

What Else Can We Do?

Mission Outreach Five Ways to Get Started

Christie R. House

Mission is no longer something that happens “out there” in far away places. Today, mission happens from within our local congregations. The success of the renewal of The United Methodist church in many parts of the world is due in large measure to the U.S. congregations that stepped directly into mission outreach alongside the missionaries sent by the General Board of Global Ministries.

Learn about on-going and new mission efforts in The United Methodist Church and help your congregation learn more about them. As pastor, you lead the congregation in setting priorities. When you emphasize mission outreach from the pulpit and in small group settings, you help open the hearts of your members to mission opportunities.

Here are five ways that every United Methodist congregation can begin the process of entering into a mission partnership:

- Subscribe to *New World Outlook*, the mission magazine of The United Methodist Church published by the mission agency, the General Board of Global Ministries. It will keep your congregation informed about mission opportunities, missionaries, and mission projects. A one year subscription is \$19.95. To order, call **1-800-218-4041**.
- If you are specifically interested in any of the New Mission Initiatives, email initiatives@gbgm-umc.org Or become an “In Mission Together” partner church. This program partners churches in the U.S. with sister congregations developing in one of the new initiatives. This is a 3-year commitment of prayer, mission development, faith sharing, and financial support. The goal is to form long-lasting relationships that nurture faith within both congregations. For more information, call **292-870-3955**.
- Support Advance Specials. Individual and congregations or other church groups can designate financial support to specific mission initiatives. Through the Advance, 100 percent of the gift reaches the designated beneficiary.
- Become a Covenant Church. By supporting a missionary, your congregation can receive current information about the progress, the joys, and the challenges of working in mission. Call the missionary support office, **212-870-3797**, or email the Covenant Relationship Program (covenant@gbgm-umc.org.)
- Organize an UVMIM experience. United Methodist Volunteers in Mission can help congregations organize teams to work on specific projects. Contact Mission Volunteers at **212-870-3825** or email: voluntrs@gbgm-umc.org.

Christie R. House is the Editor of *New World Outlook*.

The Power of Prayer

Pray for our brothers and sisters in Africa. Pray that we in the United States will find the means and the will, through the power of the Holy Spirit, to be in ministry with them in this challenging and exciting time.

Look for opportunities in your teaching and preaching to lift up specific ministries and specific people in Africa. Use stories from this issue of *CR*, information from your own learning or experience, call a colleague you know is involved, contact your Annual Conference or GBGM (www.gbgm-umc.org).

From which texts will you be preaching in the next 6 weeks? Where could you use an example or illustration from Africa? Thanksgiving presents an especially rich opportunity for the congregation to think about and pray for our brothers and sisters in Christ around the world. We are truly a global church. Thanks be to God.

An Important Collaboration

African church leaders have entered into a collaborative effort with the General Board of Discipleship, The United Methodist Publishing House, and United Methodist Communications, pledging support to develop and access Christian resources appropriate to local languages and culture. On behalf of the three agencies, staff of Africa Upper Room Ministries will coordinate the creation of a sustainable indigenous resource development and distribution system for the UM churches and Episcopal areas in Africa. Initial funding will be absorbed from agency unrestricted funds. UMPH and Upper Room Ministries receive no world service funds; therefore funds must be raised to support these efforts. To request information about how you can become involved in supporting ministry opportunities, contact: John F. Brown (jbrown@gbod.org) or Dale Waymack (dwaymack@gbod.org.) Or call **877-899-2780**, ext. **7212**. A free brochure is available on request.

More Opportunities

- Join “My GBGM,” a new online internet service of the General Board of Global Ministries that e-mails you the kinds of stories and information that you ask for directly. Go online at <http://gbgm-umc.org> and click the box on the list—“My GBGM”—and register at no cost.
- Order the poster-size *Map 'n' Facts: Children of Africa* to use with your congregation, especially children. To order, call **1-800-305-9857**, (stock #2875, \$8.95).
- Visit The Washington Office on Africa at www.woafrica.org This is a church-sponsored not-for-profit advocacy organization “seeking to articulate and promote a just American policy toward Africa. We monitor Congressional legislation and executive policies and actions and issue action alerts...A key focus of our energies presently are economic justice issues in Africa, including questions of aid, trade, and debt.” The United Methodist Church is one of the sponsors of this organization.