



SUMMER INSTITUTE 2017 **CONCEPT PAPER**

I. The General Missional Framework

The Paragraph 122 of the 2012 United Methodist Church (UMC) Book of Discipline outlines the *Process for Carrying Out our Mission* that is to make disciples of Jesus Christ to transform the world. In sum, United Methodists, specifically UMYFers are called to **proclaim** the Gospel, **lead** people into a decision to commit to Jesus Christ and to his Church, **nurture** people in intentional faith formation and **send** people to do the same as well by being holy and being actively involved in changing the social structures to have them conform to the Gospel. As such, the ministries of the UMYFers in every level of the fellowship shall incorporate the mentioned aspects of doing ministry as United Methodists.

It can be further specified that ministries under “Proclaim” Area are those that are geared towards benefitting the people *outside the church* that includes outreach (i.e. Doing good to all regardless of creed, sex, age, etc.) ministries and in being welcoming/inviting people in the Church especially those who are outcasts. Examples of these ministries are advocacy campaigns, ecumenical and interreligious events, tree planting ministries, livelihood trainings, sports clinics, gift giving and medical-dental missions.

The ministries under “Lead” are primarily evangelistic activities (i.e. Intentional proclamation of the Gospel with the end of having the person surrender his/her life to Jesus as Lord and Saviour) like evangelistic/revival campaigns, campus ministries, hospital ministries, jail ministries, one on one Gospel sharing, publication and distribution of Gospel booklets, house to house visitations of non-members and church planting, together with baptisms/membership classes, confirmations/confirmation classes and prayer and fund raising campaigns for missions and worshipping congregations. For our mutual information, the approximately 25 churches in Nepal are part of the Philippines Central Conference, together with some congregations in Spain, Italy, Dubai, and Canada, among others, primarily led by overseas Filipinos.

The ministries under “Nurture” are ministries towards persons *inside the church* meant in developing the Christian life of a person as an individual and as a part of the faith community and it include prayer meetings, visitation of members, small group ministries, Bible studies, worship leadership development, leadership trainings and mentoring.

Finally, the ministries in “Send” are those structured to train and help *people inside the church to deal with people outside the faith community*. This includes training how to evangelize, lay servant ministries, program on short term missions (Caravan missions for some Conferences), long term missions, and Schools for Christian Youth Development (SCYD).

A single program is fungible (i.e. flexible), meaning, it can cover more than one area but it must be *primarily* under one area depending on its objectives. For example, an intensive prayer activity for our

missionaries is a very good program with multiple positive impacts as it can be a program under “Nurture,” “Lead,” and “Send” areas but it is primarily under “Lead” if its primary objective is for leading people to Jesus and not on training people how to do missions.

II. Locating the Summer Institute 2017 and its Objectives

The Institutes are the flagship programs of, by and for the youth for holistic development. And, for this biennium, the National United Methodist Youth Fellowship in the Philippines (NUMYFP) is the one in charge of offering possible and usable conceptual frame for the Summer Institutes throughout the country. This is ultimately aimed in creating, sustaining and ensuring a common ground of understanding among and between the members of the Fellowship throughout the nation.

For the Summer Institute 2017, the NUMYFP, amidst the overall nature of the Institutes to be a nurturing ministry, seeks to frame and mould it as a ministry that **supports the Lead area of our Church ministries**. Therefore, the Summer Institute 2016 seeks to **proclaim the essentiality of personal relationship to Jesus and of belonging to the community of believers- the Church**. In this end, the **delegates will commit or recommit themselves to Christ and the Christian community, and especially for our members and those who are willing to do so, to the United Methodist Church**. This is related to the objectives of Christmas Institute 2016 themed “Pro-Claim” that is affirming that every individual are of sacred worth, and that all are in desperate need of God’s grace- grace that something that we never and will never deserve. Further, this is to address the possible causes of having United Methodists who are not committed to the ministries of the Church and also to help in abating the perceived exodus of members, especially of young people, away from the UMC and the Christian Church in general, coupled with the rise of “Spiritual but not Religious” phenomena. As such, apart from Bible Study sessions, workshops, immersions and other experiential learning activities exposing the delegates to and in participating in the different ministries of the Church are highly encouraged. Ministries in campuses, medical facilities and jails are possible areas to explore.

III. Explanation of the Theme

As approved in the 34th National Youth Conference, the proposed theme for the Institute is **NetWork!** The two words that can be derived from the word **network** were highlighted to stress the two fold emphasis of the Institute. This is also meant for the Institutes not to appear as a networking conference of a multi-level marketing firm, among others. The word “network”, taken as a verb, means **“establish a relationship.”** On one hand, **net** is an essential tool in fishing. And, every believer is called to be fishers of men and women for the greater glory of Christ (Matthew 4: 19, 28: 18-20). The word **work** means **“to exert effort,”** meaning the deliberate utilization of energy to accomplish a certain end. Thus, the theme means that **we are called to network to God and to His Church and we are to help others network as well.**

IV. The Over-arching Biblical Foundation

The 34th National Youth Conference also decided that Romans 12: 4-5 will be the key verse of the Christmas Institute 2016 as the Romans 12: 3-13 serves as the primary Scriptural inspiration of the proposed themes for the Christmas Institute 2016 to Summer Institute 2018. The other supporting Bible texts were provided in the proposed Bible Study curriculum. Romans 12: 4-5 states that:

“Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.”

As understood in its context, Apostle Paul made this call to the believers in Rome back then and now to the modern-day followers of Jesus after carefully laying out the ground that everything good,

especially when it comes to salvation, is a gift of God, and that the proper response is not trying to repay such or to prove one’s worthiness but rather a humble faith. Therefore, it can be inferred that God is calling everyone who believes in Him not to live the faith as an individual but rather together with a community that is also of God’s design referred to as the Church- *ecclesia*. Furthermore, failing to associate with the community means depriving it with an essential part as every believer is needed in the fulfilment of the *missio Dei*. As it has been said, to be a lone-ranger Christian is an irony. In addition, since every believer is important regardless of, this proclamation of Paul is an emancipation declaration- regardless of race, sex, and socio-economic status, we all matter in the ministry with the Risen Lord! (cf. 1 Corinthians 12: 12- 28)

V. **The Summer Institute 2017 Suggested Bible Study Curriculum and Daily Thematic Program**

Below is the proposed *curriculum/lesson focus* for every lesson in the Bible Study materials to be made by the districts/annual conferences. **Please be mindful of the footnotes that explains in detail the terms used.** The Bible Study Material writers are free to alter this as they see it fit:

	Lesson 1	Lesson 2	Lesson 3	Lesson 4
Possible Lesson Titles	God Networking In me	God Networking Through me	God Networking With me	Me in the Network of God
Objectives	To lead the delegates to commit/recommit themselves to God by responding to God’s call to establish a network with Him.	To teach the delegates that relationship with God does not end with one’s conversion but is a continuous, lifelong process of sanctification- of living with and for God towards glorification.	To provide key principles to the delegates on how to share the Christian faith in United Methodist tradition.	To have the delegates appreciate the value of being a part of the community of believers, specifically of the United Methodist Church, and of the importance of sharing one’s gifts in the ministry.
Possible Doctrinal Emphases	Prevenient ¹ and Justifying Grace; Conversion; “Heart-warming” experience, or to be specific on	Sanctifying Grace; Personal/ Social Holiness; Means of Grace for the empowerment of the believers to do	Evangelism and Faith-Sharing; Ecumenism; United Methodist Missiology ²	The Universal & Local Church; Nature of the Church; Spiritual Gifts; United Methodist

¹ Through prevenient grace: (1) spiritual awakening [the 1st inward consciousness of sinners of their need of a Savior; (2) Repentance, negatively from sin and positively toward the Savior; with fruits of repentance [restoration & reconciliation]; (3) the outward proclamation of the Gospel [objective basis, historic biblical atonement; justification] is God’s instrumental to bring the inward work of the Holy Spirit which brings outward genuine transformation [new birth/spiritual birth, regeneration]

² Our partnership with God in doing His mission of redeeming/transforming the world (personal/social holiness). Methodist tradition points us to holistic understanding of this, the Gospel of Christ is the only antidote to human problem: we both address the salvation of individual sin and social sin found in unjust system and collective sin.

	Wesley's teachings: "God's 1 st Call to us is to be SAVED."	God's mission and ministries.		Ecclesiology
Possible Bible Texts to Use (and Supporting Texts to the Key Verse)	John 15: 1- 8	Romans 8: 1-17, Philippians 1: 3-6	John 21: 7- 11	Romans 12:4-5, 1 Corinthians 12

It is also highly enjoined that the Bible Study materials to be used will teach the delegates of "doing theology" by employing the Wesleyan Quadrilateral of Scripture, Tradition, Experience and Reason as a way of presenting the lessons and more so in teaching the delegates to do and use the same. The primacy of the Scripture is to be highlighted as it should be the final authority of faith and practice upon which everything must be subjected to test without disregarding the importance of Christian tradition, communal experience of the believers and the employment of reason by an individual follower of Jesus.

The curriculum above can be adapted as the daily thematic program for the Institutes. The curriculum can be framed as **5 Leads** for daily thematic program:

- **I am Led to Christ** (Area: Lead)
- **I am Led by Christ** (Area: Nurture)
- **I Lead People to Christ** (Area: Proclaim and Send)
- **I Lead with the People of Christ** (Area: Nurture and Send)
- **We are Led to a Glorious Future with Christ** (Area: Nurture)

VI. Key Target Competencies

Through the Summer Institute 2017, it is targeted that all of the delegates will embrace the love of God so richly undeserved to the end that they are inspired to commit themselves to God, to His Church, and to lead other people to do the same. Specifically, the value of servanthood and the centrality of the being of grace as always prevenient are sought to be inculcated into the hearts of everyone.

This Concept Paper greatly benefits from the insights of Rev. Jonavern P. Lungub. Christ above all!