

Faith Works

All works of mercy, whether they relate to the bodies or souls of men; such as feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, entertaining the stranger, visiting those that are in prison; ... This is the way wherein God hath appointed his children to wait for complete salvation.

—J. Wesley

Show me your faith apart from your works, and I by my works will show you my faith.

—James 2:18 b

The calling to engaged action and ministry with the poor is deep in the United Methodist DNA. It plays out in established work like the Della Lamb Community Center in Kansas City, Mo., where refugees are welcomed and offered support for their transition to the United States. One can see the same fingerprint in the Mission Initiatives when new church starts in Laos raise mushrooms on their properties in order to create self-supporting ministries, or at Northcutt Community Center in Milwaukee, where young African-American men with a criminal record are enrolled in a GED program and a job training program at the same time.

Each of these missions has partners. Some of them are located close by, like congregations in Wisconsin who spend a Saturday painting at Northcutt or organizing the food pantry. Some of the partners are at a distance, such as congregations in the Alabama-West Florida Conference partnering with new church starts in Laos. Of course, some of the support comes from United Methodist Women—no stranger to the connection between faith and action! You'll see our "fingerprint" in advocacy for SCHIP (health care for poor children) and rights of working women.

Your congregation is also a partner in mission. Through World Service giving as well as second-mile giving through United Methodist Women and the Advance, United Methodists show the service and witness of our DNA.

Is your congregation connected to this pattern of challenge and grace? It can be, and the General Board of Global Ministries, United Methodist Women, and the Advance can help. Want to know more? Check out your Annual Conference School of Christian Mission.

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