

The Weekly Message from Darren Brandon  
May 1,, 2024  
"God's Big Table"



I'm at General Conference in Charlotte, N.C. as an observer in my role as the Secretary for the Kentucky Annual Conference. When I arrived for my first session, I learned that General Conference delegates are in a part of the room that requires special access. As an observer, I was directed by a cheerful volunteer to the area for everyone else. He jokingly said, "You're in the observer section - no charge." We laughed and I said, "That's my favorite - the bargain section."

There was so much to love about the morning. The inspiring music was led by an African choir full of joy and dancing. The gospel was read in Spanish. We closed by singing the hymn, "Take My Life And Let It Be" with solos in Korean, French, and English.

The morning congregation had gathered from all parts of the earth - north, south, east, and west. The United Methodist Church is doing faithful ministry in all those places. The moment was an occasion for joy. Those who had gathered wanted to be there and leaned into the presence of the Holy Spirit.

On Sunday, I'll stand behind the communion table at St. Paul and say these words with our congregation -

...with your people on earth  
and all the company of heaven  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn...

In my heart, I'll be giving thanks for being part of a church that reminds me constantly that God's table is a Big Table with room for everyone.

Blessings,

Darren