

Anticipation

We wait for General Conference with varying degrees of delight or dread. The view looks different depending on whether our primary vantage point is our congregation, the annual conference, or the general church and global connection. The interests that energize or burden us affect our dispositions and assumptions about what might and should happen in Pittsburgh.

Some say they don't care, or don't expect much, but I doubt that many readers of *CR* claim total disinterest. **Could it be that a few calculate that if they feign indifference, they might keep the uncertainties and unsettling risks associated with our legislative processes a safe arm's length distance away?**

The issues to be debated and decisions to be made are familiar and daunting. This issue of *CR* summarizes some of the many topics that are unmistakably important and will necessarily consume the delegates' attention. But, shouldn't we be looking forward to something else as well?

Could we expect those who gather to care for the needed legislative work will first and foremost go to Pittsburgh in humility and eagerness to listen intently together for the still small voice of God?

Might we hope that our representative leaders will set directions with aspirations that attract the people called Methodist to link arms as a renewed, vibrant, and unified community of disciples of Jesus Christ?

What if General Conference lifted up one compelling call to mission and ministry that so obviously honors God and shows love of neighbor that across the whole connection people will leap forward shouting, "Yes, here am I!"

We can count on the promise that God is able, at work in our midst even now, and will dwell among those gathered at General Conference. We can anticipate that we will be challenged and blessed to bear witness to very good news for all the world. So, how about this—*let's pray together that it might be so.*

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