

# PASTORING IN PARTISAN TIMES

## ***Listening Guide for Pastoring in Partisan Times Podcast Episode 6: Sacred Resistance with Rev. Ginger Gaines-Cirelli***

[3:47-6:26] Kim asks Ginger what role Foundry UMC plays as a sacred place in such a time as this. Ginger says Foundry intentionally speaks into partisan issues from the lens of faith and always attempts to do so in a way that feels responsive and not reactive. **Consider your church in the same way. What role does your church play in the community conversation? What does it mean to be responsive instead of reactive?**

[7:32-13:50] Ginger offers that context is key to bringing up partisan topics with your congregation. She says pastors are called to be balanced, Biblical and bold as they seek to help their people take the next faithful step, as our friend Lovett Weems says. **What is the next faithful step for your congregation? How can you use the principles balanced, Biblical and bold to lead them there?**

[24:06-27:45] Kim asks Ginger how she deals with the disappointments that come along with living out a call to ministry. Ginger says she seeks to be faithful in living out His will for her life and knows in her heart she is offering herself as fully as she can. Even staying rooted in that, when someone leaves the church, it's going to hurt. **How do you deal with the disappointments?**

[27:52-31:29] Ginger gives insight into the concept of Sacred Resistance, which is also the title of her book. She says the vision she wants to lift up is one where our primary citizenship is in the Kingdom of God. This citizenship grounds us and guides us as we engage with the world. The principles of prophecy and of God that find their fulfillment in Christ offer a framework for life and life together as we seek to have a faithful response to our world. **Reflect on that vision. How do you or don't you see this as a reality today?**

[32:39-37:04] In the context of patriotism, Ginger offers that being a real patriot means calling out the best in us when we're not living in our highest ideals. She asks: **As United Methodists, knowing we are always being and becoming and going on to holiness, what is our role as people of faith in this nation?**

[38:05-42:58] Ginger says that being reactive often happens in a fight-or-flight type of way and occurs before we've thought. Counter to that is responsiveness, which is first about self-awareness than about breathing and thinking. It allows us to respond from a more grounded, human place. **How are you practicing this in daily life? What ways are you growing in your self-awareness?**