Thoughts from George:

This physical isolation has given my time to think. Dangerous thing. One of the nagging questions for me is “where are the Methodist men of the Conference?”

We are intentionally finding you and reaching out to you in hopefully many ways. One will be this electronic newsletter. I pray it finds you well.

It is good that we are physically practicing separation. However, that does not mean that we should be socially and especially, spiritually, separated.

Now that Easter has come and gone, I want to challenge each one of us. Yes, Easter has come and gone, as it does every year for more than 2000 years. This one was so much different. I always spend time during Holy Week trying to fully realize the importance of Easter for me. If all we had was the cross of Good Friday, what would we have but the horrible death of a wonderful man. HOWEVER, we have the empty tomb of Easter. We have a living God who came to humankind, lived with us as one of us and died for us. Most importantly, Jesus, the Son of God in the Triune Godhead, overcame death and is alive with us today with the Holy Spirit in us, guiding us.

Yes, the tomb is empty. As I reflect on why, I can’t help but wonder why our churches were also empty this Easter. I don’t believe God sent the virus to empty our churches or that God even intentionally sent the virus for any reason. I know I need to find God in all that happens, good and bad. For me, I hope that while our churches are empty we are doing as Jesus did when he left the tomb empty. I hope we are traveling with companions on a road, on a journey, sharing the gospel with them. I hope we are meeting with friends who are afraid and confused about what is happening in their world and filling them with the Holy Spirit.

I hope we are the resurrected church of Acts when this virus attack is all over – and it will be. Remember, Paul tells us in Hebrews 11 “Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.” (Bold Italics added)

So here is my challenge for the great men of the Great Plains:

Rise up O men of God
Have done with lesser things
Give heart and soul and mind and strength
To serve the King of Kings

In His Service,

George Houle
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