

## **Discussing Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson's Address to the 2018 North Georgia Annual Conference**

*We asked a diverse group of North Georgia Conference clergy what questions come to mind as they watch Bishop Sue's address to the 2018 Annual Conference (watch at [ngumc.org/AC2018](http://ngumc.org/AC2018)). Here are some of their questions:*

- Various persons have been credited with the statement: "In essentials, unity. In nonessentials, liberty. In all things, charity." Is the conversation about human sexuality an "essential" or a "nonessential" for you? How does the statement "In all things, charity" shape our conversations?
- How do we "disagree civilly?" What are the rules and guidelines for Christian conversations about volatile issues?
- Are our differences around matters of human sexuality central to our witness?
- What are the "essentials" of United Methodism?
- Bishop Sue referenced "the public versus the private mission of the church." What is your understanding of the primary mission of the church?
- Bishop Sue stated that one of the church's main concerns should be for the people not yet in it. Do you agree or disagree with this statement?
- How do these discussions and decisions affect people who are not in the church yet? Should this question be a part of our decision making in the life of our church? If so, how?
- What is different about this matter that "younger generations don't get our consternation"?
- Do you have relationships with people who have a different theological bent and a different understanding of these matters than you do? How does this difference affect your relationship with them? How do our relationships with people inform our beliefs and convictions?
- What help can the bishop and leaders in the church and our conference provide to local congregations, parishioners, and clergy after February's Called General Conference?
- Are we willing to dedicate ourselves to pray daily for The United Methodist Church and our congregation?