'The world is your parish if you respect our parish: the Methodist Church Ghana negotiates the space where conversionist theology meets territorial Christianity'

From the days of John Wesley, a conversionist strain has been present in Methodism. With a brazenness that was against the conventions of the parish system in the Church of England, Wesley lived out an evangelical theology with his commitment to go anywhere to preach the Gospel. A maxim attributed to him that often finds traction in Methodism is Wesley's response to his critics. 'I look upon all the world as my parish.'

Over the previous few years, Ghanaian Methodists, who are some of his spiritual descendants, have been migrating to Europe and North America. As they plant churches and establish fellowships in contexts in which Methodism first took root, they must often, but not always, abide by the 'parish' boundaries and conventions of the predominant indigenous Methodist denomination. This paper explores tensions they negotiate between their "world parish" theology and the realities of Methodist territorial deference.

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