

JUNE 2024



# Foundry Forge

Inspiration and Information for the Weeks Ahead

## Together, Tender at the Table

Within a few days of arrival in Charlotte for the United Methodist General Conference, I finally attained some clarity about the strange feelings I'd had for months. I wrote about that in an essay (<https://www.bwcumc.org/news-and-views/a-little-tenderness/>) shared on the Baltimore-Washington Conference website. Clarity came with the word "tender." I was feeling tender in ALL the ways we can.

Following the conference, bathed in deep relief and joy, I'm still feeling tender. Part of it is my awareness of countless moments of harm, of so many of God's beloved ones hurt and shamed, of those who didn't live to see this day or who left the church to save their lives. Another tender place is my gratitude for leaders who paved the way. In particular, I've been giving thanks for Phil Wogaman and Dean Snyder, my immediate predecessors who continued their strong advocacy, inspiring, encouraging, and praying for us this past ten years.

And then there's the tender place that emerges after something you've been working on a long time finally comes to fruition, when something shifts in a way you felt might never happen. What do you do in that space? It's a whole new world. It takes practice to breathe "this new air."

Ophelia Hu Kinney is a poet and communications professional who works with Reconciling Ministries Network. A piece she wrote feeds my spirit. It captures the tenderness of this moment, following more than 30 years of working to remove the harmful language against LGBTQ+ persons from our *Book of Discipline* and for equity, justice, and inclusion in the church. May it bless you as it has blessed me.

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*God of yes, God of today, God of here:*

*We can chase a thing called hope  
so long that we don't know how to  
Hold it when we've caught it.*

*Our mouths can water  
from the fragrance of grace  
so long that we don't know  
how to eat when, at last,  
we're at the table.*

*To bask in sunlight  
when our skin remembers  
the pain of being burnt:  
this, too, is a discipline.*

*Hold our heads.  
Hold our hands.  
Hold us fast  
in a posture of thanksgiving.*

*It makes a Mother glad  
to see Her children,  
together at the table  
and eating.*

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Peace be with you!  
ginger+

## OUR CONTINUING JOURNEY TO RACIAL JUSTICE

# The Power of Convergence

AMELIA SHACHOY

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*This is the third in a series of articles interpreting the values framing Foundry's work of becoming an inclusive community — **restorative, integrity, community, convergence, and expansive**. It follows Amelia's articles in the February and April issues of the **Forge**. Foundry is already doing some of this, but we can all be more thoughtful about how to be more inclusive in our lives and at church. Read on and learn!*

As part of our work, the Interlocking Justice cohort studied the roles of bystanders, allies, accomplices, and co-conspirators. "Convergence" occurs when two or more groups unite to work toward a common interest. Learning about these roles helped me become more aware of how I have shown up with different individuals and groups and how I want to change.

**Bystanders** are spectators and do not get involved in a situation, which can discourage others from getting involved, creating a **bystander effect** — the more bystanders, the less likely any one of them will act.

**Allies** support, assist, and act on behalf of a group but do not become members. **Accomplices** assist with time and resources, joining a group, taking some risk. I see Foundry acting as an ally and accomplice through its Sacred Resistance work. For example, we ally with other churches through supporting WIN (Washington Interfaith Network) in its work on housing and healthy homes. We act as an accomplice with the Poor People's Campaign — a movement uniting communities, clergy, and other advocates to end poverty — taking risks in confronting elected officials and possibly being arrested.

**Co-conspirators** plan or act together with a group, ignoring any risk of retribution. I think Foundry acted as a co-conspirator with the LGBTQ community on marriage equality within the Methodist church, risking both its standing in the denomination and defrocking of the Senior Pastor. This played a role in the recent decision at the UMC General Conference to remove this ban — an example of convergence.

In creating a more inclusive community, it is helpful to consider convergence and how we show up in these roles both as individuals and as a church.

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*Amelia Shachoy has been attending Foundry since 2010 and has been active in several groups. She is a certified instructor of adult learners and a certified Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Facilitator.*

# Foundry Forward

JUNE 2024 ACTION ITEMS

## Sunday June 2 Beloved

As we enter into LGBTQ+ Pride month, Foundry celebrates the beauty and belovedness of all God's children. We will give thanks for the steadfast love of God. We will revel in the diversity of God's world and people. We will rejoice in the freedom and joy that comes from knowing we are **beloved**. Our preacher today is our own Foundry Board President Guy Cecil. And our services will include sharing communion and the commissioning of our new Stephen Ministers.

## Discipleship Planning Session

Join us at 10:10 a.m. in Room 203 for a planning session focused on Discipleship Ministries classes in 2024–2025. We'll be setting vital dates and discussing strategies to enhance our discipleship offerings. Whether you're a seasoned leader or getting involved for the first time, your participation will shape the next steps in our community's spiritual journey. Register at [foundryumc.org/discipleship-planning](https://foundryumc.org/discipleship-planning).

## Saturday, June 8 Pride Parade!

Support today's **DC Pride Festival and Parade** providing radical hospitality, **passing out water and lemonade on Foundry's plaza**, or **marching in the parade with other UM Churches**. Registration for both is open. Register for the parade at [foundryumc.org/pride-parade](https://foundryumc.org/pride-parade). Register for the hospitality at [foundryumc.org/pride-hospitality](https://foundryumc.org/pride-hospitality).

## Sunday, June 9 Pride Sunday

"Bold Love" is the title of Pastor Ginger's sermon today. Her text is First John: Chapters 4 – 7–21.

## ASP Bake Sale!

The 2024 ASP Youth Mission Team will hold its second bake sale of the season today! Indulge in delicious treats and support our youth mission trips.

## Sunday, June 16 Youth Sunday

Today we celebrate our younger members in multiple ways – commissioning our Appalachian Service Project (ASP) Team, recognizing our graduates, featuring youth as our scripture readers (Psalm 92:1–4, 12–15; Mark 4:26–34) and presenting our third graders with their Bibles. Pastor Ginger will preach on the subject, "Seeds of Love." Our ASP team will leave on their mission Saturday, June 22, returning June 29. They welcome your support and your prayers.

Sunday, June 23

## Upward Focus, Outward Bound

**"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind and your neighbor as yourself." Luke 10:27**

Today we begin our summertime spiritual journey, supported and inspired by a sermon series which Pastor Ginger begins today, and weekly reading groups centered on the book **Upward!** by Paul W. Chilcote and Steve Harper. We will explore the rich traditions of Wesleyan spirituality, the theological and practical framework for our lives of faith and love that finds expression in acts of service, compassion and justice. Join us in worship, a small group or pick up a copy of the book and learn. Register at [foundryumc.org/up](https://foundryumc.org/up)

Tuesday, June 25

## Project Transformation Begins!

Today, Foundry volunteers begin reading with young students to retain and improve their skills over the summer, fighting the "summer slide!" We read with elementary-aged children each Tuesday morning. You can help by offering a few hours one Tuesday or more to read with kids or have them read to you. Volunteers can be as young as 14, and we can coordinate transportation. Register at [foundryumc.org/project-transformation](https://foundryumc.org/project-transformation).

## Foundry Board Meeting

Foundry's Board will hold its regular monthly meeting at 7 p.m. Interested Foundry members may attend via Zoom, following this link: <http://foundryumc.org/board-meeting>.

**Note: On Sunday June 30, at 10:15 a.m., Rev. Rodney Smothers, Presiding Elder, will convene a church conference at Foundry. All members welcome.**

To print a copy of this issue of the Forge, go to [foundryumc.org/forge](https://foundryumc.org/forge).

Share your thoughts and ideas by emailing [ForgeNewsletter@foundryumc.org](mailto:ForgeNewsletter@foundryumc.org).