

 GUIDELINES

mission

Reaching the World

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General Board of Global Ministries

MISSION

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Some paragraph numbers for and language in the Book of Discipline may have changed in the 2008 revision, which was published after these Guidelines were printed. We regret any inconvenience.

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Welcome

You are so important to the life of the Christian church! You have consented to join with other people of faith who, through the millennia, have sustained the church by extending God's love to others. You have been called and have committed your unique passions, gifts, and abilities to a position of leadership. This Guideline will help you understand the basic elements of that ministry within your own church and within The United Methodist Church.

Called to Spiritual Leadership

Each person is called to ministry by virtue of his or her baptism, and that ministry takes place in all aspects of daily life, in and outside the church. As a pastoral leader or leader among the laity, your ministry is not just a "job," but a spiritual endeavor. You *are* a spiritual leader now, and others will look to you for spiritual leadership. What does this mean?

First, *all* persons who follow Jesus are called to grow spiritually through the practice of various Christian habits (or "means of grace") such as prayer, Bible study, private and corporate worship, acts of service, Christian conferencing, and so on. Jesus taught his disciples practices of spiritual growth and leadership that you, as a disciple, are to share with others as they look to you to be a model and guide.

Second, it means that you always keep your eye on the main reasons for any ministry—to help others grow to a mature faith in God that moves them to action on behalf of others, especially "the least" (see Matthew 25:31-46). This is an aspect of "disciple making," which is the ultimate goal of all that we do in the church.

CULTIVATING VISION AND MISSION

As a spiritual leader, a primary function you carry is to help those you lead to see as clearly as possible what God is calling your church to be and to do. Ideally, your church council first forms this vision and then forms plans and goals for how to fulfill that vision. As a leader, you will help your team remain focused and accountable to honor the vision and goals to which the church is committed. You will help your team create and evaluate suggestions, plans, and activities against the measure: *Does this move us closer to our church's vision to bring others to God in this place and time?*

CHRISTIAN CONFERENCING

While there are appropriate and useful businesslike practices that apply to church life, Christian practices distinguish the church as the church. In the United Methodist tradition, how we meet and work together is important. “Christian Conferencing” involves listening not only to each other, but also listening intently for the will of God in any given task or conversation. This makes prayer essential in the midst of “business as usual.” As Christians, we are called to “speak the truth in love.” This is a special way to speak in which we treat one another as if each of us were Christ among us. As a spiritual leader in your ministry area, you have the privilege and opportunity to teach and model these practices. By remembering that each of us is beloved of God and discerning the presence of God in all that the church does, every task becomes worshipful work.

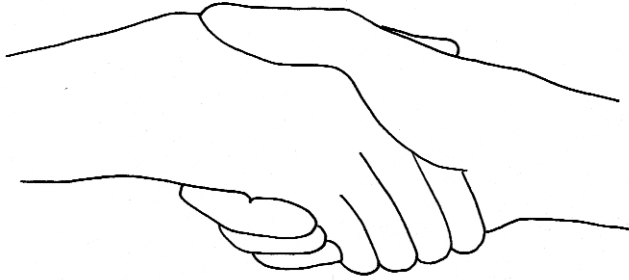
THE MISSION OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The United Methodist Church is a connectional church, which means in part that every local church is interrelated through the structure and organization of districts, conferences, jurisdictions, and central conferences in the larger “family” of the denomination. *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church* describes, among other things, the ministry of all United Methodist Christians, the essence of servant ministry and leadership, how to organize and accomplish that ministry, and how our connectional structure works (see especially ¶¶125–138).

Our Church is more than a structure; it is a living organism. The *Discipline* describes our mission to proclaim the gospel and to welcome people into the body of Christ, to lead people to a commitment to God through Jesus Christ, to nurture them in Christian living by various means of grace, and to send persons into the world as agents of Jesus Christ (¶122). Thus, through you—and many other Christians—this very relational mission continues.

(For help in addition to this Guideline and the *Book of Discipline*, see “Resources” at the end of your Guideline, www.umc.org, and the other websites listed on the inside back cover.)

Congratulations and Welcome



Welcome to this great community of mission leaders. You are not just a name on a list of church workers, but a vital member of our Church's connection in God's mission, which extends around the world, and from the distant past into the future. Throughout The United Methodist Church thousands of people like you have accepted the challenge to support God's mission enthusiastically—with their prayers, their concern, their time, their financial gifts, and their service—and to inspire with awareness of and education of their congregations about mission outreach in their churches.

This community of mission leaders includes a variety of individuals—women and men, young and old, people from different races and countries—but we are bound together by our common goal to spread the good news of Jesus Christ and to minister to others in that name. Ours is a community of different kinds of congregations—rural, suburban, urban, large, medium, and small—with many perspectives on the world at large, but each congregation is an avenue through which God enters the world with power and grace to seek and save all people.

What Is Your Job?

Depending on how your congregation is organized, you may be the chairperson of global ministries, or you may be the coordinator of mission or of outreach ministries.

As the coordinator or chairperson of mission your discipleship will take on new dimensions of global involvement as you respond to God's call to serve in mission through the body of Christ—the Church. You will gain great satisfaction in knowing that lives are being changed because of your efforts.

So . . . welcome to this exciting community of people who are responding to God's call to be in mission as work area chairpersons of mission.

How Do You Provide Mission Opportunities for Your Congregation?

1. Develop a continuous, year-round program of mission education so that the congregation will be better informed, more knowledgeable, and more motivated to be supportive of the mission outreach of the church.
2. Identify the needs of your community, your country, and your world and engage your congregation in mission opportunities that seek to address these needs.
3. Seek to expand your congregation's mission and benevolence budget and ensure that your congregation is provided every opportunity to participate financially in God's mission through the church.

HOW YOU ARE ELECTED AND CONNECTED TO YOUR CHURCH PROGRAMS

The coordinator of global ministries, mission, or outreach ministries (as well as other coordinators and chairpersons and other program leaders in local churches) is nominated by the committee on nominations and leadership development and elected by the charge or church conference each year. This body may limit the number of consecutive years a person may serve in one office if it so desires.

It will be helpful if you are a member, by virtue of this office, of the church council and the charge conference, so that you might most effectively report and discuss your programs for the congregation. In your work you are accountable to these bodies, and you work with the guidance of their chairperson and your pastor.

BASIC RESOURCES

To aid you in your responsibilities, the denomination produces numerous resources. This booklet is one of them, and it is one unit in a larger series, *Guidelines for Leading Your Congregation: 2009–2012*. Other booklets in the series that you might find helpful are *Church Council* and *Small Group Ministries*. These are available from Cokesbury.

The *Interpreter* is the program journal of our church for local congregational leaders. Each issue includes feature articles on mission subjects, as well as suggestions for program planning in the “Idea Mart” section. This magazine is produced eight times each year, and seven subscriptions are available free to each church; additional copies are available at a nominal cost. See your pastor or order from United Methodist Communications, P.O. Box 320, Nashville, TN 37202-0320.

The General Board of Global Ministries has many resources you will want to obtain. Your source for these mission resources is the Service Center Catalog,

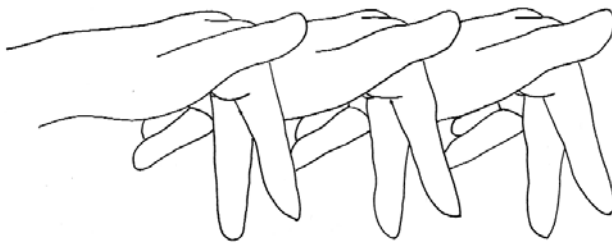
which lists all mission study books, leaflets, maps, and audiovisuals. It is from Cokesbury and can be ordered on line, by telephone, e-mail, or fax. Online: <http://www.cokesbury.com> select Global Ministries side bar. Phone orders: 1-800-672-1789. Fax orders: 1-800-445-8189. E-mail orders: customerservice@umpublishing.org.

CONNECTIONAL PERSONNEL RESOURCES

In addition to the printed and audio visual resources available to you, there are several persons in your area who are ready to assist you in organizing and carrying out a plan of mission education in your congregation. Your district has a district secretary of global ministries, and your annual conference has a conference secretary of global ministries.

These officers have been trained to help you to engage your congregation in mission in any way possible. They may also organize district and annual conference training meetings so that you might be more prepared for your responsibilities. To learn who they are and how to contact them, ask your pastor, your district superintendent, or your annual conference program staff.

Your Congregation's Journey Into God's Mission



Where Do You Begin?

Churches of every size can and should have interest, involvement, and partnership in God's mission. All it takes to begin is one enthusiastic person in the position of work area chairperson. A journey of a thousand miles begins with one step forward, and that is where you might be right now. Start with your own mission awareness and interest, then move your congregation to step out into God's world.

We hope these Guidelines help with that first step in the mission journey of a lifetime. No one need do everything suggested here, but everyone will find some practical, helpful, and useful ideas to be considered in planning a

mission program for the local church. All of these ideas have been tested and used in a wide variety of churches, in churches of all sizes, locations, and levels of involvement. Decide where you are and take that step.

Mission Comes From God's Grace

One of your first steps is to understand why the church is involved in mission. Mission programs are not an option in the church; they are the foundation for spreading the good news of Jesus Christ. Mission is a natural aspect of our Christian lifestyle and needs to be incorporated into the ongoing life of your congregation.

Grace upon grace is what we have received from the fullness of God's incarnation in Jesus Christ (John 1:16). Grace stacked up on top of more grace. Life itself is a grace-filled experience, as we seek to understand what God is doing in the world. We celebrate this experience when we gloriously sing Charles Wesley's most Methodist of hymns:

“O for a thousand tongues to sing my great Redeemer's praise;
The glories of my God and King, the triumphs of his grace!”

This grace of God is so richly expressed in the Gospel of John, as:

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”
(John 3:16-17)

By grace God loves the whole world and offers the world the divine presence through the incarnation of Christ, not to condemn but to save. This, then, is the foundation for our theology of mission: to point the peoples of the world toward the gracious free gift of love and acceptance in Jesus Christ, and for us, as the body of Christ, to live the reality of God's loving presence in the world.

Christ, who as the Word was God (John 1:1) and came to live among us full of grace and truth (John 1:14), is the Incarnation of this loving presence, which is the basis of mission, because we know that “God so loved the world.” God loves the world so much that God has chosen to dwell among us so that we all might perceive the glory of this grace-filled gift. Mission: our task as Christians because God in Christ makes the divine dwelling here among us and we have received “grace upon grace.” This is the missionary presence of God in the world.

THE NEED FOR THEOLOGY OF MISSION

The life of the church of Jesus Christ is not to be a mere human organization, but a divinely empowered instrument of God's grace, as St. Francis of Assisi is said to have sung: "Lord, make me an instrument of thy Peace," which is followed by his well-known graceful prayer of self-giving love. We will miss the power and the life-giving purpose of Christian faith if we limit our arena of concern and knowledge to only those persons we live among or meet along our journey. We are called as Christians to love the whole world for which Christ died and was raised to new life.

Grace is found in the body and blood of Christ, given in love for the whole world, all at once. To comprehend the fullness of John 3:16-17 we must seek to grasp the truth that the most important persons are those whom we do not know and will likely never meet, for all whom Christ died and was raised to new life just as much as ourselves and those we know and live among. This is grace upon grace, freely available to all. This is the foundation of and moving cause of Christian mission.

The global ministries of the church are the processes and methods by which we attempt to be with God in mission among all peoples and in all places at all times. To limit our field of ministry to a particular congregation or any geographic or thematic entity, is to miss the limitless power of divinity that is incarnate in the world. Literally, we need to see the world through eyes of faith, observing all that God offers us in every time and place. We must live the truth of John 3:16-17—living for the whole world. As John Wesley said, "the whole world is our parish," meaning our area of concern and involvement.

For the Church to fully become God's instrument of grace in the world, whether locally, regionally, nationally, or internationally, we each need to understand and to state clearly our theology of mission, that is, what we believe about the world and God's mission in the world as the purpose of the Church.

By our activities in mission we become the sign posts of the coming reign of God. The Church in mission is always pointing toward what God has done and continues to do in the world, by leading persons to participate in this grace-filled life. To engage in God's mission is to connect the Church as faithful witnesses to the reign of God that is constantly breaking into the world.

SOURCES OF OUR THEOLOGY OF MISSION



Our United Methodist understanding of mission derives from our historical and contemporary sources of theology with an emphasis on our United Methodist experiences coming from a Wesleyan tradition.

This mission theology arises from Our Theological Task in the *Book of Discipline*. As the Theological Task states: “Wesley believed that the living core of the Christian faith was revealed in Scripture, illumined by tradition, vivified in personal experience, and confirmed by reason.” Thus we find Scripture, Tradition, Experience, and Reason, the sources of theology in the Wesleyan understanding, as the framework for doing theology.

In practice we then integrate these with the Four Goals of Mission of the General Board of Global Ministries, which then together express our United Methodist methodology for engaging in God’s mission.

The Four Goals of Mission, formulated by the directors of the General Board of Global Ministries during recent years, express the mission responsibilities of the Church as set forth in the *Book of Discipline*. Each of these goals is implemented through specific program strategies and is carried out in cooperation with annual conferences and other mission partners across the global connection. These together are a summary statement of the directions of United Methodists as we together move into the twenty-first century in God’s mission.

By using the “lens” of the United Methodist Theological Task (Scripture, Tradition, Experience, and Reason) to view these four mission goals, a core and foundation of our United Methodist Theology of mission emerges, which will shape our common calling in God’s mission.

The Four Goals of Mission of the General Board of Global Ministries are:

- 1. Make Disciples of Jesus Christ: We will witness by word and deed among those who haven't heard or heeded the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We will initiate, facilitate, and support the creation and development of communities of faith that seek, welcome and gather persons into the body of Christ and challenge them to Christian discipleship. Where direct proclamation is not permitted, a caring presence becomes the means of Christian witness.*
- 2. Strengthen, Develop and Renew Christian Congregations and Communities: We will work mutually with mission partners in common growth and development of spiritual life, worship, witness and service.*
- 3. Alleviate Human Suffering: We will help to initiate, strengthen and support ministries to the spiritual, physical, emotional and social needs of people.*
- 4. Seek Justice, Freedom and Peace: We will participate with people oppressed by unjust economic, political and social systems in programs that seek to build just, free, and peaceful societies.*

You Are the Mission Connection

The chairperson of global ministries and the global ministries committee of each congregation are vital connections between a needy world and your local church. Congregation members may then respond with prayer, concern, educational awareness, and the stewardship of their time, talents, and treasures.

How to Make Connections for Mission

Connect through the program units of the General Board of Global Ministries (GBGM), which exist to facilitate God's mission on behalf of The United Methodist Church.

COMMUNITY AND INSTITUTIONS MINISTRIES

(<http://gbgm-umc.org/about/us/cim/>)

Outreach to Meet Human Needs

The Community and Institutional Ministries unit of the General Board of Global Ministries facilitates, resources, and supports outreach to meet

human needs, with special emphasis on ministries with women, children, youth, families, and older adults. It offers direct services, specialized ministries, and community organizing and development, including economic development and justice advocacy.

EVANGELIZATION AND CHURCH GROWTH

(<http://gbgm-umc.org/about/us/ecg/>)

Proclamation and Witness to the Saving Grace of Jesus Christ

The Evangelization and Church Growth program area facilitates the proclamation and witness to the saving grace of Jesus Christ through word, deed, and sacrament in every sphere of human existence.

Our program area works with its various mission partners—including annual and central conferences, autonomous and autonomous-affiliated Methodist churches, other church agencies, and other units of the board—to train leaders, establish relationships, and make available resources for church growth and renewal throughout the world.

FINANCIAL DEVELOPMENT

(<http://gbgm-umc.org/about/us/administration/fd/>)

Funding God's Mission

Within the total structure of the General Board of Global Ministries, the coordination of the stewardship of its many mission components is the primary responsibility of Financial Development. Financial Development works in concert with each mission channel. Its focus is directed around three components: mission advocacy, church partnerships, and donor cultivation.

These components involve collaboration throughout Global Ministries, as well as other boards and agencies across The United Methodist Church.

HEALTH AND WELFARE MINISTRIES

(<http://gbgm-umc.org/about/us/hw/>)

Global Health, Global Response

The programs of the Health and Welfare Ministries unit address the critical needs of children and adults around the world. These far-reaching programs provide improved opportunities for health and wholeness not just to individuals but to entire communities.

Health and Welfare Ministries assists United Methodists to become involved globally in health and welfare ministries, which address the critical health needs of children, youth, older adults, persons with physically and mentally challenging conditions, and racial/ethnic communities of color. It helps organizations, institutions, and programs related to annual conferences and other units of The United Methodist Church to be involved in direct service to persons in need through both residential and nonresidential ministries. The unit also works on a community wide basis to assist in the establishment of comprehensive community-based primary health care programs.

MISSION CONTEXT AND RELATIONSHIPS

(<http://gbgm-umc.org/about/us/mcr/>)

Connecting the Church in Mission

The Mission Contexts and Relationships program area analyses the context in which the church is called to mission and builds covenant relationships and mission partnerships to implement the goals of mission. It evaluates such factors as culture, religion, history, politics, economics, environment, and demographics. It develops Christian ecumenical relations and explores dialogue with people of other faiths.

MISSION EDUCATION

(<http://gbgm-umc.org/connections/missioneducation/>)

Equipping God's People for Mission

The Mission Education program area has two primary goals. First, to develop a mission education philosophy for the General Board of Global Ministries that is rooted in a biblical and theological understanding of Christian global mission; and second, to undergird the total program of the board through mission education.

MISSION PERSONNEL

(<http://gbgm-umc.org/work/missionaries/>)

Missionaries in all the World

The Mission Personnel program area recruits, selects, trains, assigns, supervises, and supports mission personnel for short-term and long-term service. It also identifies opportunities for service. Also visit the Mission Personnel program descriptions that define all the missionary categories available through the GBGM.

VOLUNTEER MISSIONS

(<http://gbgm-umc.org/connections/volunteers/>)

Volunteers From Everywhere to Everywhere

The Mission Volunteers program area of the General Board of Global Ministries enables the participation of persons from throughout the world in global mission volunteer programs and projects. Through these efforts, affirming, empowering, and trusting relationships are established. Putting our faith into action is at the heart of our Christian calling. Through Mission Volunteers, everyone in the church has the opportunity to serve and share the love of God in ways that make a Christian difference.

The Mission Volunteers program area is not a replacement for the grassroots United Methodist Volunteers in Mission (UMVIM) program. Our responsibility is to provide support and resources for all global mission volunteer programs including UMVIM and many others.

UMCOR: UNITED METHODIST COMMITTEE ON RELIEF

(<http://gbgm-umc.org/umcor/>)

Guiding Values for Humanitarian Relief Work

UMCOR is the humanitarian relief and development agency of The United Methodist Church, a worldwide denomination. Compelled by Christ, UMCOR responds to natural or human-made disasters—those interruptions of such magnitude that they overwhelm a community’s ability to recover on its own.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN—WOMEN’S DIVISION

(<http://gbgm-umc.org/umw/>)

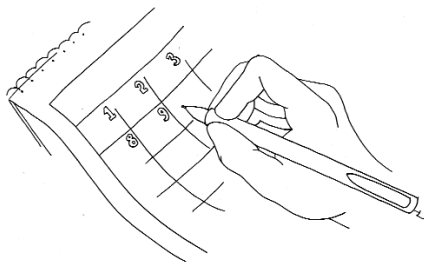
Women in Mission

The Women’s Division is actively engaged in fulfilling the mission of Christ and the Church and interprets the purpose of United Methodist Women. With continuing awareness of the concerns and responsibilities of the Church in today’s world, the Women’s Division is an advocate for the oppressed and dispossessed with special attention to the needs of women and children. United Methodist Women work to build a supportive community among women and engage in activities that foster growth in the Christian faith, mission education, and Christian social involvement.

Your Year-Round Plan in Mission

Connect by planning your year-round calendar.

This annual mission calendar provides guidelines and reminders of the connectional mission responsibilities to God's mission. These suggestions could support new opportunities to expand your church mission outreach.



JANUARY

- Launch or renew a covenant relationship with a GBGM missionary. For additional information, contact the Conference Committee on Mission Personnel, or Conference Secretary for Global Ministries, and/or Mission Personnel at GBGM and <http://new.gbgm-umc.org/work/missionaries/biographies/>.
- Promote Human Relations Sunday—the first of six churchwide Special Sundays that The United Methodist Church asks all congregations to observe. It is acknowledged on the Sunday closest to the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., who died attempting to create better relationships among all people. Invite community developers, United Methodist service agencies, or police community-relations programs to address the congregation. See www.umcgiving.org.
- Remind the church school superintendent to order the Children's Fund for Christian Mission materials from the General Board of Discipleship: <http://www.gbod.org/ministries/children/>.

FEBRUARY

- Celebrate Black History Month.
- Begin to promote Schools-of-Mission studies. Refer to <http://new.gbgm-umc.org/connections/missioneducation/> For detailed information order from the Mission Resource Center or online <http://www.missionresourcecenter.org/wdstore/default.asp>. Resources are available for adults, children, and youth.

- Plan your mission volunteer trip. Consult your conference or jurisdiction mission coordinators, or search this website for volunteer opportunities: <http://new.gbgm-umc.org/about/us/mv/mission-teams-umvim/>.

MARCH

- Promote One Great Hour of Sharing (second Special Sunday offering), essential to UMCOR. A gift to this offering underwrites UMCOR's "costs of doing business." That helps us keep our promise that 100 percent of every gift you make to a specific UMCOR project can be spent on that project not on home-office costs. Distribute materials and invite speakers who work with the UMCOR regarding hunger, refugees, and disaster relief. See <http://gbgm-umc.org/umcor/give/oghs/> and UMCOR Homepage: <http://gbgm-umc.org/umcor/>.
- Make first-quarter contact with your missionary; send Easter cards. Use the Prayer Calendar, available from the Mission Resource Center, to find names and addresses of additional missionaries and GBGM staff.

APRIL

- While celebrating Holy Week, Easter, or any Special Sunday, incorporate global praise music. Reference the Global Praise website <http://gbgm-umc.org/resources/globalpraise/> or order from a Cokesbury bookstore. The songbooks have songs of faith from diverse traditions around the world. The songs also affirm the global Christian faith of God's people.
- Celebrate Native American Sunday (third Special Sunday offering). Your offering nurtures outreach with persons of all ages and provides scholarships for United Methodist Native American seminarians. (See www.umcgiving.org.)

MAY

- Celebrate Mission Month (Aldersgate Day). Celebrate your local, national, and international mission involvement. Hold a Mission Rally Sunday, gather for a mission dinner, or invite a mission speaker.
- Visit the homepage of the GBGM: <http://gbgm-umc.org> for additional ideas and resources.
- Plan a GBGM mission seminar by visiting the GBGM offices at 475 Riverside Drive in New York City. For further details, see <http://gbgm-umc.org/connections/misioneducation/index.cfm?i=16979> or call 1-800-UMC-GBGM.

- Celebrate Heritage Sunday. Heritage Sunday (May 24 or the Sunday preceding) is a Special Sunday celebrated by United Methodist congregations to reflect on our heritage, to celebrate the church's history, and look forward to the future. See <http://gbgm-umc.org/resources/annual/heritagesunday/>.

JUNE

- In preparation for vacation Bible school (VBS), visit a local mission project and design a field trip for the VBS.
- Participate in Annual Mission Travel Seminars. For more information see <http://gbgm-umc.org/about/us/me/resources/travelseminars/>. Connected to the geographical study for the Schools of Christian Mission.
- Encourage members to visit mission institutions or community centers during their summer vacation trips around the US and the world. See Community and Institutions website, http://gbgm-umc.org/who_we_are/cim/NMIs.cfm
- Take a Mission Volunteer trip organized and planned in February.
- Celebrate Peace with Justice Sunday. (Note: fourth Special Sunday offering is always the Sunday after Pentecost) Because of this special offering, God's people learn to coexist lovingly and peacefully. Global outreach through the General Board of Church and Society and annual conference-related peace with justice ministries transform lives. See www.umcsgiving.org .

JULY

- Encourage church members to attend a School of Christian Mission conducted throughout the annual conferences, <http://gbgm-umc.org/connections/missioneducation/index.cfm?i=16981>
- Receive UMCOR Hotline updates to stay connected with needs around the world: <http://gbgm-umc.org/umcor/newsroom/hotline/>

AUGUST

- Arrange local visits to mission projects that the church supports. Request updates on the needs and recommendations of the projects in order to plan for next year.

- Renew subscriptions for the mission magazines, *New World Outlook* and/or *Response* and order new resources from Cokesbury and the Mission Resource Center.

SEPTEMBER

- Evaluate and celebrate the mission outreach for the year by “Telling the Mission Stories” either the second Sunday in September or arrange a mission event.
- Plan mission programs and activities for the following year and submit an article to the local newsletter and/or website to invite your congregation to be part of God’s mission.
- Sign up for Hallelujah Moments by e-mailing missionstories@list.gbgm-umc.org. This is another resource to keep the church connected.
- Plan a mission activity for the children and youth; explore websites for ideas and resources. See <http://gbgm-umc.org/about/us/me/resources/childreneyouth/>

OCTOBER

- Promote World Communion Sunday (fifth Special Sunday). Invite people of many nationalities to participate in worship, dress the altar to represent different cultures of the world, serve communion with bread from different parts of the world, and incorporate more than one language into the litany. This offering supports scholarships for students preparing for Christian leadership in our world. See www.umcsgiving.org
- Children’s Sabbath, search www.childrensdefense.org for information and resources.
- Thanksgiving: Create thanksgiving opportunities your church could participate in to enhance ecumenical and interfaith relationships.

NOVEMBER

- Provide educational mission opportunity to contribute to the Advancing Hope in Christ’s Name. The program can be designed to educate the congregation about why and how the Advance operates. Find additional information: <http://gbgm-umc.org/about/advance/faq/?search=Advance>
- Celebrate United Methodist Student Day (sixth Special Sunday). United

Methodist Sunday, last Sunday in November, guides promising students “into the way of peace.” See www.umc.org.

DECEMBER

- Honor World AIDS Day (December 1). This observance helps to raise awareness and understanding of this deadly disease. News, worship resources, and materials are available. <http://gbgm-umc.org/news/events/index.cfm?i=7144>
- For Christmas, give a gift that changes the world. See <http://gbgm-umc.org/umcor/give/gift-catalog/>. Also available from UMCOR by calling 800-554-8583.

A resource that will complement your mission calendar is The Official United Methodist Program Calendar available from United Methodist Communications: <http://www.umcom.org/>.

Connect Five Activities

(for every local church irrespective of the church size)

1. Covenant Relationship With a Missionary.

Since 1974, the Covenant Relationship program has enabled United Methodist congregations to surround our mission personnel with love and prayer, and to grow in understanding of the context in which these missionaries serve by learning about the place of service and its people, culture, traditions, and religious life.

This mutual relationship calls for the church to participate in the work of the missionary through financial and prayerful support, and for that missionary to share with the church firsthand experiences of working in God’s mission.

Funds support all United Methodist missionaries, in the name of one United Methodist missionary, thus building a faithful relationship with the entire missionary community.

Steps toward entering into a covenant relationship with mission personnel through The Advance:

- a. Seek a challenging annual financial goal for your Covenant Relationship commitment, using the \$2500 or more per year (or \$5 per member per year) amount as a guideline.
- b. Give first consideration to United Methodist missionaries related to

your annual conference, as this facilitates the itinerant visits of the missionaries. Consult your conference or district secretary of global ministries or the Office of Covenant Relationships of the General Board of Global Ministries and the missionary biographies on the Global Ministries' website. They will all be able to suggest the missionaries who are related to your annual conference and send a Covenant Relationship Acceptance Agreement form to formalize your decision.

- c. When you receive the recommendations and make a decision, report your selection to the General Board of Global Ministries and to your conference secretary of global ministries, using the agreement form. GBGM will then confirm the commitment and inform the selected missionary. The Covenant takes effect on the date you indicate and continues according to your directions, though you are encouraged to make a three-year commitment. Adjustments to the commitment amount, timeframe, or missionary selected may be made at any time, and should be reported to the Office of Covenant Relationships so that accurate records can be kept.
- d. Funds are to be sent by your local church treasurer through your conference treasurer, clearly designated for the missionary with his or her Advance code number. Gifts may be sent monthly, quarterly, semiannually, or annually, as you choose.
- e. Churches participating in the Covenant Relationship program will be notified when a visit from the missionary can be considered. Churches contributing at least \$2,500 annually (or \$5 per member) will receive priority for such a visit.

2. Mission Moments or "Moments for Mission."

A member of the congregation gives a short (four- to five-minute) presentation about some aspect of God's mission. "Moments for Mission" could be used during the Sunday worship time, during church school sessions, at council meetings, or at any gathering of the congregation. The talk could be read or spoken from notes. It might be a dialogue or question-and-answer presentation with two or more people participating.

The content may address where money has been sent, what missionaries are doing, current issues and concerns, mission events, or pressing financial needs. Information may be found in mission leaflets or magazines, missionary letters, the Prayer Calendar, or other resources prepared by the General Board of Global Ministries. A presentation to the full congregation, even once a month, will do much to educate your

congregation about mission and might be the most important activity you carry out in your position.

“Mission Moments” can also be highlighted in the monthly church newsletter, highlighted on the church website, and specific mission news can be shared with district and conference newsletters or websites.

3. Mission Displays and Bulletin Boards/Inserts.

Maps, posters, pictures, and leaflets may be used to make attractive, eye-catching mission displays. These are visual reminders that the congregation reaches out and is in mission throughout the world. Even if some members do not stop to read the bulletin board thoroughly, they know, at a glance, that your congregation is a mission church. Plan to change the display periodically, perhaps once every month or two.

Bulletin inserts can be stimulated by providing highlights from your annual mission calendar. Be extremely proactive by ordering resources in a timely manner to support the mission story, mission giving, or mission emphasis. One example of bulletin inserts are “Hallelujah Moments.” Sign up for these by e-mailing missionstories@list.gbgm-umc.org.

UMCOR Hotline is another source to include as bulletin inserts. See <http://gbgm-umc.org/umcor/newsroom/hotline/>. Weekly updates are provided by the UMCOR Hotline highlighting the updated news on global disasters and support.

Display pictures of GBGM missionaries specifically when you have a covenant relationship. Include pictures of the missionaries projects and programs where they are serving, include current newsletter or website reports.

4. Mission Celebrations Events (MCE): “Telling the Mission Story.”

A well-known mission education event is Mission Celebration Events. The purpose is to share the global perspective of mission by using the personal mission story from mission interpreters. Invite and allow members mission leaders who have been involved in God’s mission to share their personal stories. Listening to others share their “mission story” is inspiring for local church members.

MCE serves to stimulate both spiritual and financial involvement in the global outreach of The United Methodist Church. This is accomplished in the following ways:

- **Challenge:** stimulating interest in global outreach (locally, regionally, nationally, and internationally)
- **Ownership:** developing a sense of ownership of United Methodist mission programs, personnel, and projects.
- **Support:** challenging local churches and individuals to support the global outreach and the church by giving to World Service, conference benevolence, Advance projects, United Methodist Women, United Methodist Men, youth and children missions, and Special Sunday offerings.
- **Evaluate and Follow-up:** keeping alive mission interest and connection to mission projects, and developing an ongoing program of mission education.
- **Prayer Support:** encouraging prayer support for mission personnel and programs of the GBGM.

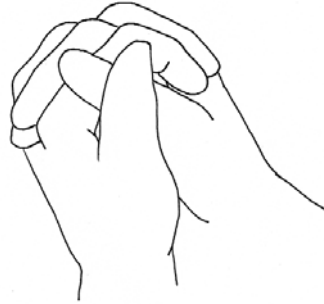
5. Mission Trips

Mission trips could include:

- **Mission educational trips** are organized to visit mission projects/ministries in the local area, around the US, and also globally. These trips usually provide an enriching experience for both the visitor and the project/ministry that supports God's mission. In addition, they also provide a personal connection with the mission projects/ministries visited.
- **Annual Mission Travel Seminars (MTS)** are available from the Mission Education unit at GBGM. See the GBGM website for further details: <http://gbgm-umc.org/about/us/me/resources/travelseminars/>. These MTS are developed to create study and advocacy opportunities.
- **Mission Volunteer trips** are another opportunity to be involved in mission by doing "hands on" mission work. Some suggestions could include building, restoring damaged mission/ministry buildings, teaching, or/and medical support.
- **Work trips** provide support for disaster areas that could be affected by weather or war. The main UMCOR depot, Sager Brown, in Louisiana also provides opportunities to assemble kits. See website: <http://gbgm-umc.org/umcor/getconnected/supplies/>.
- **GBGM Mission Seminars** are an opportunity to a visit to the GBGM offices in New York City to explore and to develop more opportunities for mission. See website for details: <http://gbgm-umc.org/about/us/me/resources/seminars/>.

Prayer Support for God's Mission

Prayer support in God's mission is absolutely essential for every congregation's mission program. Without the ongoing and fervent prayers of our faithful church members, the mission program will simply be another charity to which they contribute. Your mission program must be understood as the vital link between your congregation and God's coming kingdom. As your congregation becomes spiritually involved in mission, miracles of mission education and support will occur.



- The best way to promote the prayer support from your congregation is to encourage church members to obtain a copy of the annual Prayer Calendar from the General Board of Global Ministries. This comprehensive book lists each of our missionaries on his or her birthday, in addition to mission projects in the United States and around the world. There are statements of witness from our missionaries that will enhance your prayer life, and there is more information to assist church members in being involved in God's mission.
- Lift up our mission projects during Sunday morning prayer times, as well as on a mission bulletin board and in the church newsletter. You might consider organizing a special "Mission Prayer Fellowship" of people committed to daily prayer for God's mission. The group could meet biweekly or monthly to pray for special mission concerns.
- Know that our prayers for missionaries and colleague mission workers around the globe will advance the cause of Christ and bring many benefits to your congregation as you move forward in your mission journey, step by step and day by day.

Mission Dollars and Sense!

how we handle the money we have is perhaps the most difficult issue for contemporary American Christians. It can also be the most freeing and liberating experience of Christian discipleship we will ever experience, as we engage in the faithful stewardship of our financial resources. Jesus' instructions to the disciples as he sent them off in mission were not to take any extra resources for the journey. God will provide.

How? “For laborers deserve their food. Whatever town or village you enter, find out who in it is worthy, and stay there until you leave” (Matthew 10:10-11). In other words, through mission giving workers in the vineyard of the Lord are cared for by God through the faithful response of those of us who provide for their needs. Making the financial resources that God has given you available for those actively engaged in programs of God’s Mission is, in itself, also mission.

It makes sense that how we use our dollars and cents is how God is working in mission through us. We have significant financial resources in this nation, which God is calling us to use in mission, both around the world and within the more needful segments of our country. Mission giving is mission.

The Biblical Guide to Mission Giving

The apostle Paul has given us a set of guiding principles by which we can organize such a faithful life of mission stewardship. He wrote to the church in Philippi concerning their generous financial support of his mission and ministry (Philippians 4:10-20), and in so doing gives us a rich commentary on how to faithfully support God’s mission with our financial giving. We have in this short passage Paul’s instructions for mission support through four principles for giving:

- First, mission support should be organized from a local community, not just from individuals (v. 10), as Paul directs his comments to the whole church there. Christianity is defined by its communal nature, and so mission support should also be an expression of the community of believers as a whole.
- Second, mission support should be faithfully consistent, not just an occasional outburst of emotional awareness (vv. 15-16), for as Paul commends the Philippian church: “no church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving, except you alone. For even when I was in Thessalonica, you sent me help for my needs more than once.” Just as God cares for our needs daily, regularly, no matter what our needs are, so also must our missional giving be regular, no matter what the perceived need.
- Third, mission support should be channeled through responsible agents, not sent directly (v. 18), for Paul received the gifts from an acknowledged agent, noting the accountability in the process. Administrative accountability through a responsible agency ensures that everyone, givers and recipients, has a clear understanding of the use of the funds. This does not mean that the givers always direct their use, but a fully disclosed allocation unites giver and receiver in the common mission.

- Fourth, and perhaps most important, mission support is always a voluntary response to the gospel call, a spiritual investment in God’s mission (vv. 17, 19: “Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the profit that accumulates to your account,” and “my God will fully satisfy every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus”).

Mission giving is not so much about where your funds go, or to whom they are given, but is your faithful response to God’s call in your life to be engaged in God’s mission. It is our spiritual investment that connects our lives with the lives of all who share in the gospel work of proclaiming the reality of God’s ultimate reign, as we pray together, “Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven” (Matthew 6:10).

Stewardship in God’s Mission

Encouraging personal commitment to and support of God’s mission is a crucial task of the chairperson of global ministries and your committee. Your work in this area is to seek to expand the mission giving of your congregation and prayerful support for all who are working in God’s mission, at home and around the world.

- Every congregation is financially involved in mission through the variety of giving channels available to United Methodists. Since the chairperson or committee helps develop a benevolence program for your church, it is important for you to be well acquainted with the giving by all groups in the church.
- You can encourage planned, systematic financial participation by the congregation in the various mission programs and thereby expand the support for God’s mission.
- Learn what your church’s members are doing already and help them celebrate that involvement in God’s mission. Then move forward on your mission journey to even greater financial support.
- Many items in the benevolence budget, such as conference apportionments, are distinctly missional in nature, and the mission work area has the responsibility of suggesting the amounts to be given for these.
- Other items in the benevolence budget are to be suggested by the work areas related to them. When the entire benevolence budget has been determined, it is submitted by the committee on global ministries to the committee on finance, which presents it to the church council for approval.
- The committee on global ministries must study and plan with care to make the recommended budget a challenge to the giving potential of the congregation and to ensure that it includes opportunities for giving to all mission areas available in our church.

Steps in Budget Development

When the committee on global ministries begins to make its plans for the benevolence budget, it must take into account the need of the world to receive and the need of the congregation to be involved in giving. It is good to ask: What does God expect of us, of our people? What is our opportunity as a community of Christians to further God's mission through our participation? When questions like these have been discussed, the matter of objectives can then be considered.

The church's potential is the next matter for the work area to consider.

Questions such as these can be asked:

- In terms of financial ability, what could our congregation do in benevolence sharing if it really got serious about this matter?
- What could our people do if they would?
- How much has our congregation participated in each cause this year?
- What is our total participation now?
- What is our per capita giving?
- What has been the trend in benevolence participation in our congregation during the past ten years?
- Has it kept pace with the growth of the congregation and with inflationary trends?
- Where do we want our congregation to be in its benevolence participation four years from now?
- What could we be giving and receiving eight and ten years from now?

How Much Money for Mission?

These questions lead to another matter. The church council should discuss the question of what percentage of the total budget should go for benevolences. The common range in most congregations is twenty to twenty-five percent. However, many churches are working on the principle of "as much for others as for ourselves," or a fifty-fifty division.

If the church council accepts this as a goal, benevolences would include:

- World Service and conference benevolences
- Advance Specials
- Special Sundays, such as One Great Hour of Sharing, Human Relations Day, and World Communion Sunday
- Youth Service Fund, the United Methodist Children's Fund for Christian Mission, and World Service Special Gifts
- Funds contributed through United Methodist Women and United Methodist Men that go for work outside the local church
- All other local benevolence causes.

When the committee on global ministries has proposed a long-range objective for the church's benevolence program, the next step is to decide how far the congregation can go in that direction this year, and by gradually increasing the amount and proportion of the benevolence budget year by year, the goal can be reached.

The work area with a long view, a definite goal, and a plan for leading the congregation into the attainment of that goal year-by-year will enjoy the satisfaction of growing spiritually as participation in God's mission grows in your congregation.



The Advance

Your committee on global ministries has a particular interest in The Advance program of mission support, and will want to work hard to promote this. The Advance is a mission program begun by our church in 1948. Since that time, over one billion dollars has been given by United Methodists to support God's mission in the United States and around the world through "second-mile" giving.

These dollars enable us to "advance" the cause of Christ through new church buildings and new pastors, support of missionaries at home and abroad, agricultural work, scholarships for students of every age, medical assistance to women and children across the globe, and literally hundreds of other programs like these.

- Advance projects are supported with voluntary and designated gifts of individuals, families, groups, or entire congregations. They vary in size from a few dollars to several thousand dollars.
- Approved projects may be found within nearly one hundred countries around the world where The United Methodist Church is at work or in one's own annual conference.
- Advance projects originate when priorities are set by those most directly affected. Area episcopal leaders and local planning groups determine the priority of projects then request approval. This local goal setting is the key in the approval process.
- The Advance Committee of the General Board of Global Ministries, working with other agency staff, then reviews and gives final approval.

When these approved projects are made known, individuals or local churches have the privilege of deciding which approved project they will participate.

- A very appealing feature of The Advance is the fact that the total amount given goes to the cause designated. Nothing is taken out for administration. One hundred percent is available for use by the chosen project because of your support of the World Service Fund.
- Conference Advance projects are approved and administered by the conference board of global ministries, the conference council on ministries, and the annual conference.

Missionary Support

Financial support for United Methodist missionaries includes more than just salary support. It is the total resources needed to support a missionary financially. This includes budgeted amounts for health insurance, pension, housing, travel, training expenses, and other expenses specific to a place of assignment.

The funding for missionary support comes from four basic sources: The World Service Fund; UMW undesignated giving; The Advance; and funds from trusts, investments, and other income designated for missionary support.

Planning Your Advance Program of Mission Giving

First, be sure the congregation will be able to pay its World Service commitment before considering The Advance as a means of giving to mission. World Service is “first mile” giving. The Advance program is “second mile” giving.

Next, contact your district or conference secretary of global ministries for suggestions about projects for which your conference or district has a commitment or special interest. There also might be places of particular need that are related to and promoted by your district and annual conference. If you have questions on specific projects or programs, write to The Advance, Room 350, 475 Riverside Drive, New York, NY 10115, or check out the information on The Advance at the website: www.advancinghope.org.

Finally, recommend ways to obtain support for the Advance projects or missionaries that are selected: through the church budget, special offerings at events or specific mission Sundays, or fundraising by church classes or groups.

When these gifts have been gathered, they should be sent by the church treasurer to the annual conference treasurer, with a clear designation of their intended use, using the project number and title found in the Advance catalog or the Advance website.

You can donate in any of the following ways: online, through your United Methodist church, by mail, or by phone.

GIVING ONLINE

www.givetomission.org

THROUGH YOUR UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Make your check payable to your local church. Write the name of the ministry and the Advance code number on the check. Drop your gift in any United Methodist church offering plate or give your gift to your church treasurer, so that your church and annual conference can credit your gift.

BY MAIL

Make your check payable to ADVANCE GCFA. Write the name of the ministry and the Advance code number on the check. Send your check to:

Advance GCFA
P.O. Box 9068, GPO
New York, NY 10087-9068

BY PHONE

Credit card gifts can be accepted by phone. Please call: (888) 252-6174

Other Thoughts on Mission Giving

There are many independent groups and nondenominational faiths, sects, and others, both effective and ineffective, that appeal for funds from United Methodist congregations and individuals. Our members need to understand that we have many relationships and commitments as a congregation in partnership with the whole Church throughout the world. In many of these relationships, funding comes only from our Church members, so churches in many parts of the world are depending upon us.

Your congregation's committee on global ministries can help our members be aware of all we are doing financially and can explain that the best way to help others is through our own connection.

We have a dependable system for assuring the safe delivery and distribution of gifts because of our worldwide network of churches. Contributions do

not go through outside agencies but through Christian congregations and church organizations. This is a story that needs to be shared with your congregation.

Your Mission Education Budget

The mission chairperson will also need to present to the church council budget recommendations for carrying out the program of mission education in the local church.

This will include items such as costs for mission interpreters and national visitors, film rentals, School of Christian Mission promotion, leadership training, literature and supplies, postage, and other miscellaneous expenses.

The size of the congregation and the extent of the mission program will determine the amount to be budgeted for mission education. These funds are an integral part of our mission work since they allow you to share the good news of God's mission in your congregation.

Organizing a Global Congregation Locally

As both believers and actors in God's mission, we are called to organize and plan our responsibilities, or "response-abilities" using our God-given abilities to respond to God's call to be sent into the world, which God so loves (John 3:16). Our lifelong journey of responding to all of God's mission is a call to organize your congregation with:

Your Presence: leadership in mission.

Your Prayer: spirituality in mission.

Your Purse: financial stewardship in mission.

We bring leadership to God's mission, through our active presence in the life of the church, in all arenas of church activity: lifting up the needs of God's mission in worship, decision making, program planning, and implementation. We bring spirituality to God's mission as we actively engage in prayer for missionaries and our partners in mission around the world and throughout the United States, and remind others in the church to pray for these persons. We bring the resource of our purse to God's mission, as we intentionally decide on the use of the financial resources God has provided us with for the advancement of this mission.

Connecting our prayer lives with those of God's people, around our nation and other nations, will broaden our faith vision and deepen our spiritual presence. Who we remember in prayer, during worship, in prayer circles and small-group ministries, and in all public printed or electronic media, will say much about our global spirituality in our local context. To remember in prayer our missionaries, our partner churches in over 100 nations, our national mission institutions in the US, is to be a blessing and to be blessed by these spiritual connections.

A local church with a mission vision will have a budget that reflects all these areas of mission, as the use of our financial resources makes a profound statement of our connectedness with all of God's world. Where and how we choose to use the income and accumulated wealth of a congregation, that is all members of the congregation, will proclaim to the world our understanding of ourselves as either global citizens of faith, or a locally limited religious club. Our budget will also say much about our belief in the future of God's reign in our midst. It is a profound act of faithful witness.

We live out our missional perspective of God's world through our presence, our prayers, and our purse, all offered to the glory of God.

The Ultimate Global and Local Vision

As we seek to live in the world as our parish, we are reminded by the prophet Isaiah of God's vision for the coming kingdom:

For I am about to create new heavens
and a new earth;
the former things shall not be remembered
or come to mind.
But be glad and rejoice forever
in what I am creating;
for I am about to create Jerusalem as a joy,
and its people as a delight (Isaiah 65:17-18).

The global new heavens and new earth are created out of all the local Jeruselems, which is where the church is gathering—in Wesley's words, "to sing psalms, and pray, and hear the Scriptures expounded." From there we go forth into global ministries that heal, feed, nurture, care for, and empower the people of the whole world for new life.

Conclusion

These, then, are your tasks and responsibilities as a work area chairperson of global ministries and committee on global ministries in your local church. It is hoped that this Guideline will help you know where to begin and how to go about your important functions in the life of your congregation. Take that first step on your mission journey of a lifetime, and be a partner in God's mission with the thousands of coworkers throughout the Church.

Make Your Plans Carefully
Carry Them Out Prayerfully

Resources

There are many resources to assist you in planning your church's mission program.

For mail orders:

Cokesbury Customer Service
P O Box 801
201 Eighth Avenue South
Nashville, TN 37202-0801

For phone orders: 1-800-672-1789

Fax orders: 1-800-445-8189

E-mail orders: customerservice@umpublishing.org

Order online: <http://gbgm-umc.org>

Under the subtopic Resources select, E-Store: Order Resources Online

Also direct from Cokesbury: <http://www.cokesbury.com/>

On the right hand column select—Global Ministries (CLICK HERE TO ORDER)

Resources for the Women's Division are not available at Cokesbury and should be ordered at the below information:

Women's Division Mission Resource Center
United Methodist Women
Mission Resource Center
1221 Profit Drive
Dallas, TX, 75247
Phone: 1-800-305-9857
E-mail: cs@missionresources.org
Website: www.missionresourcecenter.org

World Wide Web: For general information and questions on The United Methodist Church mission program, access the web: <http://gbgm-umc.org/>.

General information via phone: Contact 1-800-UMC-GBGM (862-4246) Monday through Friday, 9am to 4pm., Eastern Standard Time.

Subscription to mission magazines:

New World Outlook and Response

Toll free: 1-877-811-2385

Fax: 1-845-267-3478

Website: <http://gbgm-umc.org/response> or <http://gbgm-umc.org/nwo>

Mail: Magazines With a Mission

P.O. Box 395

Congers, NY 10920-0395

E-mail: response@gbgm-umc.org or newworldoutlook@gbgm-umc.org

Quick Reference Information in Your Area for Advice and Assistance

Write in the following names, addresses, telephone numbers, and e-mail and website addresses and keep them for future reference. (Obtain this information from your pastor, district superintendent, or annual conference program office, or through <http://www.umc.org>.)

District Conference Secretary of Global Ministers or equivalent thereof:

Conference Secretary of Global Ministries or equivalent thereof:

Conference Volunteer in Mission (VIM) Coordinator:

Jurisdiction UMVIM Coordinators (see <http://gbgm-umc.org/about/us/mv/>. Click on UMVIM coordinators.

UMCOR—Conference Disaster Coordinator:

UMCOR—Refugee Coordinator:

UMCOR—Hunger and Poverty Coordinator:

Global Health Coordinator:

Additional GBGM Resources (to read, print or download PDF files):

Global Ministries Biennial Reports

<http://gbgm-umc.org/about/globalministries/biennial/>

UMCOR

UMCOR Relief Supplies—Caring For the Most Vulnerable

UMCOR Supply Kits help to care for the most vulnerable people during times of crisis. They also help to sustain everyday life by providing basic necessities to people who lack ready access to essential supplies. These kits provide vital support for the work.

UMCOR goes throughout the world. By donating kit supplies or financial gifts to purchase the supplies, you make a direct, tangible difference in sustaining people's lives.

Each kit page contains lists of specific items needed, the estimated value of each kit, the cost for processing and shipping the kit, shipping instructions, and contact information.

Gathering and assembling supply kit materials as a group can be a wonderful hands-on activity, bringing together young and old, neighbors, friends, and co-workers. UMCOR asks for, and deeply appreciates your support. Thank you for your donations!

Website: <http://gbgm-umc.org/umcor/getconnected/supplies/>

DVDs and more from UMCOR: <http://gbgm-umc.org/umcor/getconnected/resources/>

UMCOR offers the following DVDs free of charge. Learn more about what UMCOR is doing to bring hope to Darfur in *Gifts of Hope: UMCOR in Darfur*. This DVD contains 1- and 5-minute videos, slide show presentation, and a bulletin insert for use in worship. Contact UMCOR at umcor@gbgm-umc.org or 800-554-8583 to order.

Generation of Hope

How do children prevail in the HIV/AIDS epidemic? *Generation of Hope* is a beautifully conceived portrait of today's orphans, their life circumstances, struggles, and dreams. This video is available in two versions: (1) DVD with a study guide and 10-minute video; (2) DVD with a study guide, 10 minute and 3:40 minute versions of *Generation of Hope*, plus a PowerPoint presentation on the United Methodist Global AIDS Fund and other resources. Please specify which DVD when you order. NEW! Available now as a 3-minute 40-second excerpt. Download now! <http://gbgm-umc.org/health/aidsafrica/hope.cfm>

United Methodist Development Fund

Website: <http://gbgm-umc.org/about/us/ecg/umdf/>

Mission Studies Online Resources

Website: <http://gbgm-umc.org/missionstudies/>

This site also includes the current listing of Schools of Christian Mission throughout the US.

Global Ministries Mission Seminars

Website: <http://gbgm-umc.org/about/us/me/resources/seminars/>

You are invited to attend a Global Ministries mission seminar at 475 Riverside Drive in New York City. Mission Seminars are created with you in mind and can be shaped to reflect the needs and concerns of your group. Each program is individually designed.

E-mail list and Online Communities

Website: <http://gbgm-umc.org/connections/lists/>

Global Praise

Website: <http://gbgm-umc.org/resources/globalpraise/>

Global Praise is a program of the General Board of Global Ministries of The United Methodist Church to gather, receive, and share the songs of the people called Methodists and other Christians around the world. Explore all of our music resources—listen to music clips, read book excerpts, find out how to order CDs, songbooks, and more.

