

WORKSHOP TITLE: Filipino-American United Methodists in the United States: A Journey of Faith and Action in the Wesleyan Tradition

NAME OF SESSION – DISCIPLE - Disciple Making in the Filipino Context

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SUMMARY NOTES:

1. The Filipino religious experience and expressions are shaped by our belief and understanding of Christ who is above all and Christ who takes care of today and tomorrow. We are storytellers of God's providence through our birthdays, wedding anniversaries, deaths, arrivals, departures, and new beginnings.

- a. Faith and fate co-exists. "I will accept what God assigns me as my part/portion here on earth."
- b. God needs to bless what I have come to own: land, house, car, jeepney, tricycle, job, business, and among others.
- c. The "unseen world of the spirits" needs to be respected.
- d. Sin is not just alienation from God, it is experienced as alienation from family, tribe, and community.
- e. God's salvation is experienced in communal acts of inclusion.

2. Practices of disciple making Filipino communities are familiar with includes:

- a. Showing up in people's ordinary lives.
- b. Offering the gift of attentive presence.
- c. Committing to a fully-engaged relationship.
- d. Offering a grace-filled action to a human need.
- e. Practicing the daily naming and re-telling of God's activities in the world.
- f. Bathing our living moments with prayer.
- g. Offering spontaneous prayers in the presence of others.
- h. Allowing ourselves to be encountered by Jesus.
- i. Receiving the gifts of being transformed.
- j. Accepting the gift of sharing the word of God as food.
- k. Discovering the adventure of human possibility.
- l. Embracing the gift of discipleship as risk-taking giving of ourselves to the world.
- m. Becoming God's instruments in engaging the unbelieving hearts and minds.

3. We are invited to learn the following practices of Disciple Making from the Gospels:

- a. The call of giving ourselves to the world as the least among the brothers and sisters of Jesus. (Matthew)
- b. Attracting others to the activities of Christ in creation. (Mark)
- c. Every human need is met by joining Jesus in the gift of showing up. (Luke)
- d. Loving God by feeding the lambs with God's stories and Scriptures. (John)

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NAME OF SESSION – WORSHIP – Contextual Worship: Intersection of Wesleyan and Filipino Traditions

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SUMMARY NOTES:

1. Worship as a response to what God has done and is doing in our lives as individuals, family, tribe, and community – in our every breathing moment– in our journeys of celebrations and struggles, of joy and sorrow, of healing and pain.
2. Our response includes our narratives of who we are as Filipino Christians. Our narratives include who shapes who and what we are becoming as God’s people. We claim that we have a place in the heart of God.
3. Our response includes our gifts and offerings which are our own language, music, musical instruments, poems, traditions, our extended table and kitchen, local produce, and our surrendered lives offered at the end of a communal worship.
4. Worship is not confined inside a church building/altar. Worship spaces are in homes, town plaza, streets, cemeteries, work places, and many more.