

Littlewood United Episcopal Chapel-- Fremont, CA

Over the years we've tried to make a distinction between private and public Anglican worship. Within historic private worship practice, less known are private Anglican fellowship-meetings. Among this type, we've adopted the Wesleyan example, called the class-meeting, making it a special and relatively prominent service at our chapel. Other Anglican ministers, contemporary to Wesley, likewise imitated it-- evangelical clergymen like John Fletcher, William Grimshaw, and Vincent Perronet.

The Wesleyite class-meetings began in 1739 when eight or ten Anglican parishioners asked the Reverend Mr. John Wesley to 'advise them how to flee from the wrath to come'. From their consequent meetings, Wesley produced a General Rule for monitoring the 'continued evidence of our desire for salvation'. The Wesleyite General Rule has three general headings-- First, to avoid evil of every kind; second, doing good of every possible sort to all men; and, third, attending upon all the ordinances of God.

Wesley expected his class meetings, as well as the activities of his methodistic preachers, to be supplemental to the services of the Church. Though the General Rule had no explicit denominational test, the framework of the United Societies was essentially Anglican as was the example of Rev. Wesley who regularly celebrated or attended Church of England worship. Eventually, he required the same habit from his preachers. Wesley also insisted lay-preachers abstain from conducting both society meetings at church-hours as well as administering the sacraments. In addition to a number of other restraints, Wesley often exhorted thusly,

"Be Church of England men still; do not cast away the peculiar glory which God hath put upon you, and frustrate the design of Providence, the very end for which God has raised you up."



Class Meeting in Fremont 10/12/19

Since our Love Feast held at the end of summer in 2017, we've enjoyed weekly class-meetings with the Reverend Mr. Casey Fargo as Leader. Mr. Fargo is a 'new school' Presbyterian, catholic in church opinion, and a genuine son of the Gospel. In fact, we're probably the only methodistic class-meeting in Northern California that uses an old Wesleyite Rule.

We expect to have formalized our private meetings by presenting bylaws at this year's District Convocation. Such would make the chapel an official 'religious community' in the UE Missionary Diocese of the West. An update regarding these community bylaws will be given in the next Glad Tidings.