



To understand
another's truth is a gift.

*It's a gift we give to them
and a gift we give to ourselves.
It's a gift that enriches the giver,
the receiver, and those beyond both.*

To understand another's truth often requires *genuine conversation* – which, to say the least, is difficult! Far too often we obscure rather than make obvious the meaning of our words. We pontificate rather than inquire. We cower into like-minded enclaves rather than entertain novel thoughts and alternative insights. We hide our fears and protect our feelings. We are concerned more with speaking our truth than with understanding the truths of others.

But when we put forth the effort, our genuine conversation can be *beautiful and affirming*; it can spur hope and spawn possibilities. When we honestly open ourselves by sharing and receiving, we allow the new to emerge from the already.

This year's Regional Assembly will provide the time to engage in such conversation, and the tools to foster such conversations back home. It will allow us to join our whole selves – *hearts, minds, souls* – in pursuit of understanding each other's truths.

Let's be clear: Our desire is for this Assembly not to be the same ole, but rather for it to substantially enhance our individual, congregational, and civic lives! Occurring on the heels of the 500th commemoration of the Protestant Reformation and the 50th commemoration of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s assassination, we humbly hope and boldly pray that this Assembly will be a faith and community-shaping time the beneficial effects of which are long-felt. The possibility of that happening is greatly increased if you attend!

Please join on Friday and Saturday, October 5 and 6, at Light of the World Christian Church, 4646 N Michigan Road, Indianapolis. Your presence and your input are valued just as they are needed!



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Planning Committee Member