

**CONSTITUTION: AMENDMENT REGARDING GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT**

Whereas, During its 2016 General Conference, The Wesleyan Church adopted Memorial 66, which directed the General Board to appoint a working group consisting of pastors and scholars to review the membership commitment on speaking in tongues, as stated in paragraph 265:9 of *The 2012 Discipline of The Wesleyan Church* (paragraph 265:10 in *The 2016 Discipline of The Wesleyan Church*), and bring a recommendation to the 2020 General Conference;

Whereas, Twenty-seven pastors and scholars representing local Wesleyan churches, all five Wesleyan universities, Asbury Seminary, and five global Wesleyan leaders comprised the working group which reviewed the current membership commitment on speaking in tongues;

Whereas, Every effort has been made to carefully avoid two theological “ditches”: (1) unintentionally hindering a genuine work of the Holy Spirit among us, and (2) the potential for disruption and abuse to occur in our church settings; and

Whereas, Any action taken by the 2020 General Conference of The Wesleyan Church, postponed until 2022, has direct impact on the global Wesleyan Church;

*Resolved*, The *2016 Discipline of The Wesleyan Church* be edited by replacing paragraph 265:10 with the following:

(10) To promote love, the common good, and orderliness in Christ’s church with reference to the use of the spiritual gift of tongues. The Wesleyan Church believes in the gifts of the miraculous use of tongues and the interpretation of tongues. Speaking, praying or singing in tongues, whether done privately or publicly, is the divinely enabled ability some believers experience to communicate to God words of thanksgiving, praise, and adoration in a language not previously learned. While The Wesleyan Church recognizes that the gift of tongues is given to some believers, there is no single gift that is given to all as evidence of the Spirit’s infilling. The greatest expression of this work is a heart purified by the Holy Spirit and an empowered life of love and service to God and people. If speaking in tongues occurs publicly in a church gathering, Scripture requires one person to speak at a time and an interpretation to be provided by another so all in attendance, especially unbelievers, may understand and be edified. Pastors and leaders are to exercise discretion in light of these instructions to ensure our gatherings bear the fruit of unity and order in a manner helpful and intelligible to those hearing the Gospel.

**Mark 16:17; Luke 24:49; Acts 1:8; 2:4, 6, 8-11, 16, 33; 4:7, 31; 10:44-47; 19:6; Romans 5:5; 13:1-5; 15:18-19; I Cor. 2:4; 12:3, 7, 10-11, 25, 28, 30; 13:1; 14:1-2, 5-6, 13-19, 23, 26-28, 33, 39-40; I Thess. 5:12, 23; Hebrews 2:4; I Peter 4:10; 5:12**

TASK FORCE ON SPEAKING IN TONGUES  
Karl Eastlack, Chair

Committee on Memorials

Recommended  Not Recommended

General Conference

Adopted  Not Adopted