



Powhatan United Methodist Church
Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.

The Ministry of the Reconciliation

Read: 2 Corinthians 5:18-6:10

As a pastor of a local church for twenty-five years and a campus minister for thirteen years, I found that one of my most challenging ministries was to serve as “an agent of reconciliation.”

To reconcile is to bring together two opposing parties or points of view. In the New Testament, that means we need to be reconciled to God, not the reverse. (2 Cor.5:18) We as Christians must be reconciled to each other (Matthew 5:24), and the church has a ministry of reconciliation. Therefore, we as Christians have the awesome task of seeking daily to be God’s mediating hands.

Our challenge is to negotiate, arbitrate, and reconcile when there are disagreements, doubts, and disputes which will inevitably occur; yes even in the community of faith (the church). Additionally, we must be on guard that we not be the cause of hostility, discord, disagreement and bitterness in our families, neighborhoods, work places and/or communities of faith. Rather, we must serve as God’s mediating hands, the bearers of forgiveness, agape (self sacrificing) love in order that God’s love might prevail in all of our relationships.

Prayer: Dear God, we pray that you will give us the wisdom, courage and strength to be your hands of mediation in all of our challenges for reconciliation. Amen

~ The Rev. Dr. M. Eugene Davis

18 All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation:

19 that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation.

20 We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.

21 God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.



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Chapter 6

1 As God's fellow workers we urge you not to receive God's grace in vain.

2 For he says, "In the time of my favor I heard you, and in the day of salvation I helped you." I tell you, now is the time of God's favor, now is the day of salvation.

3 We put no stumbling block in anyone's path, so that our ministry will not be discredited.

4 Rather, as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: in great endurance; in troubles, hardships and distresses;

5 in beatings, imprisonments and riots; in hard work, sleepless nights and hunger;

6 in purity, understanding, patience and kindness; in the Holy Spirit and in sincere love;

7 in truthful speech and in the power of God; with weapons of righteousness in the right hand and in the left;

8 through glory and dishonor, bad report and good report; genuine, yet regarded as impostors;

9 known, yet regarded as unknown; dying, and yet we live on; beaten, and yet not killed;

10 sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; poor, yet making many rich; having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

(NIV)