

FREE METHODIST CHURCH TRIBAL IDENTITY *[in process]*

Clusters	Linda	Matt	Keith
1. Life-giving Holiness	Whole-life growth in grace (Grace for the whole journey)	Wholly Motivated	21st Century Holiness (A Holiness Ethos for the 21 st Century) Gracious, Generous, Life-giving, Beautiful
2. The Word of God M-11 K-10 L-8	Both / and Balanced Not inerrancy Head and Heart not just Head Light-bringing Word Life-guiding authority Life-changing standard Shaped by the Word	Biblically Grounded We want to differentiate ourselves from compromise on the one hand and literalism/bibliolatry on the others	The Radical Middle (A Radical Commitment to the Middle Way) The Whole Word
3. God's Justice	Love-driven Justice	Compassionately Focused	Social Justice (A Profound Passion for Social Justice) Kingdom Orientation
4. Pervasive Multiplication	Alive to God in worship (Holy Spirit) The mission of Jesus: Kingdom-based social holiness	Gospel Urgency (Soul winning only)	Kingdom Orientation (Maintaining a Global and Kingdom Perspective)
5. Global synergy (for God's Kingdom)	Active in God's full-orbed redemption of the world (Justice, Service Witness) (Outside the box)	Missionally Driven empowering nationals / incarnational	Multiplied Discipleship Whole person >> whole world

NOTES

Our goal is to be Free Methodist specific in a way that translates dated language into fresh articulation for a new day.

We like the lead-in phrase, “We have a profound passion for...”

Through the dialogue ideas were written in different “bishop columns;” the bolded phrases are from the original document sent by the bishops.

Vision Equity

"TO LOVE GOD, LOVE PEOPLE AND MAKE DISCIPLES" VISION: "To bring wholeness to the world through healthy biblical communities of holy people multiplying disciples, leaders, groups and churches."

“When at the Methodist conference... what may we reasonably believe be God’s design... to reform the nation, particularly the church and to spread scriptural holiness over the land”

Will’s Summary Recommendation

If we were to lead with distinctiveness in the list and end with an increasing move toward orthodoxy we could both show off our history and our current anchoring as an evangelical movement. Imagine a list that sounded like this (using words expressed by bishops plus one further idea) The further idea is the original statement of scriptural holiness. What if we borrowed that adjective for “authority:”

We are profoundly passionate about:

- Life-Giving Holiness
- Love-Driven Justice
- Pervasive Multiplication (center idea is disciple-making)
- Global Synergy
- Scriptural Authority (leave this to end as a definitive “period”)

This as a “top level” articulation has a surprising stickiness to it with regard to syllable count and consonance. It’s actually hard to forget this list once you hear it. You have the 2-step lead in with life and love and the sound of “s’s.” Ending the list with the two “y’s” enhances the sound.