

**WE BELIEVE** in a church that yearns to be *global in nature and connectional* and works to address structures of colonialism. We recognizing that we must begin this work within our own United Methodist Church. It is not acceptable to simply acknowledge that there is a tendency to focus upon U. S. issues at General Conference and U.S. cultural issues within the *Book of Discipline* and *Book of Resolutions*. We therefore affirm that which moves us in the direction of deeper connections throughout the global church, greater local authority, and, more equitable sharing of power, representation, and responsibility around the world. Regional (rather than global) decision making will have a profound effect on our ability to be in fruitful ministry in each local context.