

## LIVING OUR MISSION STATEMENT

*Submitted by Rev. George C. Cushman, Pastor-retired*

*The Appointive Cabinet is receiving as a "friendly" recommendation and incorporating the premise into charge conference planning.*

“The mission of The United Methodist Church is to make disciples for Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.”

**Whereas** our denomination’s mission statement is the guiding principle for our Council of Bishops, our Boards and Agencies, our General and Jurisdictional Conferences, our Conference and our local churches;

**Whereas** the first task of The United Methodist Church’s mission statement is: “To make disciples for Jesus Christ”;

**Whereas** to make disciples, the church must have a good working definition of discipleship;

**Whereas** the local church has the ability to be most personal, active and influential in the spiritual development of the saints;

**Whereas** the church’s context in a community is a main influence on the needs and the focus of ministry and the work of a disciple;

**Whereas** understanding our demographic as the local church, is a main source of understanding this context; and

**Whereas** this demographic study helps us understand the context and focus of service for the second half of the denomination’s mission statement, “for the transformation of the world”; now, therefore, be it

**Resolved**, that the local churches of the Desert Southwest Conference:

1. procure a copy of the demographic of their community from the Conference Center;
2. will receive a detailed and working definition for the living of discipleship from the Conference leadership by September of 2018;
3. will have a process to make disciples in place and submitted to their District Superintendent by the 2019 Annual Conference;
4. will utilize this plan to set their goals, structure and Ministry Plan for the 2019 Charge Conference;
5. will receive a copy of these discipling plans compiled by the District Superintendents and published by the Conference’s Communications Staff; and
6. at subsequent Charge Conferences, report the successes of this plan, adjustments made, new ways of discipling being implemented, and successful ministries continued, with the District Superintendents compiling the successes and achievements of discipleship so we, as an Conference, may celebrate and other local churches may see and implement ministries that would be helpful in their community.

*The Conference Secretary has the ability to make editorial changes that do not change the intent of the petition.*