

The newly-formed GMC has the opportunity at their 2024 General Conference to take significant steps toward achieving a desired peculiar denomination 'not of this world', but for an unshakable Kingdom (Hebrews 12:28).

David Watson recently posted an article "A Mission for a Peculiar Church: On the Global Methodist Church's Mission Statement". [1] I am so glad that he states, 'God's work is in our hearts and minds, God changes us from the inside out. We will invite people into a different way of living, seeing the world, and understanding themselves by the power of the Holy Spirit to draw all people to God so they may have new life through him. We will invite them to speak a new language, think in new categories, and live in a new way.' Consider this:

> I offer the following perspectives in the hope that they will find their way into the GMC's foundations. I pray the GMC will acknowledge that God has already and deliberately placed the Holy Spirit deity inside each person who believes in Jesus as their Savior, and will teach how that works for our continued salvation into holiness.

- God is in us. Surely the Holy Spirit deity also operates amongst our corporate midst; however, we must not disregard the reality of our inner-self Spirit ministering the Word of God within us.[2] The Spirit of the Almighty God of the universe lives in you [3] – accordingly, you need not have to call upon or appeal to an external Spirit of God to enable your sanctification, you're already under an internal divine motivation (Acts 2:38; John 14:17; Rom.8:11; Ezekiel 36:26-27; 1 Cor.3:16; Eph.3:14-16). God's provision for your holy transformation is sufficient.
- It's up to each of us to respond to this powerful internal deity in joyful obedience, in all we think about and do, thereby replacing our sinful natures by setting our minds on the things of the Spirit (Romans 8:5), obedient to The Word (John 14:23; James 1:21-22), and being transformed towards holiness by the renewing of our minds (Romans 12:2), 'staying in the game' (Philippians 2:12-16; Galatians 5:25), and walking with the Spirit (Galatians 5:16-23) - all towards constantly improving our relationship with Christ (Proverbs 3:5-6; Isaiah 40:31) and encouraging others to do the same (Mark 16:15). Do not conform to this world (Romans 12:2); be peculiar.
- "God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth" (John 4:24).

The Truth is in His Word (1 John 4:13; Ephesians 3:16; Romans 8:26-27; Romans 15:13; 2 Timothy 1:7).

- These comments are not from a deliberate eisegesis exercise [4]; they represent my lifetime reality. My family has experienced the unexpected death of our first son, and later, the terrible crash that took our daughter-in-law's life. The results were and remain, profound - but not devastating; we love them dearly and we ache daily for their presence, but 1) we know their eternal communion is with Jesus and 2) we possess the reality of our God-given inner-self Holy Spirit deity who knows our every thought and action; who is with us throughout our entire journey providing spiritual guidance and our strength sufficient for all our circumstances.
- It is up to us to be Diligent Disciples (2 Timothy 2:15; Ephesians 4:30; 2 Timothy 1:14; Ezekiel 36:27; Romans 12:11; Hebrews 6:11-12; Philippians 2:12-13). We praise God for providing us with such a wonderful gift of grace (Ephesians 1:13-14) and power (Ephesians 3:14-21; and that is also my prayer for you and the GMC).

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Referenced resources :

1. <https://firebrandmag.com/articles/a-mission-for-a-peculiar-church-on-the-global-methodist-churchs-mission-statement>
2. <https://www.gotquestions.org/indwelling-of-the-Holy-Spirit.html>
3. <https://www.amazon.com/God-You-Releasing-Power-Spirit/dp/1576737179>
4. <http://www.intothyword.org/apps/articles/default.asp?articleid=77775>