive political climate and economic turmoil, we are turning to stories of Jesus that have anchored Christian communities in challenging times for over two millennia.

Some of these stories of Jesus are found in the 13th chapter of the Gospel of Luke. The chapter opens and closes with a community trying to make sense of and navigate their way through times of turmoil and tragedy. However, the chapter centers on a story of Jesus teaching in a synagogue on the Sabbath when a woman suddenly appears. Jesus makes the choice to “set [her] free from [her] ailment” (Luke 13:12) which causes a great deal of commotion among the leaders and crowd gathered there. In this context, Jesus likens the kingdom to a mustard seed and yeast (Luke 13:18-21).

What did those images evoke for Jesus’ first-century Jewish audience? And what possibilities might seed and yeast hold for us today? At the end of this study our hope is that participants will leave with a bigger and broader vision of the kind of community Christ is calling us to be in times of loss, grief and massive disruption. What would be possible if we tend to the needs of our communities in small and often disruptive ways as Jesus did in Luke 13? May we do so with the faith that a multitude of small actions, like seeds, can activate a community’s healing and renewal.

Goals:

- Experience spiritual practices that support us through uncertainty, loss and grief
- Develop capacity to interpret Scripture in multiple ways
- Build our biblical and theological understanding of key metaphors in the parables of the mustard seed and yeast
- Deepen our learning through intergenerational conversations and connections
- Engage in community conversations to explore which small actions to heal and restore can be activated locally and globally in connection with the justice priorities of United Methodist Women

Justice Priorities of United Methodist Women for this quadrennium:

Maternal and child health

Economic justice

Climate justice

Criminalization of communities of color