

Response of The United Methodist Church to the Global **AIDS** Pandemic



A 2010 Survey of Annual Conferences

We know the denomination is actively addressing this crisis; however, the reality is that we CAN and MUST DO BETTER!

---Jim Winkler, General Secretary, General Board of Church & Society

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Introduction

The 2004 General Conference reaffirmed that The United Methodist Church should act authoritatively in response to the Global HIV&AIDS pandemic. Action items in resolutions passed by that General Conference called on general agencies, annual and central conferences, and local churches to respond. And, they have. The general agencies of the church, the Council of Bishops and many local churches continue to work diligently to implement initiatives focusing on AIDS advocacy, education, prevention, patient treatment, and other services. We express gratitude for all these efforts.

This report is offered on behalf of the general church to the connectional church, hoping it will be a resource in eradicating the scourge of AIDS. This survey of AIDS-related activities by annual conferences was conducted in 2008. The resolutions adopted in 2004 by the General Conference on AIDS are included. Please feel free to reproduce and distribute this resource widely and use it as a tool to strengthen your own efforts to address the AIDS crisis. Thank you.



Current Status of AIDS in the World

HIV&AIDS is one of the major global health issues of the 21st century. According to the UNAIDS, approximately 33 million people are infected worldwide, 6,800 new persons are infected each day, and 5,700 people die daily. More than 25 million persons have already died; 65 million more will die by the year 2020.

Currently 25 million persons are infected with HIV in Africa and in southern Africa life expectancy has dropped from 57 years to 33 due to HIV&AIDS. By 2010, some public health officials project there will be 20-25 million persons with HIV&AIDS in India alone. "In Africa, 12.1 million children have been orphaned by AIDS," according to Church World Service. In the Philippines, it is estimated there

are 9,000 adults and children living with HIV&AIDS. In the United States, 950,000 adults and children are living with HIV.

The response to AIDS so far has not come close to matching the needs of the global community with only 28% of HIV positive persons in the developing world receiving AIDS medication due to high costs and limitations placed on importing drugs.

(Statistics can be found in the 2007 AIDS Epidemic Update by Joint United Nations Program on HIV & AIDS, www.unaids.org and www.avert.org)



Biblical and Theological Foundations

John Wesley proclaimed, "The world is my parish." We are all missionaries and called to be in ministry with the world. Our biblical and theological foundations as people of The United Methodist Church encourage us to engage in a message of evangelism: by sharing God's love and working for social justice in a world ravaged by disease and lacking adequate health services. As a Church, we have been called to be in ministry with those who are ill and on the margins of society, bearing one another's burdens.

"Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ." Galatians 6:2

The HIV&AIDS Pandemic has become far more than a burden to our global society, and the Church has been called to face this pandemic through local, regional, national, and international efforts. Education and advocacy measures in annual conferences and local churches continue to be a necessity and must be strengthened to ensure the presence of just policies and availability of adequate resources in our communities.

"Praise the Lord! O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever. Who can utter the mighty doings of the Lord, or declare all his praise? Happy are those

who observe justice, who do righteousness at all times." Psalm 106: 1-3

We are all "children of God." If one among us is poor, that makes our lives poorer. If one among us is sick, that matters to us all. We are sisters and brothers in Christ and are called to take care of the neighbor among us. The United Methodist Church has committed itself to taking on this pandemic through advocacy, education, and services as an act of faithfulness to God.

You shall worship the Lord your God, and I will bless your bread and your water; and I will take sickness away from among you. Exodus: 23:25



United Methodist Book of Discipline Response to HIV & AIDS

Below are statements from the *Social Principles* of The United Methodist Church related to HIV & AIDS:

"Persons diagnosed as positive for Human Immune Virus (HIV) and with Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) often face rejection from their families and friends and various communities in which they work and interact. In addition, they are often faced with a lack of adequate health care, especially toward the end of life."

"All individuals living with HIV and AIDS should be treated with dignity and respect."

"We affirm the responsibility of the Church to minister to and with these individuals and their families regardless of how the disease was contracted. We support their rights to employment, appropriate medical care, full participation in public education, and full participation in the Church."

"We urge the Church to be actively involved in the prevention of the spread of AIDS by providing educational opportunities to the congregation and the community. The Church

should be available to provide counseling to the affected individuals and their families." (Social Principles, ¶162S)

"Health care is a basic human right... Countries facing a public health crisis must have access to generic medicines and to patented medicines without infringing on pharmaceutical companies' patent/licensing rights." (Social Principles, ¶162T)



The United Methodist Global AIDS Fund

The United Methodist Global AIDS Fund, launched in 2004, represents the commitment of the denomination to eradicate HIV & AIDS in the world. The \$8 million goal represents a \$1 commitment of every United Methodist in the U.S. Funds support education, prevention, care and treatment programs for people living with HIV & AIDS. The fund is an Advance Special. One hundred percent of donations go directly to projects.

The fund does not overlook the crisis in the U.S., where about one million people are infected. The plan specifies that 25% of what each annual conference raises should be used in that conference for AIDS work, either locally or in global projects.

*The Fund is Making a
Difference...*



Annual conferences in the United States have mobilized thousands of dollars for the AIDS Fund and are embarking on local ministries as well as with their partner annual conferences outside the United States.

- Forty-four grants have been made to projects around the globe totaling a half million dollars through the AIDS Fund.

- 2,000 AIDS Ambassadors have been mobilized both in the United States and abroad to serve as AIDS advocates, to organize awareness events in their communities and to witness to the power of healing through retreats for persons living with AIDS.
- Young people, through GBCS seminars, have expanded their understanding of the pandemic and how they can become involved.
- A successful international AIDS briefing was held in 2006 and a second will be held in April 2008.
- Sponsor an AIDS seminar or educational awareness day for the community in partnership with AIDS organizations or other interested groups, churches, and faith organizations.

Fundraising:

- Contribute funds to the Global AIDS Fund in The United Methodist Church, UMCOR Advance Special # 982345. If you have questions, contact Dr. Cherian Thomas, (212) 870-3871 or cthomas@gbgm-umc.org
- Sell AIDS pins with gift cards (made by those infected with HIV) not only to raise funds but also to raise awareness about the disease. Contact Church World Service **Toll Free:** 1-800-297-1516 or www.churchworldservice.org
- Organize creative fundraisers and ask for individual donations for local and international AIDS. Contribute to the Mutti AIDS Fund, c/o Health & Welfare Ministries, GBHM, 475 Riverside Drive, New York, NY 10115. This fund allocated money to U.S. projects.

How to Support the UM Global AIDS Fund...

The United Methodist Global AIDS Fund is an Advance Special (#982345). To contribute:

- give online at www.umglobalaidsfund.org.
- place check in church's offering plate on Sunday; indicate the Advance number on your memo line.
- mail a check payable to UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) to UMCOR, P.O. Box 9068, New York, NY 10087-9068.
- make a credit card donation at (800) 554-8583.

Action:

- Contact projects listed in the survey to receive information and ideas.
- Assemble HIV&AIDS kits and forward them to UMCOR for distribution. Contact UMCOR at (212) 870-3909 or www.gbgm-umc.org/umcor.
- Recognize World AIDS Day on December 1st. Go to www.umc-gbcs.org or www.gbgm-umc.org for resources.
- Create an AIDS task force in local congregations and/or annual conferences. Select persons who have a passion for this ministry. Share the survey to generate discussion and action steps. Set goals for your local church and/or annual conferences.
- Sign up for the Computerized AIDS Ministries (CAM) through UMCOR <http://new.gbgm-umc.org/umcor/work/health/hivaids/cam/>



Action Ideas

Education:

- Educate congregations about the disease through local/international speakers and audiovisual and printed resources.
- Place information about HIV&AIDS on your church website and encourage the congregation to utilize that resource.
- Ensure that HIV&AIDS information is included in the congregation's youth and young adult curriculum e.g., facts about the disease, how it spreads, how to prevent it, and the global impact.

- Encourage individuals in your congregation to write Representatives and Senators urging increased U.S. support for AIDS funding. Check UMPower on the GBCS website for current action alerts: www.umc-gbcs.org
- Set up “Strength for the Journey” Retreats and other programs focused on emotional and spiritual support for those affected by HIV&AIDS.
- Reach out personally to an HIV-infected person and provide support and loving care.
- Connect with a local AIDS clinic and offer to provide means or transportation to AIDS persons.
- Talk with your friends and neighbors about the pandemic.
- Organize interfaith and inter-denominational dialogue, education, and action events that share in diversity of faith and explore ways to fight the AIDS Pandemic.

Spiritual Devotion:

- Pray each day for HIV & AIDS victims and their caregivers in your community and around the world.
- Explore a biblical and theological understanding of ministry with those with HIV & AIDS.
- Hold worship services and prayer vigils for those affected by HIV & AIDS.

Global Level Action

- Contribute funds to the Global AIDS Fund in The United Methodist Church, UMCOR Advance Special # 982345. If you have questions, contact Dr. Cherian Thomas, (212) 870-3871 or cthomas@gbgm-umc.org
- Form Covenant Relationships with central conferences struggling with the AIDS crisis as a bridge of hope.
- Write letters and pray for persons impacted by AIDS in that country. <http://new.gbgm-umc.org/about/us/mp/missionarysupport/>

“We must make people everywhere understand that the AIDS crisis is not over; that this not about foreign countries, far away. This is a threat to an entire generation; this is a threat to an entire civilization.” –Kofi Annan, former UN Secretary General

- Contribute funds to the AIDS Orphan Trust: UMCOR Advance # 982842 <http://new.gbgm-umc.org/umcor/work/health/hivaids/orphan-trust/>
- Explore organizing a VIM (Volunteers in Mission) trip in collaboration with GBGM to a country impacted by AIDS, and partner with a community organization or United Methodist Church to provide services (education, medical care) as needed. After your trip, talk to groups about your experience. Spread the word.
- For those in Central Conferences: applications for grants from the UM Global AIDS Fund can be obtained at www.umglobalaidsfund.org



General Agency Contacts:

General Board of Church and Society contact:
Linda Bales, (202) 488-5649 or lbales@umc-gbcs.org

General Board of Global Ministries contacts:
Dr. Cherian Thomas, (212) 870-3870 or cthomas@gbgm.umc.org

Patricia Magyar, (212) 870-3683 or pmagyar@gbgm-umc.org

Caroline Njuki, (212) 870-3702 or cnjuki@gmgm-umc.org

Shannon Trilli, (212) 870-3802
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Special Program on Substance Abuse & Related Violence (SPSARV), contacts:
Melissa Davis, (866) 944-3330 or
mdavis@gbgm-umc.org

Jerald McKie, (212) 870-3843 or
KMckieInfo@gmgm-umc.org

Women's Division, GBGM contact:
Betty Gittens, (212) 682-3633 or
bgittens@gbgm-umc.org

General Board of Discipleship, Division on Ministries with Young People contact:
Sarah Gillespie, Division Representative, (908) 337-5390 or segillespie@gmail.com

General Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns contact:
Ida Powell, Commission Representative, (434) 384-1092 or idadpowell@juno.com

Council of Bishops contact:
Bishop Joao Somane Machado, Council of Bishops Representative
258 1 49 3568 or jmachado@zebra.uem.mz

General Commission on Communications contact:
Diane Denton, (615) 742-5406 or
ddenton@umcom.org



Summary of 2008 U.S. Annual Conference Initiatives

Results indicate that United Methodist Annual conferences are answering the call of financial stewardship for the United Methodist Global AIDS Fund. Many Conferences have already begun to create special offerings for this important initiative. Many Annual Conferences have also heard the call to form HIV&AIDS Taskforces which help to educate, advocate, and raise money for the Fund.

As reported in 2004, "Strength for the Journey" retreats remain a popular and positive form of programming for Annual Conferences. These

"History will judge us on how we respond to the AIDS emergency in Africa....whether we stood around with watering cans and watched while a whole continent burst into flames....or not." –Bono

retreats are formatted differently in each conference but each answer the call to provide spiritual and emotional support for those affected by HIV&AIDS, including their caregivers.

Education and awareness programs at Annual Conference gatherings and in local churches continue to be an integral part of the Church's ministry. Parish nurses and local HIV&AIDS care programs allow those affected by HIV&AIDS in local communities to receive the care and treatment they deserve.

Annual Conferences are actively seeking ways to address the increasing global nature of our Church and truly make the effort against HIV&AIDS a global priority. Many conferences have supported their Central Conference partners through sending healthcare and education missionary teams to help combat HIV&AIDS. Volunteers in Mission (VIM) have also been utilized to send volunteers to various countries to address the HIV&AIDS pandemic.

Although the Church is growing in its efforts, areas for improvement include:

- Increasing advocacy for greater government response to HIV&AIDS;
- organizing AIDS Taskforces in conferences that currently have none;
- intensifying efforts to promote the UM Global AIDS Fund.



Summary of 2008 Central Conference Initiatives

Many Central Conferences continue to fight HIV&AIDS through education and awareness. By educating local community leaders and churches they hope to eliminate the stigma around HIV&AIDS and improve the community's understanding on how to prevent transmission. Attention is also being paid to education in local schools to educate about prevention at a young age.

Areas in Central Conferences have already begun to benefit from money received through the Global AIDS Fund, but the need for increased funding is significant.

Central Conferences have also been able to address HIV&AIDS by creating/supporting health centers for infected persons.

Many conferences within Europe have provided medical support teams and funding for various programs in Central Conferences. European conferences also continue to educate their local churches including creating necessary resources and materials. These conferences report that, although the UM Global AIDS Fund has not been a priority, they have continued their financial support in fighting HIV&AIDS.

This report was produced by the General Board of Church & Society of The United Methodist Church, 2008.

Please feel free to photo copy and distribute.

Information: Contact GBCS, 202-488-5600.

RESULTS OF THE SURVEY

+ ***DENOTES PARTNER ANNUAL CONFERENCE***



North Central Jurisdiction

Dakotas Conference

+***Sierra Leone***

Activities:

No activities reported.

Contact:

Rev. Randy Cross
P.O. Box 460
Mitchell, SD 57301
605-996-6552
randy.cross@dakotasumc.org

Detroit Conference

+***Liberia*** +***Haiti***

Activities:

No activities reported.

Contact:

Rev. John Huhtala, Sr.
1309 N. Ballenger Highway #1
Flint, MI 48504-7598
800-334-0544
jchdcm@aol.com

East Ohio Conference

+***Mozambique*** +***Sierra Leone***

Activities:

- * Emphasis will be placed on UMC Global AIDS fund at 2008 Annual Conference
- * Church and Society Committee is working on a packet of materials that will be given to each local church
- * Beginning to establish some work in this area with clinics in Liberia.

Contact:

Rev. Paul White

8800 Cleveland Avenue, NW
North Canton, OH 44720-0800
800-831-3972
paulw@eocumc.com

Illinois Great Rivers Conference

+***Liberia***

Activities:

- * UM Global AIDS Fund: will be showing an informational DVD about it at our annual conference and taking a conference wide offering in June
- * relationship with Liberia Annual Conference, most efforts focus on malaria.

Contact:

Dr. Kent Lolling
P.O. Box 19207
Springfield, IL 62794
217-529-2442
klolling@igrc.org

Iowa Conference

+***Nigeria***

Activities:

- * In partnership with Iowa AIDS Action
- * HIV&AIDS ex-officio assigned to Conference Council on Church and Society, may move this person to Global Ministries board
- * Promote UM Global AIDS Fund at Annual Conference gatherings and considering how to best reach local churches and communities to promote AIDS ministries
- * in the process of considering a Central Conference Partner relationship and interested in a mentoring relationship with a an annual conference that has a strong and active AIDS ministry

Contact:

Kristin Clark Nolan
Conference Connectional Ministries Council
Iowa Conference of The United Methodist Church
2301 Rittenhouse Street
Des Moines, Iowa 50321
515.974.8911
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Minnesota Conference

Activities:

- *Set up a process to administer grant applications for the conference portion of the Global AIDS fund dollars.
- *Awaiting an application from a group of Liberians in MN who are working on a prevention program.
- * Both Board of Church in Society and our Health Ministries Action Team are working in this area.
- *plan to raise \$1 per member by end of 2008.

Contact:

Linda Gesling
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55104-135
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lgesling@gw.hamline.edu

Jim Perry

Director of Ministry and Appointed Leadership
122 W Franklin Ave Ste 400
Minneapolis, MN
55404-2453
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jim.perry@minnesotaumc.org

North Indiana Conference

+*Sierra Leone*

Activities:

- * AIDS Assist began as ministry of the conference in 1989, now a 501 (c) 3.
- * AIDS Assist provides educational presentations, outreach, free HIV counseling and testing at 26 locations; provides direct services to infected and affected clients; and organizes community events and fundraisers. Newsletter is published quarterly.
- * Conference budgets 60,000/year for this organization.

Contact:

Conrad Damian
718 E. Broadway
South Bend, IN 46601
574-288-0455

conraddamian@sbcglobal.net

Northern Illinois Conference

Activities:

- * AIDS Pastoral Care Network.
- * THAT Place (Total Health Awareness Team) - a program of the Rockford Urban Ministries. Program includes needle exchanges, condom distribution, counseling and testing for AIDS.

Contact:

Sylvia Jo Oglesby
7635 S. Langley Avenue
Chicago 60619
773-846-9839 – (home)
773-710-4263 – (Cell)
773-826-7751 (Work)
saintsyll@juno.com

South Indiana Conference

+*Sierra Leone*

Activities:

- * St. Luke's UMC in Indianapolis continues to be a leader in fundraising for the international AIDS relief. Working with Indiana University in the delivery of medical services to people living with AIDS.
- * A couple of local churches have received offerings in December as well.
- * HIV/AIDS Task Force is focusing on publicity at Annual Conference.

Contact:

Rev. Howard Boles
Robert Park United Methodist Church
410 N. Delaware
Indianapolis, IN 46204
317-635-1636
hboles707@hotmail.com

West Michigan Conference

Activities:

- * Sent representative to the Global AIDS conference in Washington
- * Brought Bishop Mutti to Annual Conference in 2006 to speak on behalf of the Global AIDS fund.

- * The WMC passed the resolution of \$1 per member
- * A Health and Welfare Ministries representative was added to the Board of Global Ministries.
- * In 2007, Annual Conference special offering held for the Global AIDS Fund

Contacts:

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 Wyoming Park UMC
 2244 Porter Street, SW
 Wyoming, MI 49519
 616-532-7624
 gracewac@aol.com

Valerie Mossman-Celestin
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 Grand Rapids, MI 49516-6247
 1-888-217-1905
 valeriem@wmcumc.org

West Ohio Conference

+North Katanga, DRC +Sarama District, Russia +Oriental Conference in Mexico

Activities:

- * AIDS Ministry Taskforce (since 1988). Plans and leads two Healing Weekends each year for those infected and affected by HIV/AIDS (since 1990). The only Healing Weekends in Ohio that includes children and youth.
- * Committed to education to include displays at three major events each year.
- * Organized several gatherings with women in 2003, encouraging advocacy for funding for the Africa AIDS plan.
- * Conference Board of Global Ministries funds \$30,000/year for healing weekends (125 participants).

Contact:

Rev. Dr. Julie Carmean
 28 West William Street
 Delaware, OH 43015
 740-363-4741
 jacarmean@aol.com

Wisconsin Conference

+Sierra Leone

Activities:

- * Collecting a million pennies for gathering at Annual conference in June and have provided resources for worship and an advent calendar with HIV/AIDS facts.
- * HIV/AIDS Task Force
- * Local church in Milwaukee teaching teens about HIV/AIDS.
- * Parish nurses (30) teaching AIDS prevention in local churches.
- * VIM teams have done HIV/AIDS prevention education in Zambia, South Africa, and other countries.

Contact:

Rev. Deborah Thompson
 750 Windsor
 P.O. Box 620
 Sun Prairie, WI 53590
 608-387-7328
 dthompson@wisconsinumc.org



Northeastern Jurisdiction

Baltimore-Washington Conference

+Zimbabwe

Activities:

- * Contributed so far \$100,000 to the UM Global AIDS Fund through HOPE Fund. Before the end of this year we are planning to contribute another \$100,000.
- * Seeks to address HIV&AIDS through programs, task forces, and working groups.
- * Includes a workshop entitled "Break the Silence-Confronting the HIV&AIDS Pandemic" during Leadership Days.
- * Sponsors four "Quality of Life" retreats for people with HIV&AIDS and their caregivers each year.
- * Supports financially community-based organizations such as HERO and Haven, and is a member of the National AIDS Minority Council.
- * Sponsors annual pastors' school with extensive education on AIDS.

* Continued our partnership with the Moveable Feast Organization with some of our churches participating in the Ride for the Feast, a 140-mile bike ride from Rehoboth Beach, Delaware to Baltimore City.

* Continue to encourage and resource local churches to celebrate World AIDS Day as they network with other religious and social agencies within their communities.

* Some churches have identified on-going training events that target different age/gender groups, and have supported persons living with the HIV/AIDS virus through care groups.

* Other churches have developed phone-prayer lines and similar vehicles of communication that address the times when persons are in crisis and need a personal and spiritual reassurance that God still cares for them.

* The Conference continues to have a relationship with the Howard County Health Department and the State of Maryland to promote events and news resources that are available.

* Conference also helps local churches set up their facilities for screening.

Contact:

Sandra Ferguson
7178 Columbia Gateway Drive
Columbia, MD 21046
800-492-2525 Ext. 431
sferguson@bwcumc.org

Central Pennsylvania Conference

+Sierra Leone

Activities:

* The Conference committed at the last year's Annual Conference Session to become engaged in helping fund the Global Aids Fund.

* Kendall Link Memorial AIDS Awareness Fund provides annual award for support groups, education, advocacy and direct help for those suffering from this life-threatening disease.

Contact:

Rev. John Dromazos
225 S. 2nd Street
Chambersburg, PA 17201

717-263-8491 (w)

717-264-6863 (h)

johndromazos@cpcpastors.org

Eastern Pennsylvania Conference

+Nigeria

Activities:

* AIDS Task Force.

* Local churches address issues in individual ways.

* The Church of the Open Door has an AIDS Ministry called Hub of Hope. We collaborated with them last year to present an all day event that was informative, beneficial and well attended and appreciated by all.

Contact:

Rev. Hilda Campbell
980 Madison Avenue
Norristown, PA 19403
800-828-9093 Ext. 224
hilda.campbell@epaumc.org

Greater New Jersey Conference

+Liberia +North Katanga, DRC

Activities:

* AIDS Task Force

* World AIDS Day is advertised in our conference newspaper.

* encourage Black Churches to provide HIV/AIDS testing for their members and communities

*Four churches have a mobile van come to their church for testing.

Contact:

Rev. Varlyna D. Wright
Leadership Development Coordinator
Greater New Jersey Conference of the United Methodist Church
1001 Wickapecko Dr.
Ocean, New Jersey 07712
732.359.1041 (office)
732. 359. 1049 (fax)
1887.677.2594 (toll- free)
vdwright@gnjumc.org

New England Conference

+West Angola

Activities:

* Global AIDS Committee, made up of clergy and laypeople, meets bi-monthly, and have made one grant from 2006 proceeds to the Global AIDS Fund.

* Our committee has taken initiative to promote the fund, provide resources and workshops, and lead special events.

* Planning a trip to Mozambique this summer with Bishop Fisher. The purpose is to assist with the HIV&AIDS efforts in Mozambique.

* The Task Force has communicated the Fund often through Conference News and personal appeals

Contact:

Lester Bennington
67 Maple Street
East Hartford, CT 06118
860-569-8764
lesterbennington@sbcglobal.net

New York Conference

+Mozambique

Activities:

*No activities to report.

Contact:

Rev. Ann Pearson
20 Soundview Avenue
White Plains, NY 10606-3302
888-696-6922
apearson@nyac.com

North Central New York Conference

Activities:

The NCNY HIV&AIDS Task Force:

* has 13-15 members, many of whom are nurses.

* has educational forums (including one at last year's AC) and partner with the existing organizations that serve our area - we lend physical and monetary support to their programs.

* is planning a retreat at our Casowasco Camp for people affected by HIV&AIDS

*is planning a trip to Mozambique this summer (2008) with Bishop Fisher - purpose is to assist with the HIV&AIDS efforts in Mozambique. Bishop Fisher has been an enthusiastic promoter of the Global AIDS Fund. The Task Force has communicated the Fund often through Conference news and personal appeals.

* continues to promote the Fund, mission trips to Africa, partnering with existing organizations that provide support in our areas (including prisons).

Contact:

Rev. Stephen Deckard
8422 N. Main Street
Cicero, NY 13039
800-699-8715 Ext. 316
steve@ncnyumc.org

Peninsula-Delaware Conference

+Democratic Republic of Congo

Activities:

* 2007 Annual Conference passed a Resolution for Funding the Council of Bishop's Initiative to Combat Global AIDS. This resolution committed the Conference to raising one dollar per church member in our Conference.

* Special offering received at the 2007 Annual Conference for the Global AIDS Fund.; another will be held in 2008.

* Articles on Conference Web Site and Conference edition of the *United Methodist Reporter*.

* Several Churches held or participated in events related to World AIDS Day.

* Wesley Foundations are in conversation about doing a day-long seminar dealing with Risky Behavior which would include AIDS education for our College and young Adult community.

Contacts:

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Dover, Delaware 19901

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sssteinerball@pen-del.org

Rev. Naomi Winchester
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302-654-1897
grace@gracechurchum.org

Troy Conference

+Mozambique

Activities:

- * Local churches have individual programs, such as caregivers at support centers for persons with HIV&AIDS and Christmas gifts for families affected by HIV&AIDS
- * Several of our congregations offer alternative gift giving cards for purchase, proceeds of which benefit the Global AIDS fund.

Contacts:

Rev. Steve Smith
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Schenectady, NY 12309
518-374-4306
epumc943@yahoo.com

Edward Bennett
32 Main Street
Ballston Lake, NY 12019
518-399-7733
ebennet1@nycap.rr.com

West Virginia Conference

Activities:

- *Global AIDS Fund: Articles and promotion monthly in the Conference newspaper
- *The Bishop and his Cabinet are assisting/encouraging pastors to make the Global AIDS Fund a priority.

Contact:

Tom Burger

P.O. Box 2313
Charleston, WV 25328
800-788-3746, Ext. 22
tburger@wvumc.org

Western New York Conference

+ North Katanga Conference of Democratic Republic of Congo

Activities:

- Resolution passed designating the first Sunday in December as AIDS/HIV awareness Sunday with a special offering to be taken for the UMC Global AIDS Fund.
- *local church provided a space for a vigil on World HIV/AIDS Awareness Day (Dec. 1)
- *Conference encourages participation by providing links to information and worship resources.
- * Church and Society Council has been involved in finalizing a grant process, highlighting some of the local statistics, and encouraging participation in the Annual Conference special offering.

Contact:

Rev. Larry Lundgren
131 John Muir Drive
West Amherst, NY 14228
800-461-1174
larryl@wnyumc.org

Western Pennsylvania Conference

+Germany

Activities:

- * Program supporting children suffering from HIV&AIDS, i.e. clothing drives

Contact:

Rev. Sally Jo Snyder
439 Freeport Road
Freeport, PA 16229-1801
412-456-0973
Revsj92@gmail.com

Wyoming Conference

+*Zimbabwe*

Activities:

* Friends of Zimbabwe team does education work and ministry to those affected in this area.

Contact:

Rev. Mark Marino
1700 Monroe Street
Endicott, NY 13760
607-757-0608
m.marino@earthlink.net



South Central Jurisdiction

Arkansas Conference

Activities:

- * Several churches support HIV&AIDs relief ministries
- * Quapaw Quarter UMC in Little Rock does the most extensive work. HIV&AIDS project provides HIV - prevention education in jail, peer education, and outreach ministries to over 1,000 incarcerated persons. Also we provide HIV&AIDS education to persons living in transitional housing.
- * Retreats provided by churches.

Contact:

Roy Smith
2 Trudie Kibbie Reed Drive
Little Rock, AR 72202
877-646-1816
rsmith@arumc.org

Central Texas Conference

+*Democratic Republic of Congo*

Activities:

- * Forming a Task Force to administer local expenditures from our Global Aids Fund.
- * Agreed to raise \$1.00 per member over the biennium 2007-2008, raised about 80% of our 2007 goal.

Contact:

Jerry Longwell
912 Brazos Drive
Southlake, TX 76092
817-424-0298
jerrylongwell@yahoo.com

Kansas East & Kansas West Conferences

+*Sierra Leone*

Activities:

- * Kansas Area HIV&AIDS Committee has sponsored two large conferences with nationally known speakers.
- * All churches will observe World AIDS Sunday
- * Booths selling pins and CDs supporting AIDS work
- * Churches have UMW AIDS Kits to be sent to persons living with AIDS
- * Eight churches have AIDS Care Teams: these churches provide meals, transportation, and other support services to AIDS patients.
- * Collection of cans of nutritional supplements to be provided to AIDS service providers.
- * Collection of special offering for someone traveling as a VIM to a country hard hit by AIDS

Contact:

Rev. Larry Fry
College Avenue UMC
1609 College Avenue
Manhattan, KS 66502
785-539-4191
larrycaumc@sbcglobal.net

Louisiana Conference

Activities:

- * The Louisiana Conference has raised our goal for Global AIDS as of last year.
- * University UMC/Baton Rouge provides support for Lazarus House (persons living with AIDS).

Contact:

Rev. Don Cottrill
527 North Boulevard
Baton Rouge, LA 70802-5700
888-239-5286
dccottrill@bellsouth.net

Missouri Conference

+Mozambique

Activities:

- * A number of churches across the Conference continue local ministries and outreach.
- * 2008 Black Church Week of Prayer for the Healing of AIDS is "Taking it to the Pews." Coordinated by an African American United Methodist Pastor, African American pastors from the United Methodist Church and other denominations will be leading this year's week-long effort.
- * Chicuque Rural Hospital in Mozambique has a new clinic called the "Center of Hope" (COH) – it addresses the issues of AIDS, TB and malaria. Individuals and mission teams from Missouri have supported the COH. One individual from Missouri led a team that did research with area women who were able to get the protocol to prevent HIV transmission from infected mother to her newborn.

Contact:

Rev. Monica Jefferson
St. Andrew United Methodist Church
3975 N US Highway 67
Florissant, MO 63034-2428
314-837-4233 (Church)
314-707-0172 (Cell)
mjffrsn@aol.com

Nebraska Conference

+Nigeria

Activities:

- *No activities reported.

Contact:

Maureen Vetter
4422 Drake Lane
Grand Island, NE 68801
308-384-4270
mvetter@charter.net

New Mexico Conference

Activities:

- *Individual churches have own programs.
- *Collaboration with other agencies

Contact:

Dr. Bill Sylskar
11816 Lomas Boulevard, NE
Albuquerque, NM 87112
505-255-8786
billdir@nmconfum.com

North Texas Conference

+Cameroon

Activities:

- * HIV&AIDS is part of a conference mission focus on Global Health for 2007-08 along with Malaria and the Nothing But Nets campaign. Annual Conference passed a resolution at the 2007 North Texas Conference church is to collect \$1/member, including children, for the Global AIDS Fund by Annual Conference 2008.
- *Selected a HIV&AIDS Ambassador to coordinate the Global AIDS Fund initiative. He has been sending out appeals and reminders to local churches regarding their support at \$1/member plus children. He works in conjunction with our Sending Servants Team (conference missions/outreach)
- * Support the GBGM In Mission Together in the country of Cameroon. The local missionary received support to offer HIV&AIDS education.

Contacts:

Sally Vonner
P.O. Box 866128
Plano, TX 75086
972-526-5000
vonner@ntcumc.org

Rev. Jack Soper
Arapaho United Methodist Church
1400 W. Arapaho
Richardson, TX 75080
972-231-1005
john.soper@sbcglobal.net

Oklahoma Conference

+Ghana +Kenya

Activities:

* Provides support dollars for RAIN (Regional AIDS Interfaith Network) in OK.

*Conference Budget \$20,000/year for AIDS VIM to Africa. First team sent to Africa to support an AIDS orphanage.

*Support for affected in South Africa was planned.

Contact:

Rev. Allen Buck
P.O. Box 218
Locust Grove, OK 74352
918-479-6356
fumclg@sstelco.com

Northwest Texas Conference

Activities:

* Healing Hands Task Force addressing the AIDS/HIV problem along with teen pregnancy.

* UMC Global AIDS Fund: asked that each church give a dollar per members.

* As of 2007 the conference had raised \$7,960.91

Contact:

Rosemary Prumer
1415 Avenue M
Lubbock, TX 79401
806-762-0201, Ext. 11
rprumer@nwtconf.org

Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference

+Zimbabwe

Activities:

* Planned and carried out first World HIV&AIDS Day

* 2008 Annual Conference offering will go to UMC Global AIDS Fund

* Partnering for a fundraiser for orphans in Zimbabwe in April.

Contacts:

Chebon Kernell
3020 S. Harvey Street
Oklahoma City, OK 73109-6309
405-632-2006
erkenkv@sbcglobal.net

Rio Grande Conference

Activities:

* Parish Nurses are implementing education programs for the churches.

Contact:

Abel Vega, Jr.
16400 Huebner Road
San Antonio, TX 78278
210-408-4512
avega@umcswtx.org

Southwest Texas Conference

+Volgaden, Russia

Activities:

* promote UM Global AIDS Fund

Contact:

Austin Frederick
16400 Huebner Road
San Antonio, TX 79248
888-349-4191
afred@umcswtx.org

Texas Conference

Activities:

* Conference Board of Church and Society and Health and Welfare emphasize AIDS.

* Several congregations have support groups and significant ministries related to HIV&AIDS.

Contacts:

Cindy Vanover, Director
Spiritual Care & Values Integration
The Methodist Hospital System
6565 Fannin Ste D200
Houston TX 77030
phone: 713-441-5792
fax: 713-790-2605
cvanover@tmhs.org

Rick Goodrich
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Phone: (713) 521-9383
Fax: (713) 520-6807
rgoodrich@txcumc.org

Glynden Bode
1122 Marne Lane
Houston, TX 77090-1231
glyndenbode@gmail.com



Southeastern Jurisdiction

Alabama-West Florida Conference

Activities:

*No activities reported.

Contact:

Ruth Ann Powers
712 31st Street
Phoenix City, AL 36867
334-297-4484
rall@ctvea.net

Florida Conference

+*East Angola* +*Cuba*

Activities:

- * work is ongoing at the local church level
- * Parish nurses coordinate education
- * Clearwater local church provides free medical clinic.
- * Pasco County has HIV testing, local church involvement
- * Jacksonville area churches have programs concerning HIV&AIDS

Contacts:

Rev. Larry Rankin
1140 E. McDonald Street
Lakeland, FL 33801
800-282-8011
lrankin@flumc.org

Rev. D’Mitri Cato-Watson
Kirkman Road United Methodist Church
440 South Kirkman Road
Orlando, FL 32811
407-295-4670
kirkmanumc@aol.com

Holston Conference

+*Liberia* +*Zimbabwe*

Activities:

*Strength for the Journey retreats held two times a year from those infected.

Contact:

Ginny West Case
First United Methodist Church
804 Montvale Station Road
Maryville, TN 37803
865-984-3195
ginnywc@fumc-maryville.org

Kentucky Conference

Activities:

- * Strength for the Journey Retreats
- * Audio-Video Library with 10 movies on AIDS and help in counseling persons with HIV/AIDS.

Contact:

Julie Hager Love
Director of Connectional Ministries
7400 Floydsburg Road
Crestwood, KY 40014
(502) 425-3884
jlove@kyumc.org

Memphis Conference

+*Zimbabwe*

Activities:

* Work in collaboration with Methodist Health System. System has relationship with Africa and is working with research and preventative measures.

Contact:

Rev. Roger Hopson
3033 Trice Place
Lebanon, TN 37087
615-742-8834
rhopson@nasharea.org

Mississippi Conference

Activities:

*Provide annual AIDS workshop.

*Conference works with Jackson State University. To provide assistance to churches on HIV&AIDS.

Contact:

Tim Thompson
6210 HWY 39 North
Meridian, MS 39305—0496
601-483-6221
district@meridianumc.org

North Alabama Conference

Activities:

- * Conference Supports Alabama Arise.
- * Florence 1st UMC sent an UMVIM team to Honduras and part of the project was AIDS education with the students and women.
- * Exploratory teams have been to Mozambique and Zimbabwe to see projects and look at issues that need future teams to address.
- * At Chicouque Hospital where an AIDS clinic is being built, the team worked in the hospital; but we saw so many fundamental health care issue that need address like water, sanitation, malaria that the focus is not just AIDS.
- * Churches have sent local doctors on mission trips to Latin America and Africa.

Contact: (Pending)

North Carolina Conference

Activities:

* Black Methodists for Church Renewal Seminars planned two or three times per year. Emphasis on HIV&AIDS in Africa and in local community.

Contact:

Rev. Lawrence Johnson
1307 Glenwood Avenue #203
Raleigh, NC 27606-0955
800-849-4433
ljohnson@nccumc.org

North Georgia Conference

Activities:

* Resources available for local church regarding HIV&AIDS, provided by N. Georgia United Methodist AIDS Ministry, Inc.

Contact:

Theresa Johnson
478 Ponce de Leon Avenue, NE
P.O. Box 54613
Atlanta, GA 30308-0613
404-881-1991 Ext. 118
tjohnson@actionministries.net

Red Bird Missionary Conference

Activities:

* Red Bird Missionary Conference paid its quadrennial asking in full the first year of the UMC Global AIDS Fund Campaign.

Contact:

Ruth Wiertzema
6 Queendale Center
Beverly, KY 40913
606-598-5915
ruthw@redbirdconference.org

South Carolina Conference

Activities:

- * HIV&AIDS Taskforce formed
- * Brought in Don Messer to speak to clergy
- * Conference is planning health screenings in local churches
- * Emphasis being made to reach out to African-American churches

Contact:

Rev. Emily Allen
141-F Pelham Drive – Suite 135
Columbia, SC 29209
803-469-0160
eallen15@sc.rr.com

South Georgia Conference

+East Africa Annual Conference

Activities:

- * St. Mary's United Methodist Church Foundation, St. Mary's Georgia that fund ministry to AIDS orphans in Uganda and East Africa through Church World Service.
- * Established a partner relationship with the East Africa Annual Conference
- * Conference provides tuition, scholarship, and program support to Humble Place, a ministry of the East Africa Annual Conference to children suffering with HIV/AIDS, victims of war, and orphans.
- * UMC Global AIDS Fund: advertised the Fund through the conference web site.
- * Use the video *Hope for Children of Africa* at every Local Pastors License to Preach School to introduce the needs to incoming clergy.

Contact:

Dr. Brad Brady
 P.O. Box 20408
 St. Simons Island, GA 31522-0008
 912-638-8626
 denise@sgaumc.com

Tennessee Conference**+Zimbabwe****Activities:**

- * promote through conference media the Global AIDS fund and have continued to offer Strength for the Journey.

Contact:

Rev. Jason Brock
 Mercy, Mission, and Justice- TN Conference
 United Methodist Church
 615-329-1177
 615-329-0884 (fax)
 304 S. Perimeter Park Dr., Suite 1
 Nashville, TN 37211
 JBrock@tnumc.org

Virginia Conference**+Mozambique****Activities:**

- * 2006 Virginia Annual Conference adopted a resolution supporting the Global AIDS Fund and

encouraging churches to give \$1/member over the next four years to the fund.

- * 2008 will be the second year that the Global AIDS Fund will receive a portion of our Annual Conference offering.
- * To bring attention to the offering in 2007, we had on display a section of the NAMES Project Memorial AIDS Quilt.
- * Information about the Healthy Homes, Healthy Families kits was distributed at an Annual Conference display table.
- * Our Health and Relief Team of the Conference Board of Global Ministries has been tasked with addressing HIV&AIDS. A subcommittee of the Team is in the process of developing specific plans for communicating resources and ministry opportunities to the local churches and plans for disbursement of funds. The Team has added a section on our Conference website for the Fund which can be found at:

<http://www.vaumc.org/index.cfm/fa/content.view/menuID/3473.htm>

The 2007 offering flyer with this description can be found on our website at:

<http://www.vaumc.org/repository/AC2007/Offering/2007ACOfferingFlier.pdf>

Contact:

Martha Stokes
 10330 Staples Mill Road
 Glen Allen, VA 23060
 800-768-6040
 marthastokes@vaumc.org

Western North Carolina Conference**Activities:**

- *Chapter of RAIN (Regional AIDS Interfaith Network) in Charlotte District

Contact:

Jim Trollinger
 P.O. Box 18005
 Charlotte, NC 28218
 800-562-7929
 jtrollinger@wncumc.org



Western Jurisdiction

Alaska Missionary Conference

Activities:

* Individual churches have programming regarding HIV&AIDS.

Contact: (Pending)

California-Nevada Conference

+*West Angola*

Activities:

- * Collaboration with San Francisco Bay area Community & Social Services on HIV&AIDS.
- * Youth retreat aimed at youth with AIDS and their caregivers (Red Ribbon Retreat).
- * 2007 Annual Conference Session, the presentation from BCS focused on the world-wide AIDS epidemic and our annual conference offering went to the fund. Individual churches have had AIDS Sundays and taken collections.
- * Appointed AIDS coordinator who, along with others, gives presentations and receive collections at local churches.
- * Annual conference has passed legislation calling for each church to designate an AIDS Sunday and give \$1 per member. Plans are being made to use the retained funds to promote annual AIDS Sundays in our churches.

Contact:

Willa Sudduth
2515 Nason Avenue
El Cerrito, CA 94530
510-233-0867
willasud@aol.com

California-Pacific Conference

+*Nigeria*

Activities:

- * Sponsors two "Strength for the Journey" Camps.
- * HIV&AIDS Task Force.
- * Collaboration with local AIDS service center.

Contact:

Rev. Thomas Hill
110 S. Euclid Avenue
Pasadena, CA 91101
626-568-7357
thill@cal-pac.org

Desert Southwest Conference

+*Nigeria* +*Sierra Leone*

Activities:

- * St. Francis in the Foothills UMC in Tucson, Arizona, has efforts in Nigeria, engaged in medical assistance, HIV&AIDS education. Desert Foothills UMC sells AIDS pins made by women in South Africa.
- * Attended March 2008 HIV&AIDS Education Conference outside of Addis Abba, Ethiopia.
- * Piloting an HIV&AIDS study in several churches, aimed at raising awareness about HIV for all constituency levels. Eventual goal is for all DSC churches to engage in the study. Curriculum was compiled by DSC AIDS Task Force and is being taught by team members.
- * Translation of the AIDS curriculum into Swahili, which will be used by a graduate student traveling to Africa this fall.
- * Two Strength for the Journey camps, fundraising for scholarships is done by AIDS Taskforce.
- * AIDS Taskforce is also working with a church in Agua Prieta, Mexico - to help establish an AIDS clinic there.
- * Promotion of UM Global AIDS Fund includes: letter from the Bishop, articles, phone contact, verbal message at our Pastors School, and promotion at Annual Conference.

Contacts:

Billie Fidlin
1550 E. Meadowbrook Avenue
Phoenix, AZ 85014-4040
800-229-8622
billie@desertsw.org

Rev. Mary Bullis
Red Mountain UMC
2936 North Power Road
Mesa, AZ 85215
480-981-3833
mary.bullis@azwildblue.com

Oregon-Idaho Conference

+Liberia

Activities:

- * 2007 held retreat for 16 women living with HIV&AIDS. This provided more opportunities for women to be served, since our Strength for the Journey Camp has traditionally drawn more men (50 per year). Both retreats planned for 2008.
- * Sent 2 persons to the training event on Global AIDS Fund and they returned with information on money to be raised, information to be shared, etc.

Contact:

Lisa Hoefner
1505 SW 18th Avenue
Portland, OR 97201
800-593-7539
lisajean@umoi.org

Pacific Northwest Conference

+Democratic Republic of the Congo

Activities:

- * AIDS Ministry Task Force
- * Primary activity has been two AIDS&HIV support "Strength for the Journey" retreats held annually.
- * The total Conference budget for both of these Retreats last year was about \$21,000. We expect to spend the same amount for the year 2008. Each Retreat serves about 30 AIDS&HIV patients, and offers a week of relaxation and fun.
- * Raised money for UMC Global AIDS Fund through an Annual special giving Sunday collection in local churches.

Contact:

Michael D. Smith
St. Paul UMC
2005 Colby Ave.
Everett, WA 98201-2233
425-252-7751
lightofthespirit@comcast.net

Rocky Mountain Conference

+Kenya +East and West Angola

Activities:

- * Conference Task Force made up a diverse group of lay and clergy, works solely by e-mail so it spends no money for travel and other costs, making sure all money goes for AIDS projects.
- * Long-standing Annual Conference relationship with Kenya, and are involved in AIDS education and de-stigmatization program there. The 1/4 portion of AIDS funds retained by conference have supported a variety of projects, including an outreach to Sierra Leone. In past have also supported projects in India, Russia, and elsewhere over the years.
- * Raised between \$40 and \$50,000 for the UMC Global AIDS Fund.
- * Regular mailings to churches, and have had presentations and offerings at Annual Conference. In 2009 we are planning to have workshops in our three states to stimulate and train leadership.
- * The 2007 Annual Conference sponsored another resolution affirming the role of the United Methodist Global AIDS Fund and sent it to General Conference.

Contact:

Dr. Don Messer
7185 S. Niagara Circle
Englewood, CO 80112-1570
303-770-5809
dmesser@iliff.edu

Yellowstone Conference

+Angola

Activities:

- * Began annual special Sunday giving in 2008 for UM Global AIDS Fund.
- * Sponsor mission trips to Africa and financial support to Angola.

Contact:

Mary Trembly
670 North Burritt
Buffalo, WY 82834
307-684-2854
mtrembly@vcn.com



Central Conferences

Baguio Area

Activities:

* Thirty-eight youth have been trained to provide information about HIV/AIDS.

Contact:

Bishop Benjamin Justo
Methodist Mission Center
10 Marcos Highway
PO Box 87
2600 Baguio City,
Philippines
Phone: 6374 442 2879
Fax: 6374 304 2653
Email: bajusto@yahoo.com

Davao Area

Activities:

* Small number of local churches engage in education of HIV/AIDS. Some District level events young adult and women groups engage in education

*The Community Based Primary Health Care Program also educates in Davao Area (not a Central Conference Program).

Contact:

Dania Soriano
Bishop's Office
104 Recto Avenue
Davao City 8000,
Philippines
Phone: 63 82 222 474
Fax: 63 82 222 4474
Email: bishopsoriano@yahoo.com

Southern Congo Area

Activities:

In search of funds for:

* Training of medical personnel and leaders within the church to begin raising awareness against the disease and to combat the

stigmatization of patients living with HIV& AIDS.

*Staff training in medical care for opportunistic infections and AIDS

*Mentoring affected people as orphans, widows, and others.

Contacts:

Mrs. Jacky Tshisola
Email: JackyTshisola@yahoo.fr

Bishop Kaindo Katembo
960 Ave. Mzee Laurent Kabila
Lubumbashi,
Democratic Republic of Congo
Phone: 243 997 028 124
Fax: 243 23 41191
Email: akatembokainda@yahoo.fr

Central Congo Area

Activities:

* Works with the centre Bomoto which is an ecumenical program of the Church of Christ in Congo. The new program is part of the youth affected and infected by HIV&AIDS and victims of sexual abuse. Our program includes counselling, the care of sexually transmitted infections, counselling for voluntary testing, peer education, with the backdrop of communication for behavioural change.

* Think-tank adopted a central theme for 2007 and 2008 of combating stigma and denial because we believe that stigma encourages life in hiding, which is a driving force behind the spread of HIV&AIDS.

* Our commitment to advocacy is to ask the authorities to engage in the development of programs that involve youth as the age bracket of 14 to 24 years is most vulnerable. We also call on the authorities to take into account the realities of this particular age group. For this special program we are working in collaboration with UNICEF, UNFPA, PNLs, PNMLS and programme for the regional missionary Shimba Mulunda.

* United Methodist Global AIDS Fund has helped in our Annual Conference of the Congo West, the city of Kinshasa and the cities of Kimpese and Matadi in Bas-Congo. We expect

to extend it to Bandundu, more precisely Kasongo Lunda.

*With young people we have managed to get mapping at risk of HIV. Our approach based on the Life Skills helped us develop life skills common among teenagers and young people. We want this program to sponsor activities in each local church. We want local churches to become the life centre for each teenager and youth.

Contact:

Rev. Jose-Chris Tshitenga
Email: jctshitenga2004@yahoo.fr

Liberia

+Detroit +Illinois Great Rivers +Greater New Jersey +Holston +Oregon-Idaho

Activities:

* Central Conference has AIDS program controlled by the Board of Health and Welfare.
* The major activity of the program is the School Health HIV/AIDS program.
* The training team of the board is engaged in planning and conducting training workshop for the United Methodist Church schools within the conference.

Contact:

Jemimah Browne
Coordinator, Board of Health & Welfare
Liberia Annual Conference UMC
PO Box 10-1010 Sinkor 13 ST
Tubman Boulevard
Monrovia, Liberia
Phone: 231 05661275
Fax: 231 227 154
Email: jemimah_browne@yahoo.com

Nordic and Baltic Area

Activities: *No activities to report.

Contact:

Bishop Oystein Olsen
Methodistkirkens Bishopskontor
Akersbakken 35A
N-0172 Oslo, Norway
Email: bishop@umc-northerneurope.org

North Katanga Area

+West Ohio +Greater New Jersey

Activities:

* Organizing sensitization seminars to fight HIV/AIDS and seeking additional funds to establish voluntary testing and counseling opportunities.

Contact:

Guy Kasanka
N°30-2, Avenue Likasi
Commune de Lubumbashi
République Démocratique du Congo
Cell phone: 00243 (0) 81 290 8855
E-mail: guykasanka@yahoo.fr

Sierra Leone Area

+Wisconsin +Desert Southwest

Activities:

* The HIV&AIDS program is conducted jointly with the Community-Based Primary Health Care program by the UMC.
* In Freetown, GBGM supports the UMC to run a home-based care program for people with AIDS. The UMC also trains community volunteers to do home visits and pre- and post-test counseling.
* In Taima Circuit in the Kori Kingdom and Sumbuya Circuit in the Lugbo Kingdom, community volunteers are being trained in awareness building, education, and counseling. School children are involved in peer group education, and the congregations are involved in education and home-care visits.
* The Healthy Homes, Healthy Families Kit has been sent to this conference, and workers are being trained in its distribution and use.
* Sixty traditional birth attendants are to be employed in identifying those needing care and referrals regarding AIDS.

Contact:

Bishop Joseph Humper
31 Lightfoot Boston Street
PO Box 523
Freetown, Sierra Leone, West Africa
Phone: 232 22 220212
Phone 2: 076-602-230; 076-664-949

Fax: 232 22 224449
Email: cjhumper77@yahoo.com

Central and Southern Europe Area

*Switzerland/France partners with *Zimbabwe and Democratic Republic of Congo*

Activities:

* Part of Africa Conference relationships involve the support of various health projects. For many years, several doctors and nurses from Switzerland and France have served in Methodist hospitals in these countries.

* Switzerland and France are already donating more than USD 160,000 annually to be sent directly to the mentioned health programs in Zimbabwe and the DR Congo. In addition to this financial support, the UMC in Switzerland also promotes and enables a partnership between a Swiss AIDS clinic in Harare, a Swiss Methodist hospital in Switzerland and the UMC in Zimbabwe.

Contact:

Bishop Patrick Streiff
Badener Strasse 69
PO Box 2239
CH-8026 Zurich, Switzerland
Phone: 41-1-299-30-60
Fax: 411-299 3069
Email: bishop@umc-europe.org

East Angola Area

+*Florida +Rocky Mountain +Yellowstone*

Activities: *No activities reported.

Contact:

Bishop Jose Quipungo
Rua Comandante Dangereux No. 46
C.P. No. 9
Malange, Angola
Phone: 244 513 99751
Fax: 244 513 99751
Email: jquipungo@snet.co.ao

Germany Area

+*Kenya +Western Pennsylvania*

Activities:

* Conference is a member of the Interdenominational AIDS Campaign.
* Support given to HIV/AIDS work at the Maua Hospital in Kenya.
* AIDS fund in the name of Birgit and Dietmar Ziegler: \$150,000 collected to guarantee that the work in Kenya and other projects in Africa will continue (South Africa and Zimbabwe).
* Work manual has been created for the congregations of the UMC in Germany to use on HIV/AIDS subjects in worship services.

Contact:

Thomas Kemper
Hoppenstr. #46, 74211 Leingarten
Germany
Phone: 49-0-7131-403301
Fax: 49-0-7131-401928
Email: weltmission@emk.de

Manila Area

Activities:

* Mary Johnson Hospital in Manila has an active program in the urban slums where HIV&AIDS awareness is emphasized among the youth.

Contact:

Darlene Caramanzana &
Reynaldo Lopez
PO Box 756
900 United Nations Avenue
1000 Ermita, Metro Manil
Philippines
Phone: 63 2 523 4136
Phone2: 63 2 521 1114
Fax: 63 2 521 2278
Email: diwa_malaya@yahoo.com
reylopez@yahoo.com

Zimbabwe Area

+*Switzerland and France +Baltimore-Washington +Wyoming +Oklahoma Indian Missionary +Holston +Tennessee +Memphis*

Activities:

* Home based care activities. We have 14 HBC programs 10 attached to UMC health centers.
* Development of HIV/AIDS Policy and flier.

*Trainings in anti-retroviral and palliative care in children

*HIV and AIDS education at local churches

*Orphans Trust program is an innovative community-based approach to caring for orphans who have lost one or both parents to HIV/AIDS.

Contact:

Mr. Shingirai Nziradzeptsva
UMC-163 Chinoyi St
PO Box 3408
Harare, Zimbabwe
Phone: 263-4-753615; 751509
Fax: 362-4-791-105
Email: umczim@africaonline.co.zw

West Angola Area

+*New England* +*California-Nevada* +*Rocky Mountain* +*Yellowstone*

Activities:

*No activities reported.

Contact:

Bishop Gaspar Domingos
Caixa Postal 68
Rua de N.S. Da Muxima 12
Luanda, Angola
Phone: 244 2 33 2107
Fax: 244 2 39 0184
Email: imuangola@snet.co.ao

East Africa Area

+*Oklahoma* +*Rocky Mountain* +*South Georgia* +*Germany*

Activities:

* HIV&AIDS Task Force

Contact:

Bishop Daniel Wandabula
PO Box 12554
Kampala, Uganda
Phone: 256-772-507173
Email: umc_uganda@yahoo.com

Eurasia Area

+*West Ohio* +*Southwest Texas*

Activities:

* Individual churches focus on HIV&AIDS.
* AIDS Prevention Project for Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos.
* Sponsors a prison church ministry focused on HIV&AIDS in Yekaterinburg, Russia, in cooperation with the Rocky Mountain Annual Conference.

Contact:

Bishop Hans Växby
Global Ministries
Box 257
PMB 572 – c/o IPS
511 Avenue of the Americas
New York, NY 10011
Email: ekhegay@yandex.ru

Mozambique Area

+*Missouri* +*East Ohio* +*New York* +*Troy* +*Virginia*

Activities:

* Three-day workshop on several topics, including the nationally recognized ABC approach to HIV training curriculum. Pastors and lay leaders are trained in several aspects of counseling, including assisting the People Living with AIDS (PLWA) in coping skills, needs, and spiritual care. The program is ecumenical.

Contact:

Lucille Bonaventure
Av. Eduardo Mondlane #2998
Maputo, Mozambique
Phone: 258-1-409-6 07
Email: justapaz@tvabo.co.mz

Nigeria Area



+Iowa +Eastern Pennsylvania +Nebraska
+California-Pacific +Desert Southwest

Activities:

- * Activities consist essentially in organizing sensitization and seminars to fight HIV and AIDS
- * Seeking additional funds to establish voluntary testing and counseling opportunities

Contact:

Dr Mwana Ngoie Kasanka (Guy)
Trésorerie Générale du Nord Katanga

Bishop Nkulu Ntambo
UMC, Bariment Mokador Ave Mobutu
Lubumbashi, DRC
Phone: 243-81-408-1120
Fax: 243-971-08-9792
Email: nntambo7@hotmail.com

Internet Resources on HIV&AIDS

"In Africa, you can't pass by a family without finding people who have been lost to AIDS,"

- East Africa Bishop Daniel Wandabula

more information on AIDS:
www.umc-gbcs.org
www.gbgm-umc.org

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- www.umglobalaidsfund.org
- www.unaids.org
- www.churchworldservice.org
- www.aids.gov
- www.aidsinfo.nih.gov
- www.cdc.gov/hiv
- www.pepfar.gov
- www.globalaidsalliance.org
- www.globalactionforchildren.org



How to Update Information in this Report

Annual Conferences are encouraged to update

"Investment in AIDS will be repaid a thousand-fold in lives saved and communities held together."

-Dr. Peter Piot, Executive Director, UNAIDS

information in this report if the conference has new activities or wishes to change/add contact person(s). The updated information will be added periodically to continue to provide better resourcing for the connectional church.

The following persons can be contacted in order to submit this information:

Linda Bales Todd, Director
Louise & Hugh Moore Population Project
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United Methodist Church
100 Maryland Ave., NE
Washington, DC 20002
202-488-5649
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United Methodist Resolutions on HIV&AIDS Adopted by the 2004 & 2008 General Conference

**Resolution 152. A Covenant to Care:
Recognizing and Responding to the Many
Faces of AIDS in the U.S.A.**

United Methodists have been in ministry since the beginning of the of the HIV/AIDS pandemic. They have followed the way of healing, ministry, hospitality, and service shown by Jesus Christ. According to the Gospel of Luke (4:16-21), Jesus identified himself and his task with that of the servant Lord, the one who was sent to bring good tidings to the afflicted, hope to the brokenhearted, liberty to the captives, and comfort to all who mourn, giving them the oil of gladness and the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit (Isaiah 61:1-3). God's Word calls us to a ministry of healing, a ministry that understands healing not only in physiological terms but also as wholeness of spiritual, mental, physical, and social being.

The Context of Caring Ministry in the United States

In recent years, AIDS in the United States has received less media attention, but that does not mean the disease has gone away. Though medical drugs can prolong the life of people who have been infected, there is no cure for AIDS. Not only must our commitment to ministry continue, but it must also expand, particularly in the area of prevention education.

HIV/AIDS affects and infects a broad cross-section of people in the United States and Puerto Rico: all ages, all races, both sexes, all sexual orientations. The cumulative number of AIDS cases reported to Centers for Disease Control (CDC) through December 2001 is 816,149. Adult and adolescent AIDS cases total 807,074 with 666,026 males and 141,048 females.¹

In the early 1980s, most people with AIDS were gay white men. Overall incidences of new cases of AIDS increased rapidly through the 1980s, peaked in the early 1990s, and then declined. However, new cases of AIDS among African Americans increased. By 1996, more cases of AIDS were reported among African Americans than any other racial/ethnic population. The number of people diagnosed with AIDS has also increased among Hispanics, Asians/Pacific

Islanders, and Native Americans/Alaska Natives.² In 2001, the rate of adult/adolescent AIDS cases per 100,000 population was 76.3 among African Americans, 28.0 among Hispanics, 11.7 among Native Americans/Alaska Natives, 7.9 among whites, and 4.8 among Asians/Pacific Islanders.³ Though national surveillance data does not record the hearing status of people with HIV/AIDS, the Department of Health and Human Services believes that deaf and hard of hearing people have been disproportionately infected with HIV.⁴

As of December 2001, according to CDC estimates, 850,000 to 950,000 people in the United States were infected with HIV. One-quarter of these were unaware of their status! Approximately 40,000 new HIV infections occur each year: about 70 percent men and 30 percent women. Of these newly infected people, half are younger than 25. Almost half of the men are African American, 30 percent are white, 20 percent are Hispanic. Among newly infected women, approximately 64 percent are African American, 18 percent are white, and 18 percent are Hispanic. A small percentage of men and women are part of other racial/ethnic groups.⁵ No longer is HIV a disease of white gay men or of the east and west coast; it has not been for more than a decade. In 2001, 39 percent of persons with AIDS were living in the South, 29 percent in the Northeast, 19 percent in the West, 10 percent in the Midwest, and 3 percent in the U.S. territories.⁶

United Methodist churches, districts, and conferences can help to stop the spread of HIV/AIDS by providing sound, comprehensive, age-appropriate preventive education, including information that abstinence from sex and injection drug use is the safest way to prevent HIV/AIDS. In addition, the church can provide grounding in Christian values, something that cannot be done in public schools or in governmental publications on HIV/AIDS.

Youth and Young Adults: AIDS is increasingly affecting and infecting our next generation of leaders, particularly among racial and ethnic minorities. In the United States, HIV is the fifth

leading cause of death for people between the ages of 25 and 44. Among African American men in this age group, HIV has been the leading cause of death since 1991. In 1999, among African American women, 25 to 44 years old, HIV was the third leading cause of death. Many of these young adults were infected in their teens and early twenties. At least half of all new HIV infections are estimated to be among people under 25 with the majority of infections occurring through sexual contact.⁷

Racial and Ethnic Minorities: African Americans, Hispanics and Native Americans have been disproportionately infected with HIV/AIDS. Representing only an estimated 12 percent of the total U.S. population, African Americans make up almost 38 percent of all AIDS cases reported in the country. Almost 63 percent of all women reported with AIDS were African American.⁸

It is critical to prevent patterns of risky behaviors that may lead to HIV infection before they start. Clear communications between parents and their children about sex, drugs, and AIDS is an important step. Church, school, and community-based prevention education is another step. Youth and young adults must be actively involved in this process, including peer education.

The large and growing Hispanic population in the United States is also heavily affected by HIV/AIDS. In 2000, Hispanics represented 13 percent of the U.S. population (including residents of Puerto Rico) but accounted for 19 percent of the total number of new cases of AIDS reported that year.⁹

Women: AIDS among women has been mostly "an invisible epidemic" even though women have been affected and infected since the beginning. AIDS has increased most dramatically among women of color. African American and Hispanic women together represent less than 25 percent of all women in the United States, yet account for more than 75 percent of reported cases of AIDS. In 2000, African American and Hispanic women represented an even greater proportion (80

percent) of cases of AIDS reported in women.¹⁰ Of newly infected women in 2001, approximately 64 percent were African American and 18 percent were Hispanic.¹¹ In 2000, 38 percent of women reported with AIDS were infected through sexual contact with HIV-positive men while injection drug use accounted for 25 percent of cases. In addition to the direct risks associated with drug injections (sharing needles), drug use is also fueling the heterosexual spread of the epidemic. A significant proportion of women infected sexually were infected by injection drug-using men. Reducing the toll of the epidemic among women will require efforts to combat substance abuse and reduce HIV risk behaviors.¹²

People who are Deaf, Late-Deafened, and Hard of Hearing: In the United States, as many as 40,000 deaf and hard-of-hearing individuals are believed to be living with HIV disease.¹³ Health experts suspect that HIV prevalence in the deaf community may be higher than in the hearing community, but comprehensive data is lacking. An indicator is that one in seven deaf people has a history of substance abuse, compared with one in ten hearing people.¹⁴ Research has also shown that deaf high school students have much less knowledge about HIV transmission than their hearing counterparts. Because 75 percent of the culturally deaf community uses American Sign Language (ASL) as their primary means of communication, ASL is the most effective means of communication of HIV/AIDS information for this group; but the message must be clear. At a United Methodist HIV/AIDS event in 2002, a speaker noted that deaf people have died and others have delayed medical treatment because they believed themselves healthy when they saw the sign for "HIV" and "positive" conveyed to them in ASL. They thought HIV positive meant "good result" and did not realize that they were being told they were infected.¹⁵ It also should be noted that over 98 percent of those with hearing loss, including many elderly people, do not know sign language. In prevention education contexts, assistive listening systems and devices, such as "pocket talkers," should be used to aid those who are hard of hearing.

Older Adults: The number of those 50 and older infected with HIV is increasing at twice the rate of those under 50, according to experts on aging at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston who are targeting older Americans for safer sex education.¹⁶ The myth that older people are sexually inactive has produced dreaded consequences. The most prevalent behavior risks for older adults are multiple sexual partners and having a partner with risk behavior. Since they are not worried about pregnancy, older couples are less likely to use condoms and, therefore, increase their risk of infection. Most older people mistakenly believe that if they are heterosexual and don't inject drugs, they cannot get AIDS. Reaching this group of people with HIV prevention messages means exploring avenues such as church, widows' support groups at senior centers, and Golden Age Clubs at community centers and churches.

Drug-Associated HIV Transmission: Since the epidemic began, injection drug use (IDU) has accounted for more than one-third (36 percent) of AIDS cases in the U.S. Racial and ethnic minorities in the U.S. are most heavily affected by IDU-associated AIDS. In 2000, IDU-associated AIDS accounted for 26 percent of all cases among African Americans and 31 percent among Hispanic adults and adolescents, compared with 19 percent of all cases among white adults/adolescents. Non-injection drugs such as cocaine also contribute to the spread of the epidemic when users trade sex for drugs or money, or when they engage in risky sexual behavior that they might not engage in when sober.

HIV prevention and treatment, substance abuse prevention, and sexually transmitted disease treatment and prevention services must be better integrated to take advantage of the multiple opportunities for intervention—first, to help uninfected people stay that way; second, to help infected people stay healthy; and third, to help infected individuals initiate and sustain behaviors that will keep themselves safe and prevent transmission to others.¹⁷

The Challenge for Ministry

Across the United States, in churches large and small, pastors and laity have asked, "What can my church do?" Churches can build on areas which are already doing well; they can covenant to care. Churches and other United Methodist organizations need to continue or begin compassionate ministry with persons living with HIV/AIDS and their loved ones. In terms of prevention education, United Methodists have an opportunity to teach not only the facts about HIV transmission and how to prevent infection but to relate these facts to Christian values. Congregations can do HIV/AIDS prevention education in broader contexts, such as human sexuality and holistic health, as well as addressing societal problems, such as racism, sexism, addiction, and poverty. We call on United Methodists to respond:

1. Churches should be places of openness and caring for persons with AIDS and their loved ones. We ask congregations to work to overcome attitudinal and behavioral barriers in church and community that create stigma and discrimination of persons with AIDS and their loved ones. Congregations can offer Christian hospitality and become arks of refuge to all. We must remember that:

- the face that AIDS wears is always the face of a person created and loved by God;
- the face that AIDS wears is always the face of a person who is someone's mother or father, husband or wife, son or daughter, brother or sister, loved one or best friend;
- the face that AIDS wears is always the face of a person who is the most important person in someone else's life.

2. Each congregation and annual conference, through their Church and Society committees, should mobilize persons for legislative advocacy at the local, state and national levels to support for HIV/AIDS initiatives in the United States. These advocacy efforts will be strengthened through partnerships with organizations/coalitions who are currently involved in this issue.

3. Educational efforts about AIDS should use reliable medical and scientific information about the disease, transmission, and prevention. Spiritual resources must also be included to enable people to address issues related to discipleship, ministry, human sexuality, health and wholeness, and death and dying. Education helps to prepare congregations to respond appropriately when they learn that a member has been infected by the HIV virus or diagnosed with AIDS. It can lead to the development of sound policies, educational materials and procedures related to the church school, nurseries, and other issues of institutional participation. Prevention education can save lives.

4. Each congregation should discern the appropriate response for its context. Ministries should be developed, whenever possible, in consultation and collaboration with local departments of public health and with other United Methodist, ecumenical, interfaith, and community-based groups concerned about the HIV/AIDS pandemic. Congregations can organize to provide spiritual, emotional, physical and/or financial support to those in their community who are caring at home or elsewhere for a person who has AIDS. Projects might include observing events such as World AIDS Day (December 1) and the Black Church Week of Prayer for the Healing of AIDS (first week in March), sponsoring support groups for people with AIDS and their loved ones, developing strong general church programs for children and youth that also include AIDS education, pastoral counseling, recruiting volunteers, and offering meeting space for community-based organizations, including groups trying to overcome substance abuse and sexual addiction.

5. The United Methodist Church has a congregational HIV/AIDS ministry called the Covenant to Care Program, whose basic principle is "If you have HIV/AIDS or are the loved one of a person who has HIV/AIDS, you are welcome here." We commend those who have been in ministry through this program and recommend "Covenant to Care" to all United Methodist organizations. More information is available on the General Board of Global

Ministries' Web site at <http://gbgm-umc.org/health/aids/>.18

ADOPTED 2004

See Social Principles, ¶ 162S.

Resolution 153. World AIDS Day Observance

Each year, World AIDS Day is observed on December 1. It is a time for special programs on HIV/AIDS education and religious worship services that focus on intercessory and healing prayer, hope in God, and love and compassion in the midst of the HIV/AIDS pandemic.

We recommend that United Methodists be encouraged to observe World AIDS Day on or around December 1. We further recommend that voluntary offerings be given to "Global HIV/AIDS Program Development" (UMCOR Advance #982345-7).

Materials for World AIDS Day are available each year from UNAIDS (<http://www.unaids.org>), the General Board of Church and Society (<http://www.umb-gbcs.org>), and the General Board of Global Ministries (<http://gbgm-umc.org/health/>) of The United Methodist Church.

ADOPTED 1996, AMENDED AND READOPTED 2004

See Social Principles, ¶ 162S.

Resolution 154. United Methodist Global AIDS Fund Distribution

WHEREAS, for twenty years the General Conference of The United Methodist Church has spoken with prophetic compassion to the global issue of HIV/AIDS. Our resolutions, however, have not been matched by a resolve to commit significant financial and denominational resources in the struggle for education, prevention, treatment and care in the worldwide struggle against HIV/AIDS; and

WHEREAS, the United Nations has now declared the pandemic a "global emergency," saying human life is threatened everywhere and

world security is at risk as the planet faces the worst health crisis in 700 years; and

WHEREAS, with 42 million people infected, more than 20 million already deceased, and 16,000 new infections daily, the leaders of all the nations in the world unanimously asked faith-based organizations to join them in the battle to save human life; and

WHEREAS, to date the response of Christians, including United Methodists, has been minimal, particularly in comparison to our resources and other commitments;

Therefore, be it resolved, that the 2004 General Conference commits itself to establishing the United Methodist Global AIDS Fund (UMGAF). During the 2005-2008 quadrennium, United Methodists will raise \$3 million through apportionments and match this with an additional \$5 million through Advance gifts;

Be it further resolved, that of the total money raised in each annual conference for UMGAF, 25 percent shall be retained by the annual conference that raised it, to be used in programs combating HIV/AIDS in their region and in other global connectional projects. Each annual conference shall designate an appropriate agency for the promotion and distribution of these funds.

Be it further resolved, that of the total money raised in each annual conference for the United Methodist Global AIDS Fund, 75 percent shall be remitted by the conference treasurer to the treasurer of the General Council on Finance and Administration for distribution to a new Global AIDS Initiatives Committee (with no more than ten total representatives from the General Board of Global Ministries, Council of Bishops,

298. The Church and the Global HIV/AIDS Pandemic

In response to the global HIV/AIDS pandemic, The United Methodist Church will work cooperatively with colleague churches in every region. The Bible is replete with calls to nations, religious leaders, and faithful people to address

General Board of Church and Society, Youth and Young Adults Ministries, and three persons not serving with any of these agencies).

Be it further resolved, that this Global AIDS Initiatives Committee will be responsible for the promotion, use, supervision and distribution of these funds. The United Methodist Global AIDS Fund will:

1. assist local congregations and conferences in identifying and creating global partnerships for mutual HIV/AIDS ministry;
2. provide support for projects sponsored by local congregations or organizations related to The United Methodist Church, partner autonomous Methodist churches and the ecumenical church;
3. encourage partnerships between congregations and conferences in the United States and Methodist congregations and ecumenical organizations globally that are engaged in the struggle against HIV/AIDS;
4. advocate for social justice, particularly related to increasing governmental and non-governmental funding and issues regarding the role of pharmaceutical companies;
5. develop appropriate promotional materials and funding guidelines; and
6. Engage the leadership of a person with appropriate skills for a special global AIDS assignment (#4091c).

Adopted 2004 See Social Principles ¶165S

the needs of those who are suffering, ill, and in distress. Jesus Christ reached out and healed those who came to him, including people who were despised and rejected because of their illnesses and afflictions. His identification with suffering people was made clear when he said that "whatsoever you do to the least of these, you also do to me" (Matthew 25:40,

paraphrased). His commandment to "do to others as you would have them do to you" (Matthew 7:12) is a basis for the church for full involvement and compassionate response.

The Global Impact of HIV/AIDS

The global statistics are grim. At the end of 2006, 39.5 million adults and children were living with HIV/AIDS in the world; of these 37.2 million were adults and 2.3 million were children.

At this time, there is no cure for HIV/AIDS. It is mainly spread through intimate sexual contact with an infected person, by needle-sharing among injecting drug users, and, less commonly, through transfusions of infected blood or blood clotting factors. HIV can also be contracted if unsterilized needles tainted with infected blood are used by health care workers, tattooists, and acupuncturists. Other routes of transmission are through transplantation of organs from infected individuals, donated semen, and skin piercing instruments used in cosmetic, traditional, and ceremonial practices. AIDS is not caused by witchcraft, mosquito bites, or nonsexual contact such as shaking hands or hugs.

The HIV/AIDS pandemic compounds the strain on institutions and resources, while at the same time undermining social systems that enable people to cope with adversity. In seriously affected nations, HIV/AIDS compromises education and health systems, shrinks economic output and undermines socio-political stability. With life expectancy falling and the labor force becoming decimated, many countries are facing low economic growth rates. In parts of southern Africa, a food shortage has added to the woes. Agricultural productivity is declining as more and more women and young people are infected and become unable to work in the fields. The ramifications of HIV/AIDS are particularly grave for societies where the extended family is

the system of social security for the care of elderly people, those who are ill, and orphans.

Women and Children

Women and children have been affected in increasing numbers. Deaths from AIDS have left 13 million orphans in Africa; the number is expected to rise to 25 million by 2010. These children are being looked after by extended families, older siblings in child-headed households, and orphan trusts. Older relatives, especially women, have to bear an enormous burden of taking care of the orphans. In countries that are also affected by war and civil strife, children and young people are more vulnerable to becoming infected with HIV because they are at the higher risk of sexual abuse, forced military recruitment and prostitution.

This burden is increased when women are also faced with stigma and discrimination and the hardships of civil strife, war, and famine. Women often have less status and less access to education, health care, and economic security than men, which in turn affect their ability to protect themselves from infection. Many cannot say "no" or negotiate the use of condoms because they fear they will be divorced or that their husband or other male partner will respond by battering them. Pregnant women who are HIV positive may be subjected to forced sterilizations or abortions. The use of rape and sexual violence as instruments of war adds a further serious dimension. As of 2006 according to UNAIDS, 17.7 million of the 39.5 persons infected with AIDS are women.

Health budgets and resources are being adversely affected in countries that have to care for increasing numbers of citizens afflicted with HIV/AIDS. For example, it costs \$300 to treat a person for a year using the cheapest form of generic antiretroviral drugs, but very few can

afford this medicine in sub-Saharan Africa. Antiretroviral drugs and other medicines must be made available at an affordable cost, especially in sub-Saharan Africa. Until effective preventive strategies are implemented, helpful medicines are made universally available, and an effective vaccine is introduced, the future is bleak for deterring the spread of HIV/AIDS.

The suffering borne by individuals, families, and communities and the strain placed on health-care facilities and national economies, call for intensified cooperative efforts by every sector of society, including the church, to slow and prevent the spread of HIV, provide appropriate care of those already ill and speed the development of an effective and affordable vaccine. Those caring for AIDS patients need support too. Communities, health-care workers, and home-care programs must be equipped to meet the challenge.

Drugs and AIDS

Of the 40 million persons living with HIV, two to three million are injecting drug users. Many more have used, and continue to use, alcohol and other drugs.

The international drug trade knows no boundaries or frontiers and has no specific national identity. It is now worth an estimated \$400 billion per year and is organized and managed like a multinational corporation. Drugs of all kinds are now produced in all regions of the world. Despite its illegality, drug production and distribution has become a major source of revenue for many countries. The most lucrative markets remain in the United States and Western Europe, but consumption is spreading fast in Eastern Europe, Southeast Asia, and throughout Africa.

In the United States, an estimated one-third of HIV/AIDS cases are related to injecting drug use. Substance abuse is directly tied to the increase in HIV/AIDS among women. Women are primarily infected with HIV through

injecting drugs (48 percent) or heterosexual transmission from an infected partner, who is often himself a drug user (54 percent).

Research has shown over and over again that drug use, injected or otherwise, can affect decision-making, especially about engaging in unsafe sex, which in turn promotes the spread of AIDS. A research study conducted by The National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse revealed that of the 15- to 24-year-olds surveyed:

- 50 percent say "people their age" mix alcohol or drugs and sex "a lot."
- 73 percent believe that their peers often don't use condoms when alcohol and drugs are in the picture.
- 37 percent want more information about how alcohol or drugs might affect their decisions about having sex.

The Role of United Methodists

The global AIDS pandemic provides a nearly unparalleled opportunity for witness to the gospel through service, advocacy, and other healing ministries. United Methodist public health specialists, health workers, social workers, teachers, missionaries, clergy, and laity live and work in areas where the AIDS pandemic is spreading. United Methodist congregations, schools, health facilities, women's, men's, and youth groups can play a major role by providing awareness, support, education, and care to those affected by HIV/AIDS.

Recommendations:

In response to the HIV/AIDS crisis in the world, The United Methodist Church commits itself to a holistic approach of awareness, education, prevention, treatment, community organizing and public advocacy. Out of our love and concern for our brothers, sisters and children in our local and global communities, the following actions are strongly recommended.

A. Local congregations worldwide to:

1. be places of openness where persons whose lives have been touched by HIV/AIDS can name their pain and reach out for compassion, understanding, and acceptance in the presence of persons who bear Christ's name;
2. provide care and support to individuals and families whose lives have been touched by HIV/AIDS;
3. be centers of education and provide group support and encouragement to help men, women, and youth refrain from activities and behaviors associated with transmission of HIV infection;
4. advocate for increased levels of funding for HIV/AIDS. In the United States, persons should contact their U.S. Congresspersons and urge adequate funding for the Global Fund for AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria as well as the United States' bilateral initiatives on AIDS. Additionally, funding for the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) must be guaranteed from the United States each year. UNFPA works diligently to provide resources for reproductive health of women and girls as well as HIV/AIDS prevention;
5. observe World AIDS Day on or around December 1 each year. Materials for World AIDS Day are available from the Web sites of UNAIDS (<http://www.unaids.org>), the General Board of Global Ministries (<http://gbgm-umc.org/health/>), and the General Board of Church and Society (<http://www.umc-gbcs.org>).
6. include problems of alcohol, drug abuse and unsafe sex and the value of abstinence as part of Christian education;
7. provide support, comfort and care to those afflicted with alcohol-related problems, drug addiction and HIV/AIDS within their given mandate;
8. make available creative programs and activities for school children, youth and young adults that keep them away from alcohol and drug abuse; and
9. promote and make available peer education models based on empowerment and self-determination.

B. General program agencies to:

1. assist related health institutions to obtain supplies and equipment to screen donated blood and provide voluntary HIV testing;
2. support efforts by churches, projects, and mission personnel within regions to promote disease prevention and to respond to the needs of family care providers and extended families;
3. facilitate partnership relationships between institutions and personnel from region to region, as appropriate, to share models and effective approaches regarding prevention, education, care, and support for individuals and families with HIV/AIDS;
4. assist health workers to obtain regional specific, timely updates on the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of HIV/AIDS;
5. facilitate the sharing of pastoral-care resources and materials dedicated to the care of persons and families whose lives have been touched by HIV;
6. respond to requests from the regions to develop training seminars and workshops for church-related personnel in cooperation with ecumenical efforts, private voluntary organizations, and programs already existing in the regions;
7. advocate national, regional, and international cooperation in the development, availability, and transport of appropriate/relevant equipment and supplies for infection control, disease prevention, and treatment; and
8. support programs that focus on the enhancement of women through economic justice and education as well as programs that provide comprehensive reproductive health services, family planning, and HIV/AIDS prevention information.

9. work cooperatively with the Office of the Special Program on Substance Abuse and Related Violence (SPSARV) of the General Board of Global Ministries on issues related to drugs and AIDS;

10. urge the Federal Government to improve interagency cooperation and coordination to fight the double scourge of drugs and AIDS. (General Board of Church & Society and General Board of Global Ministries).

C. Annual Conferences to:

1. explore HIV prevention and care needs within their areas and to develop conference-wide plans for appropriate, effective responses;

2. promote pastoral responses to persons with HIV/AIDS that affirm the presence of God's love, grace, and healing mercies;

3. encourage every local church to reach out through proclamation and education to help prevent the spread of HIV infection and to utilize and strengthen the efforts and leadership potential of men's, women's, and youth groups; and

D. Episcopal leaders to:

1. issue pastoral letters calling for compassionate ministries and the development of educational programs that recognize the HIV/AIDS epidemic as a public health threat of major global and regional significance; and

See Social Principles, ¶¶ 165B and 162S

Global AIDS Fund and Comprehensive Education

The 2008 General Conference supports the work and mission of the Global AIDS Fund in

2. provide a level of leadership equal to the suffering and desperation that individuals, families, and communities are experiencing.

God's Unconditional Love and Christ's Healing Ministry

The unconditional love of God, witnessed to and manifested through Christ's healing ministry, provides an ever-present sign and call to the church and all persons of faith to join efforts to prevent the spread of HIV, provide care and treatment to those who are already infected and ill, uphold the preciousness of God's creation through proclamation and affirmation, and be harbingers of hope, mercy, goodness, forgiveness, and reconciliation within the world.

The United Methodist Church unequivocally condemns stigmatization and discrimination of persons with HIV/AIDS and violence perpetrated against persons who are or presumed to be infected with HIV. The United Methodist Church advocates the full involvement of the church at all levels to be in ministry with, and to respond fully to the needs of, persons, families, and communities whose lives have been affected by HIV/AIDS. In keeping with our faith in the risen Christ, we confess our belief that God has received those who have died, that the wounds of living loved ones will be healed, and that Christ, through the Holy Spirit, is present among us as we strive to exemplify what it means to be bearers of Christ's name in the midst of the global HIV/AIDS pandemic.

ADOPTED 2004, Revised 2008

addressing the AIDS pandemic around the globe and call for its renewal. The United Methodist Social Principles state that "all individuals living with HIV and AIDS should be treated with dignity and respect." We urge the Church to be actively involved in the prevention of the spread of AIDS by providing educational opportunities to the congregation and the community."

In our support of the work and mission of the United Methodist Global AIDS Fund, we call for its expansion. The Global AIDS Fund shall develop comprehensive educational resources concerning prevention, harm reduction, myths and stigma regarding HIV/AIDS, and care for individuals and communities living with HIV/AIDS to be made available to local churches, annual conferences, and central conferences throughout the connection.

Adopted 2008

Note Concerning Resolutions:

Resolutions passed at General Conference are active for 2 Quadrenniums (8 years).

Resolutions passed by the 2008 General Conference go into effect on January 1, 2009.

This report was produced by the General Board of Church & Society of The United Methodist Church, 2008.

Please feel free to photo copy and distribute.

Information: Contact GBCS, 202-488-5600.