

Covenant of the first Charisma Revival 2022

Repentance and Covenant before the gathering

The long-standing problems of the United Methodist Church compounded by the COVID-19 pandemic made us weary and weakening. We, the participants of the Charisma Revival, see our helplessness in the reality that local churches are closing and congregations are declining. Over and against such reality, facing the uncertainty of the denomination has put Korean United Methodist churches and pastors into confusion and conflict unable to respond with the agency and clarity. Here, we repent for ignoring the workings of the Holy Spirit who birthed us into a holy church whom we have forgotten its holiness.

Today, we remember John Wesley, who arose to proclaim “biblical salvation” during the industrial revolution in the 18th century amidst the reality of the aristocratic church neglecting the mission of the church. The Korean American pastors and the Korean United Methodist Church are the fruits of God’s mission with: John Wesley, who transformed England and United States with the Gospel; Henry G. Appenzeller, a Methodist missionary to Korea, who started the Methodist Movement in the Korean Peninsula; and now we, who are the seeds and the fruits of the Methodism for such time as this.

Our denomination is suffering right now. The Apostle Paul said, “[i]f one member suffers, all the members suffer together; if one member is glorified, all the members rejoice together. You are the body of Christ, and each of you is a part of it” (1 Corinthians 12:26-27). It is imperative to note that Paul shares the critical reminder before these words, “By one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit” (1 Corinthians 12:13).

We refuse to blame anyone for the current hardships facing the denomination and churches, let alone expect others to do anything for us. Rather, we simply want to restore Wesleyan spirituality today in fulfilling our calling to build up the church, the body of Christ, and to strengthen the saints in their way toward Christian Perfection.

“I am not afraid that the people called Methodists should ever cease to exist either in Europe or America. But I am afraid lest they should only exist as a dead sect, having the form of religion without the power. And this undoubtedly will be the case unless they hold fast both the doctrine, spirit, and discipline with which they first set out.” Listening to John Wesley’s words, we painfully admit that what he predicted has become true in us and the local churches. We thirst for the true living water that will quench us with the ‘power of the Holy Spirit’ that manifested in the early churches, gave life to Wesley’s ministry, and transformed the society today.

Now, we pray that we become faithful instruments of God—whom Wesley desired, the one hundred preachers “who fear nothing but sin and long for nothing but God”—to stop the power of hell and to build up the Kingdom of God on earth.

The Aims of the ‘Charisma Revival’

First, we go beyond the historical workings of the Holy Spirit and aim to experience the charisma of the Holy Spirit here and now.

We affirm the following words of John Wesley: “[p]erhaps it [the reason the workings of the Holy Spirit ceased to be found] might be because of the hardness of our hearts, unready to receive anything unless we see it with our eyes and hear it with our ears...” (The Journal of the Rev. John Wesley, A.M., ed. Nehemiah Curnock, 8 vols. (London: Robert Cullery),. 2:201-204.) John Wesley believed that the gospel is still preached with power and that if people live close to God, the Holy Spirit manifests as extraordinary charismata accompanied by healing, prophecy, miracles, and exorcism.

We, too, believe that the workings of the Holy Spirit are found here and now.

Second, we acknowledge the history of charismata in the Scripture and aim for a permissive attitude.

Wesley embraced diverse gifts of the Holy Spirit. Wesley repeatedly preached the sermon titled “Means of Grace” to criticize reckless enthusiasm on the one hand, which focus on phenomena and signs while ignoring the means of grace (church attendance, sacramental participation, reading and studying the Bible) and Quietism on the other hand, which emphasized a misguided mystical union with God. Moreover, he urged believers to acquire foremost the gift of love, which brings unity in the church while disparaging formalists and their dry and lukewarm faith and being cautious with wild enthusiasts.

We, too, aim for a balanced charismatic spirituality through spiritual discernment with the Scripture.

Third, we aim for a healthy spirituality based on the Scripture.

“I follow the Bible in everything, big or small,” Wesley said. While we long for the workings of the Holy Spirit, who works proactively and freely, we place our faith in God who speaks through the Scripture, the word of truth.

Fourth, we aim for a ministry centered on cooperation and connectionalism based on the Holy Spirit’s uniting work in and among us.

The important principles that undergird Methodism are Cooperation and Connectionalism. As Paul exclaimed, “Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, in the same way, you were called in one hope of your calling” (Ephesians 4:3-4). For such time as this, we aim to go beyond the structural unity in The United Methodist Church to become truly unifying Church under the guidance and the power of the Holy Spirit who renews us to cooperate and connect within the community of preachers.

A pledge

The Global Wesleyan Spiritual Ministry Network will commit to creating bridges so that the aims of Charisma revival are shared and expanded continually. We pray for the restoration of truly proud Wesleyan Spirituality and its ministry for the revival of the Church that will faithfully make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Come, Holy Spirit! Lord, help us!

February 21 (Mon) – 24 (Thu), 2022

Charisma Revival participants gathered in New York