



Reclaim. Revive. Renew.

Reclaim.

Bishop Bickerton opens the video by describing a time when he felt unaccepted by peers. Then, at church camp, he found people who valued him, encouraged him and offered him a sense of hope. Surrounded by these people, he had a conversion experience.

- Reflect on your own conversion. Who are the important people in your conversion story?
- How will you reclaim the importance of that moment for you?

Read [John 4:39-42](#)

- In her testimony after her time with Jesus, the woman at the well tells others, "He told me everything I've ever done." Why is that an important part of her story?

Revive.

Sometimes in life, faith and community, we can lose sight of the things that matter most.

- As you reflect on the attributes of beloved community and the advice on unity from the 1850 Book of Discipline (both listed to the right), what similarities do you see?

Read [Mark 12:28-31](#)

When asked which commandment is the most important, Jesus gives two: Love God. Love people.

- How is the love of God closely connected to the love of others? Why do you think Jesus so closely connects these two loves?
- How might a renewed commitment to love one another (John 13:34-35) encourage unity?

Renew.

For change to take place, our commitment must be renewed.

- Where are you seeing renewal in the church today? What is your congregation doing that you want to share, to "pass it on?"
- As you reflect on the Bishop's message, where do you feel called to renewal?

Read [Matthew 5:13-16](#)

Jesus expects his followers to live differently from those around us: to be agents of change by living into God's future now.

- What does it mean to be salt & light in your community? In your family? In your congregation?

ATTRIBUTES OF BELOVED COMMUNITY

1. A shared desire to be peaceful, happy and safe.
2. Recognition that while conflict still exists, it is resolved peacefully, nonviolently and without hostility, ill will or resentment.
3. Recognition of the inherent worth and value of all people, animals and ecosystems.
4. Unconditional and all-inclusive kindness, compassion and love for all life.
5. Means used to create change are just as kind and compassionate as the ends we seek.

1850 BOOK OF DISCIPLINE ADVICE TO MAINTAIN UNION

QUESTION:

What can be done in order to achieve a closer union with each other?

1. Let us be deeply convinced of the absolute necessity of it.
2. Pray earnestly for and speak freely to each other.
3. When we meet, let us never depart without prayer.
4. Take great care not to despise each other's gifts.
5. Never speak lightly of each other.
6. Let us defend each other's character in everything so far as is consistent with the truth.
7. Labor in honor each to prefer the other before himself.
8. We recommend a serious perusal of the book, "The Causes, Evils, and Cures of Heart and Church Division" [written by Francis Asbury].

UMC.org/renew
#BeUMC