



## **DAILY MEDIA BRIEFING**

**Tuesday, May 21**

**8:00 pm CST**

### **A Time to Speak: UMCNext Conversations Continue**

Day 2 of the three-day UMCNext gathering began with participants giving thanks and praise in worship.

While Day 1 emphasized listening, Day 2 began with a call to speak out. The conversation returned to justice with the question, "If not us, who? If not now, when?"

Gathered around 78 tables, conversation turned to prayerful discernment. Engaged in deep conversation on potential paths forward, participants considered possibilities for the future of the church including implications, intended consequences, and unintended consequences.

As one leader noted, difficult conversation is uncomfortable, yet many United Methodists are feeling led to speak up about issues of justice -- including those who have not spoken up before.

Participants will reconvene Wednesday morning for the final day of the gathering.

UMC Next Convening Team

Tom Berlin, Floris UMC

Michael Bowie, St. Luke's UMC, Dallas

Lonnie Chafin, Northern Illinois Annual Conference

Stan Copeland, Lover's Lane UMC

Katie Dawson, Immanuel UMC

DJ del Rosario, Pacific Northwest Conference

Junius Dotson, Discipleship Ministries

Ginger Gaines-Cirelli, Foundry UMC

Adam Hamilton, Church of the Resurrection

Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson, North Georgia Annual Conference

Jan Lawrence, Reconciling Ministries Network

Pat Luna, Point Washington UMC

Bishop Mike McKee, North Texas Annual Conference

Jasmine Smothers, Atlanta First UMC

Cynthia Weems, Florida Annual Conference