

**November 23, 2019**

**Local Conference Advance**

*Working together for Christ.* The disciples were all so different! Can you imagine the “motley crew” that faced Jesus as He stood before them, or sat among them, day by day? Even Judas was accepted into the group. And foot-in-his-mouth Peter. And doubting Thomas. And introverted Andrew.

And then, even after Jesus ascended into heaven, they still had their differences. The book of Acts reveals more than one occasion when there was strong disagreement among them over various issues. But they still worked together, and great things were accomplished for Christ and the advancement of His kingdom.

It is still the same today. I’m so glad everyone doesn’t think just like me! Of course, sometimes it is frustrating, but mostly it is a great learning experience. And it causes one to marvel over the greatness and goodness of God; a God who lives and thrives on variety and diversity. Among other things, the church is God’s great social experiment! If it can’t work here, it can’t work anywhere. He has given us different personalities, thought patterns, and backgrounds.

What do I need to help make it happen? Let’s start with a dose of patience, love, and above all forgiveness. Next, for the sake of the kingdom, let us submerge our will in the will of God, asking Him to help us to be more kind and compassionate with others. Lastly, let us give of ourselves and our means.