

# Romans 12

We who are many are one body in Christ.

Produced by the General Board of Discipleship of The United Methodist Church to communicate effective principles and practices demonstrated by congregations that are actively making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

These congregations are marked by:

- Clarity around the mission and vision of the congregation.
- Practice of spiritual disciplines, both corporately and individually.
- Nurture of growth in discipleship through mutual support and accountability.
- Cultivation of intentional and mutual relationships with the most vulnerable—the poor, children, the imprisoned, the powerless.
- Consistent concern for inviting people into relationship with Jesus Christ, combined with wise practices for initiating them into the Body of Christ.
- Connectional relationships that facilitate participation in God's mission of global transformation.
- Shared clergy and lay leadership.

## Fill Your Cup and Your Soul

Following a year of prayerful listening and discernment, Tigard United Methodist Church in Tigard, Oregon knows that God is calling them to find fresh ways to create places of connection, conversation, and spiritual growth. They are particularly committed to reaching the growing number of people who have a deep spiritual hunger but do not see the link between spirituality and seeking out a local church.

Out of that vision has come Jubilate, a high quality coffee shop where church members and others in the local community converge to fill their cups and their souls. Jubilate is a place of joy, hospitality, and supportive encounters where heartfelt conversations about life help people to go deeper in exploring faith and God's presence in their lives. It provides a crossroad where members of the congregation encounter and develop relationships with people in the community, an approach to outreach that emphasizes conversation rather than conversion.

Supported by a dedicated team of trained volunteers, Jubilate has attracted a significant number of volunteers from beyond the church membership. Drawn by the mission of Jubilate, they have found meaning in their involvement in the midst of diverse spiritual journeys.

Jubilate has also become a hub of conversation for those coming and going to the Tigard Indoor Play Park, another hospitable space created by the congregation in the church's gym. Designed for children up to age five, the parent supervised play park is a major asset to families looking for safe, accessible family recreation. A recent survey of the nearly 900 families that have used the play park indicates that 30% are interested in more information about the United Methodist Church and how the church might enhance their family life.

## Questions for Discussion

- How is your congregation reaching out to the growing number of people who do not see a connection between spirituality and involvement with a community of faith?
- What "crossroad" ministries does your congregation support or might it develop that create opportunities for members to engage in meaningful conversation with others in the community?

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