

WE ARE ONE!



2016-2020 Rainbow Covenant Book
Northern Illinois Conference of the United Methodist Church

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Rainbow Covenant Advance Book
Northern Illinois Conference of the United Methodist Church
Version 2016.1
"We Are One"
Cover Art:
Jordan (age 9) and Lauren (age 10) from Mt. Hope UMC, McHenry, IL

The contents of this book are valid from 2016-2020 (through December), with updates generated annually.
Check www.umcnic.org for the latest updates.

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How to Use This Book

This book gives an overview of how the United Methodist Church is connected through giving, a process commonly called “apportionments” or Connectional Giving. Your congregation, mission committee, or small group can learn about apportioned funds across the connection, give to Advances in a specific area, or learn about the missionaries our Annual Conference supports.

Link with work in a specific country

Introduce your church to a Missionary

Give a “Minute for Missions” about Apportionments

Many will use this book to become a **Rainbow Covenant**

Congregation. These congregations pay their apportionments in full and then decide to go a step further by funding at least one Advance in each of the areas of the rainbow. Rainbow Covenant congregations choose any Advance listed in the six areas to support.

What is an Advance?

The Advance for Christ and His Church (The Advance) is the United Methodist program for designated mission giving. Begun in 1948, over one billion dollars have been given through the Advance.



Advance funds are specifically designated for particular projects or ministries, allowing the Church to “advance” the cause of Christ through new church development, disaster relief, missionary support, health services, agricultural, and many other programs.

The Advance represents “second-mile” mission giving, the “first mile” being apportionment giving. After giving those apportioned dollars, your congregation may choose to partner with an existing project or ministry. Because overhead costs are covered by other donations, **100% of every gift to the Advance goes to the ministry designated.** The Advance seeks to operate with the highest level of accountability, integrity and transparency. For each Advance, there is a system of **accountability** in place to ensure all gifts reach the intended ministry. Audits are also conducted, and appropriate action suggested.

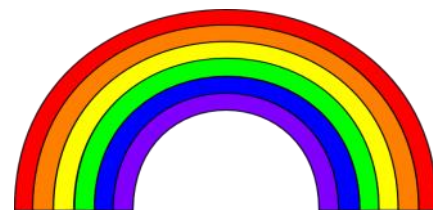
This Annual Conference also participates in designating and monitoring Advances designated Conference or District Advances. Conference Advances serve the entire Northern Illinois area and District Advances offer ministry services within a particular district. Other eligibility criteria apply. The Northern Illinois Conference votes to approve these advances each year.

How to Participate in the Rainbow Covenant



1. Pay 100% of your Church’s Apportionments.

2. Select at least one project in EACH of the SIX color bands of the Rainbow Covenant.



Red*

International Advance Projects

Orange*

Emergency Relief Projects

Yellow*

US-Based Advances

Green

Northern Illinois Conference

Blue

NIC Districts

Purple

Missionary Support

** You are not limited to Advances listed in this book. Check online for more at www.umcmision.org/advance*



3. Send your church’s gifts to the Conference Treasurer’s office.

Send a check along with your monthly apportionment payment. In the memo line, indicate the Advance number or the missionary name.

All payments are due by January 10th.

Connectional Giving: An Introduction to Apportionments

Biblical Study

The writer of I Corinthians 12 illustrates the connection of one person to another in the church. He calls each person a member of Christ's Body, each with important work to do. That connection is so clearly felt that when "one suffers, all suffer; when one is honored, all rejoice." (I Cor. 12:26). We share both in the pain that is felt and in the joys we share together. That connection is not just between individuals but between all people in the Church.



In Acts 2: 42-47, we see how daily communion and evangelism was a vital part of the Church. One of the most striking features of our early ancestry is that those members would "sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need" (vs. 45, NRSV). From our beginning, the Church has been about sharing God's gifts with others. Financial gifts, especially to support the missional work of the church, have connected us as Christ's Body since the beginning.

*From our very beginning,
the Church has been
about sharing God's gifts
with others.*

United Methodist History

Our connection together as a Church is a central part of being United Methodist. The founder of Methodism, John Wesley, emphasized our connection as "do[ing] all the good you can...in all the places you can...to all the people you can, as long as ever you can." Doing good in all places to all people meant supporting Christ's work to bring healing and wholeness to places of deepest need.



*Do all the good you can...
in all the places you can...
to all the people you can,
as long as ever you can.*

- John Wesley

For both Methodist and Evangelical United Brethren, the forerunners to our United Methodist church, believers felt that "doing all the good we can" meant being in Christ's missional work together. That missional work was not just supporting a project, but it meant building a relationship beyond a local area. That connected ministry became a part of who they were. When those in churches gave, they were able to be engaged both locally and throughout the world. That giving connected local churches, knit by common cause and common giving to be God's people together.

For more, see www.umcgiving.org

Apportionments

As a reflection of our history and heritage, the United Methodist church has adopted what are called "Apportionments." These financial contributions represent the connection of our church. They enable our church to carry out its mission, its call, and the work of Christ throughout the world.

*Apportionments allow us
to do together
what no church,
district,
or annual conference
could do alone.*

These apportionments are financial gifts that go beyond one local setting and work with the United Methodist churches across a district, Conference, and throughout the globe. Apportionments are not to be considered "special gifts," but rather, they are similar to our tithes which we give to our local church. These funds are to be set aside and given first priority in our church budgets (some call them "first-mile" giving). Some have used the phrase that apportionments are "a portion meant for others." These gifts show how we are connected together, allowing us to do together what no church, district, or annual conference could do alone.

These apportionments are our connection together. For that reason, we often refer to them as "connectional giving." These gifts enable a church to be connected to a missionary in Cambodia. They start new churches in Malawi, Senegal, and Eastern Europe. They enable a young person sensing a call to ministry to attend seminary and then be placed in the care of a Conference and Bishop. Apportionments also support pastors, possibly even your pastor. Local churches, districts, and the Annual Conference all utilize apportionments to do missional work. These are the threads that connect the Body of Christ.

Connectional Giving: Church Apportionments

World Service Fund

When United Methodist congregations give to the annual General Church apportionments, the work that is done around the world is accomplished through the World Service Fund. It funds all of the general agencies and boards of the United Methodist Church. It supports missionary personnel and administrative costs of many areas.



Black College Fund

This fund supports the programs and ministries of 11 historically black colleges and universities, including one medical school. These gifts reflect the value our Church has on education, especially those who have been historically excluded.



Ministerial Education Fund

The Ministerial Education Fund provides funds for recruitment of clergy candidates and provides financial support for 13 United Methodist seminaries including Garrett -Evangelical Theological Seminary in Evanston.



General Administration Fund

This fund helps maintain a system of management oversight and fiscal accountability. It underwrites General Conference and the Judicial Council.

The Seven General Apportionment Funds

With over 12 million members working in 136 countries, the United Methodist Church's global reach is because of these seven funds.

Episcopal Fund

Bishops oversee and promote the church's spiritual interests. The Episcopal Fund provides for United Methodist bishops worldwide, including salaries, housing, office expenses and travel costs of active bishops, and provide pension and health benefit coverage for bishops and family members who might be in a bishop's household.



Interdenominational Cooperation Fund

The fund works with ecumenical and interreligious partners such as the World Council of Churches, Churches Uniting in Christ, and World Methodist Council.

Africa University



Africa University, located in Zimbabwe, is the first fully accredited United Methodist-related institution on the African continent. The University promotes independence and empowerment through a diverse student body from across the continent.



Connectional Giving: Apportionments in the Northern Illinois Conference

Narrative Budget

The Northern Illinois Conference produces a Narrative Budget that includes stories, figures, and photos that can be used in "minute for missions," stewardship moments, and general education. This document would be the most up-to-date information about apportionments in the Conference. In 2016, there were three major areas for the NIC budget:

- 1.Support for Ordained Leadership
- 2.Mission and Evangelism
- 3.Program Ministry.



Support for Ordained Leadership

This area supports the Cabinet, including District Superintendents and their support staff, the Board of Ordained Ministry, and Clergy Relocation Expenses incurred when clergy are asked to move. Ministerial Education Funds are also included.

Mission and Evangelism

This area is composed of Church Development and Redevelopment and also supports New Faith communities. It also supports the Institute for Congregational Development (ICD) and Latina/Latino Academy.



Members of the Latina/Latino Academy receive certificates which also allow them to serve in local churches.

Program Ministry

The Program area comprises all of the committees and boards of the NIC (about 60). It is represented by the Nurture, Outreach, and Witness & Advocacy work areas. Each committee in these work areas represents a touch-point for the Conference to impact your congregation or individual lives in your community. The Program Area gives an opportunity for leaders to develop and share their skills beyond one local church and serve the whole Annual Conference.

Program Ministry funds support Creative Ministry grants, such as the coat ministry of Grace UMC in Dixon, IL.



GLOBAL ADVANCE PROJECTS (RED BAND)

The following projects are a partial listing of the many Global Advance Projects available for support. These have been chosen because of their connection to the Northern Illinois context and/or their on-going support by NIC churches. Visit <https://www.umcmmission.org/Give-to-Mission/Search-for-Projects/Advance-Project-Search> to select other Advances.

Cienagueta Ngobe Community Health Project (#14969A)

Working in Panama with indigenous communities, short-term medical teams provide care and training for local health and wellness workers to promote the wellbeing of their community.



Grace Children's Hospital and Pediatric Clinic, Haiti (#418520)

Grace Children's Hospital in Port-au-Prince provides care for children and families with tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS, respiratory infections, and those impacted by the earthquake. In this area where many live on less than \$1/day, the hospital provides much-needed immediate care and follow-up clinical care for children and families.

Lithuania In Mission Together (#12168A) and In Mission Together

The In Mission Together project allows local congregations to partner with specific congregations in regions of new mission development. The hope is that a 50/50 joint partnership may be achieved through a covenant of multi-year financial support and relationship building. Current In Mission Together countries include Cambodia, Cameroon, Honduras, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Latvia, Lithuania, Mongolia, Russia (and Belarus), Senegal, Thailand, and Vietnam. www.umcmmission.org/Get-Involved/Partnerships/In-Mission-Together

Living Well with AIDS (#3021529)

Begun in 2012 by members of the Northern Illinois Conference, this program supports AIDS education and support. Eastern and Southern Africa is home to half of the world's population living with HIV, including 48% percent of the world's new infections among adults, 55% among children and 48% of AIDS-related deaths. The project has demonstrated that with proper tools and methods, communities in one-year campaigns can reduce HIV infections, increase testing to 82% of the community, and care for family of those lost to the virus.



Micro Credit in Mo-Dega and Pepease, Ghana (#3020810)

The mixed-farming project is set up to reduce food shortages through improved crop reproduction processes and providing viable seed lands for production on an out-grower basis as well as production of animals for supply to peasant farmers.

Mujila Falls Agricultural Research and Training Center, Zambia (#15016A)

The Mujila Falls is where NIC-supported missionary Betty Tshala shares the good news of Jesus Christ through sustainable agriculture and health care. It helps the Lunda Ndembu people to better feed their families and gain economic independence through agriculture and family-based health, nutrition, and spiritual care.

Pan-African Rural Health & Social Services (PRHeSS), Sierra Leone (#3021290)

Begun by members in Northern Illinois, this agency works in Sierra Leone to provide clean drinking water, education, and to reduce poverty and hunger. It aims to provide education for 2800 children in the Fallay Wujah section of Sierra Leone and to increase the health and sanitation of 7,000 residents there. africanhopeanddignity.org

Peru-Titicaca Border Ministry, Bolivia (#3021288)

Individual Volunteers in Mission Deborah Rissing and Jeffrey Wasilevich from Downers Grove UMC have been present in Bolivia since 2011 to support this ministry. The region around Lake Titicaca is among the poorest in Peru and Bolivia, populated by indigenous Aymara. Their goals are to strengthen their local churches, improve their economy and health, and develop sustainable resources. misionfronteras.com



Solar Ovens Partners UMC (#418812)

This solar oven training and distribution program works in the Dominican Republic. Providing both the knowledge and the tools to alleviate hunger and human suffering through clean, affordable solar cooking, SOP's success hinges on a two-fold approach: 1) Education in the concepts of solar box cooking to conserve meager family income and reduce the environmental devastation of clear-cutting trees; and 2) Training to maximize the use of solar energy for the basic human needs of safe water and healthy food. SOP previously worked in Haiti, distributing over 10,000 solar ovens. Each oven costs \$150 to make and ship. www.solarovenpartnersumc.org

Senegal Mission Initiative (#12594A) and Mission Initiatives

Throughout the world, there are currently 10 mission initiatives where the United Methodist Church has started over 800 churches and continues to build relationships in new settings. These locations include Cambodia, Cameroon, Central Asia, Central Africa, Honduras, Laos, Mongolia, Senegal, Thailand, and Vietnam. Visit <https://www.umcmmission.org/Get-Involved/Partnerships/Mission-Initiatives>. NIC missionaries Rev. Bill and Roberta A. Smith and the Rev. Al and Mavis Streyffeler began this work. Indigenous leadership now leads the work.

DISASTER RELIEF (ORANGE BAND)

These projects provide immediate relief during disasters, and they are directly related to the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR). Find out more about UMCOR at www.umcor.org



Global Refugee/Migration Response (#3022144)

Millions of refugees are fleeing war, persecution, and violence in their homelands, often running with just the clothes on their backs. They are traversing borders in Africa, Europe, the Americas, and Asia, in search of safety, protection, and a chance at life. UMCOR and Global Ministries address the global refugee and migration contexts to allow for safe passage, welcome, belonging, and caring for new arrivals.

UMCOR's Sager Brown Depot (#901515)

In 1996, a 48,000 square foot processing/warehousing facility was constructed on this historic property at the Sager Brown Center in Baldwin, Louisiana. Over 2,700 volunteers stay and work at UMCOR Sager Brown each year processing supplies for worldwide disaster relief and working in local outreach programs.

United Methodist Committee on Relief—Undesignated (#999895)

UMCOR provides humanitarian relief and disaster response in the United States and internationally. These undesignated funds allow UMCOR to allocate funds to disasters as they arise. umcor.org

United Methodist Global AIDS Fund—UMGAF (#982345)

The UMGAF funds Christ-centered HIV & AIDS projects throughout the world. Advocacy for prevention, care, and treatment has been a consistent focus of UMGAF since its founding in 2004. Of the total given, 25% is kept in each Annual Conference for programs combatting HIV & AIDS in their region and/or in other global connectional projects.

You may also support agencies that are UMCOR partners, such as:

Appalachia Service Project (ASP) (#982050)

Bread for the World (BFW) (#982325)

Church World Service (CWS) Blankets+ Program (#982810)

Foods Resource Bank — FRB (#982493)

Heifer Project International (HPI) — Living Gifts (#982532-1)

US-BASED PROJECTS (YELLOW BAND)

These projects are related to work in the United States and relate to the on-going work of justice in the Northern Illinois Conference.

African-American Methodist Heritage Center (#3020514)

Black Methodists for Church Renewal determined in 2003 that the history of African Americans was not being adequately told. The history was, in fact lost in attics, basements, and even thrown away. The African-American Heritage Center was created, partnering with the General Commission on Archives and History. aamhc-umc.org

Caretakers of God's Creation (#3021583)

This project aims to help God's people reconnect with the creation because we were created out of the dust of the earth. This program holds national conferences, attends United Nations conferences on climate change, and provides resources for Conferences and local congregations. The organization works with Conferences and local congregations. www.umccreationcare.org

Tree of Life Ministry, Pierre, South Dakota (#123615)

This ministry with Lakota Native Americans addresses needs on the Rosebud and Pine Ridge reservations in South Dakota by "nurturing the body, strengthening culture, and enhancing the spirit." This ministry provides groceries and meals to the hungry; repairs to substandard homes; and supports local teachers as they reclaim native culture and language. treeofliferelief.org



UMVIM-North Central Jurisdiction (#901375)

UMVIM-NCJ (United Methodist Volunteers in Mission-North Central Jurisdiction) is charged with resourcing individuals, teams, leaders, and UMVIM projects in this jurisdiction. This office maintains a future teams list, sends out e-newsletters, and maintains the National Project List. It also assists Emergency Response Training (ERT) and VIM leader training. umvimncj.org

Learn more about these or other advances at umcmmission.org

CONFERENCE ADVANCE PROJECTS (GREEN BAND)

Each year, the Northern Illinois Conference (NIC) votes to select certain projects as Conference-level Advances. These ministries work within the whole Northern Illinois area and are related to the NIC through volunteers, board members, and/or financial support.

- Below many descriptions are keywords to direct your congregation's search.

Abounding Ministries (#50000122)

Abounding Ministries seeks to make disciples of Jesus Christ through dynamic Worship, Motivational Speaking, Retreats and Print Resources. The NIC Conference Evangelist circuit-rides among our local churches facilitating inclusive, upbeat worship experiences that strengthen the spiritual life, mission and evangelism of congregations, while offering Training and print resources. This full-time appointment within the NIC is non-salaried. Jane Rubietta partners with Rich as an Author and Conference Leader focusing on Women's issues, spiritual formation, and strengthening relationships between congregations and clergy families. AM is a 501.3.C Non-Profit Corporation under the umbrella the United Methodist Church.



Rich Rubietta leads worship with Abounding Ministries.

Bethany Methodist Good Samaritan Program (#50000057)

The Good Samaritan Program cares for homeless, neglected, abused, and indigent adults of all ages through medical, housing, and spiritual services offered with compassion and respect. It provides hospital and physician visits, medications, safe and comfortable apartments for persons without resources, and is active at all Bethany Methodist sites. It also assists employees in crisis, such as domestic violence, fire, and at-risk children. We treasure our role as an extension ministry of the Northern Illinois Conference of The United Methodist Church, and are blessed to respond to the Call to Care for God's people.

- Older Adult Ministry

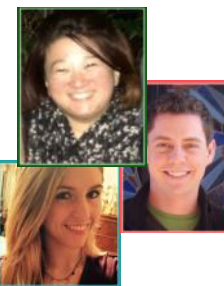
Campus Ministries

Korean-American Campus Ministry (#50000076)

Since 1982, KACM is a campus ministry program of Northern Illinois Conference for Korean and Korean-American young adults, college students and faculty in the mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ. Our main campus is the University of Chicago and our hope is to expand our program territory to other universities and colleges in Chicago area so that more students can experience the good news of our Lord, Jesus Christ. The requested fund will be used for this purpose. Rev. Mosung Eam, chicago.kacm@gmail.com

New + Inclusive Ministry at UIC (#50000128)

New + Inclusive Ministry (formerly Agape House) is a campus ministry of the United Methodist Church and the Presbyterian Church (USA), and we operate at the University of Illinois at Chicago. We seek to provide an inclusive and vibrant faith community where all students can experience the grace of Jesus and become people who make God's dream for our world into reality. We are growing ministry made up of students from UIC and other Chicago colleges and universities.



North Central College Albright-Wesley Society (#50000136)

The Albright-Wesley Society at North Central College (formerly the Center for Church Leadership) provides opportunities for North Central college students to grow in their understanding and skill in vocational discernment and preparation for ministry. Conference support covers national and international conference opportunities for students, ministerial and vocational retreats, and support for internships with local, national, and international organizations and UM churches. The AWS also supports the New Beginnings Summer Ministry Team. This traveling team works with local UM churches to provide Vacation Bible Schools while allowing students to gain valuable leadership and ministry training.



NIU Wesley Foundation at Northern Illinois University (#50000135)

The mission of the Wesley Foundation at Northern Illinois University is to bring the excitement of life with Christ to the Northern Illinois University community. Campus ministry at NIU is to develop faith and safe community in NIU as Wesley Foundation every semester. This faith community in NIU supports and encourages students to be connected each other, to grow in faith, and to be leaders for the world that we want to transform.

University Christian Ministry at Northwestern University (#50000101)

University Christian Ministry's mission is to empower thoughtful Christian leaders for the global church and the complex world. Through a program of worship, study, fellowship, and service, UCM encourages spiritual growth in the young adult leaders of our church.

Community Partners for the Common Good Fund (CPCG) (#4000001)

CPCG works in partnership with local churches, interfaith, and other community organizations to identify and secure the necessary resources to fulfill community goals and aspirations. Contributions received will support the Loan and Grant Program for Chicago area United Methodist Churches.

Crossroads of Life Prison Faith Community (#5000151)

Crossroads of Life Prison Faith Community (COLPFC) is a new United Methodist mission-church plant within a women's correctional facility in Illinois. The charge of COLPFC is to create and nurture faith in Jesus Christ within incarcerated women. COL is working toward establishing a United Methodist Church within the walls of the women's correctional facility. A number of women participating in the ministry have committed themselves to Christ. The sacraments of baptism and communion are available to all. Outreach programs by incarcerated women include using plastic yarn to knit mats for the homeless, caps for newborns, and prayer shawls.

- *Prison Ministry*
- *Incarcerated Women*

ChildServ (#5000011)

ChildServ began in 1894 as the Methodist Deaconess Orphanage and later was named the Lake Bluff Home for Children. Today, ChildServ is a highly experienced, multidisciplinary child and family services network reaching children and families facing adversity in four Illinois counties: Cook, DuPage, Kane, and Lake. Our community-based programs focus is to improve the lives of vulnerable children and their families, foster parents, and other caregivers. ChildServ reaches 3,000 at-risk children and families annually. Programs include foster care and adoption, group homes, child care, early childhood education and parenting support, military and veteran family support, and healthy life-style information.

- *Children and families*
- *Veterans and veteran families*

Disaster Preparedness and Response Fund (#5000148)

This fund helps to prepare for a disaster before the event and to respond to the disaster, assessing how we can minimize damage and loss in the future. It's not a matter of WHETHER something will happen but WHEN. Every season has the potential for disaster. Floods. Tornadoes. Fires. Ice storms. Your Rainbow Covenant commitment will provide training of response teams, education of churches and communities, and both immediate and long term funds after disaster hits. We also offer spiritual care and support.

Disciple Bible Outreach Ministries of Illinois (DBOM-IL) (#5000149)

DBOM connects local United Methodist congregations to those incarcerated through using the DISCIPLE Bible Study. This is a state-wide effort of both the Northern Illinois Conference and Illinois Great Rivers Annual Conference. DBOM-IL will send teams of 3-5 volunteers from local churches into prisons (including federal facilities) to engage in DISCIPLE Bible Study with about 15 inmates.

Facing Forward to End Homelessness (#5000007)

Facing Forward to End Homelessness ends homelessness for families and individuals by offering home, help and hope. Facing Forward provides permanent housing, education, advocacy, and social services. Facing Forward to End Homelessness has been transforming the lives of Chicago's most chronically homeless women and children for 30 years by empowering them with the stability of a real home and the tools they need to go from powerless to confidently independent. We are currently providing *housing, hope* and *help* to 64 single women and 57 families. The United Methodist Church was one of Facing Forward's initial founding denominations.

Client with Facing Forward to End Homelessness.



Illinois Church Action on Alcohol & Addiction Problems (ILCAAAP) (#5000030)

ILCAAAP works with the Northern Illinois Conference Anti-Gambling Task Force and leads a statewide coalition to oppose the expansion of gambling in Illinois. This fund provides for the Action Alert Network and the development of educational materials to inform congregations and activists about legislative action and equips them to speak out about the problems and harm of gambling. Illinois Church In Action is a statewide prevention ministry that sponsors youth programs, an Alcohol Awareness Poster Contest, and provides education resources on substance abuse to churches and youth. www.ilcaap.org

- *Advocacy*
- *Gambling and Alcohol*

JFON-Northern Illinois Justice For Our Neighbors (#5000140)

A ministry of the United Methodist Church, Northern Illinois Justice for Our Neighbors seeks to welcome the stranger by providing free, high quality, immigration legal services to the underserved immigrant population in our conference, and education and advocacy opportunities for immigrants and non-immigrants alike. Currently we operate three legal clinics in Aurora, Chicago and Rockford, and would like to expand to a fourth site in 2016. We seek to educate volunteers and the larger community about the need for immigration reform, and build cross cultural opportunities through the involvement of volunteers at our clinics, educational events, and speaking engagements.

- *Immigration legal services*
- *Advocacy*
- *Leadership Development*

The Martin Keagy Fund (#40000000)

This fund supports ministries in “country parishes” by issuing grants to local churches and rural ministries. The goals of the grant are: to enhance existing ministries, to develop new ministries in response to the changing rural environment, and also to enable and enhance a vision of rural ministry. That includes enhancing the quality of life founded upon a direct relationship to the land and its resources which is God’s creation. The Fund encourages creative responses to ever-changing needs, resources, visions, and opportunities among the people of God who live on the land and who provide the food needed to sustain life.

- Rural Ministry
- Grants

Midwest Mission Distribution Center (#50000150)

Midwest Mission Distribution Center is located just east of Chatham, IL. MMDC opened in March of 2000. Since then everything has been done with donations from individuals, churches and groups, and with volunteer labor. Since the beginning it has distributed disaster relief items to at least 21 states and 29 countries. In addition to disaster relief kits and supplies, school supplies, and the school desks, the Center also sends many blankets, hospital supplies, and sewing machines and bicycles that have been refurbished. MMDC is a cooperating depot in the UMCOR Relief Supply Network.

- Disaster Relief

Midwest Mission volunteers pack flood buckets for homes flooded after natural disasters.



MYSI (#50000107)

MYSI Corporation was founded by a group of United Methodist Men in 1965 who were concerned about the lack of services and resources for homeless adolescents in Chicago. Each year MYSI nurtures and works with more than 100 youth, helping them to live as independently as possible. Supplemental funds are needed to maintain programs and services. Website: www.myschicago.org

- Youth
- Group Homes

Native American Ministry of Presence (#50000125)

Important to our Native American Ministry of Presence is supporting Native American Organizations within NIC, which are: The American Indian Center of Chicago, Kateri Center-Roman Catholic Native American Ministries, Midwest SOARRING, and CCAIC-which is a collaboration of all Native American organizations in the Chicago land area. We work jointly to provide cultural events that continue to celebrate traditional values, language, music, listening sessions and Native American spirituality. We also give college scholarships for Native youth. We provide opportunities to learn about Jesus through worship services, family camp, Bible study and by encouraging laity to attend events designed for Native Americans.

Outdoor and Retreat Ministries “Camperships” Scholarships (#50000036)

ORM Summer, Confirmation and Ski Camps provide fun, exciting and relaxing outdoor experiences through diverse activities, programs and service opportunities that feature intentional “space apart,” experiential discipleship, Christian community, leadership development, and creation care. Camp Scholarships help persons from throughout the Northern Illinois Conference to attend these camps and retreats when they are in need of assistance. Funds are directed to either and both sites, Reynoldswood and Wesley Woods, as camper needs arise. Website: niccamp.org

- Camping Ministry
- Youth Ministry

Prisoner Release Ministry, Inc. (PRM) (#50000010)

Since June 1, 1976, we have helped over 15,000 clients (men and women) find employment when they have been released from prison. They have earned between 50 and 60 million dollars. 70% of the clients we have helped keep their jobs and do not return.

Reconciling Ministries Network (#50000111)

Reconciling Ministries Network (RMN) mobilizes United Methodists of all sexual orientations and gender identities to transform our Church and world into the full expression of Christ’s inclusive love. Website: rmnetwork.org. RMN works to influence the UMC to be more inclusive. RMN resources and empowers local churches to participate in this ministry. The network has a presence in all jurisdictions of the UMC. Regional Organizers are available to resource local conferences including the Northern Illinois Conference. RMN provides outreach, education, and support to local churches seeking to work for full inclusion of the LGBTQI community.

- Equality
- Inclusion of LGBTQ community

RefugeeOne (#5000133)

Since 1982, RefugeeOne has welcomed 16,000 refugees fleeing war, terror and persecution. Today, during the world's worst refugee crisis in recent history, RefugeeOne is proud to continue building welcoming communities for people fleeing Syria, Burma, the Congo, Iraq, and other war-torn countries. Thanks to churches like yours, we will welcome these brave refugees and help them integrate into American society – greeting them at the airport, providing a furnished apartment, supporting their children in school, helping them learn English and connecting them to their first jobs. With your support, 600 refugees will begin their journey to self-reliance this year.

Reynoldswood Christian Camp (including "CRIKET") (#5000043)

Reynoldswood provides facilities and staff for NIC Summer Residential Camps, Summer Day Camp, Adult and Youth Retreats, CRIKET after-school program, and numerous community service and missional projects. These funds are used to maintain and improve facilities, furnishings and equipment, as well as specific ministry opportunities that sometimes arise outside the annual programming and budgeting process. These funds function as a site-specific discretionary fund for Reynoldswood that enables the site staff and Board to direct funds where they will have the most impact at the time of need. We do allow designation for the CRIKET – Y After-School-Camp.

- *Camping Ministry*
- *Youth*

Rosecrance Kinley Charity Care Fund (#5000132)

Founded in 1916 as an orphanage by Methodists, Rosecrance now provides addiction and mental health treatment services to thousands of individuals and families each year...many of whom do not have the means to pay for services. The inability of State government today to provide an adequate safety net to meet the growing needs of those neediest families is at a crisis level. Rosecrance is committed to serving these families by redoubling our efforts to increase charity care funded by the generosity of individuals, churches and others. Website: rosecrance.org

- *Substance Abuse Recovery*

Sammool House (Living Water) (#5000146)

The Sammool House is a ministry for Asian American women in crisis with various life issues. The Sammool House is outreach ministry of the Sammool United Methodist Church. The Sammool House offers a caring, equipping, and loving place to Asian American women who are suffering economically, emotionally, and spiritually through Bible Study, English Language School, Career Training, Counseling Services, Free Medical Care and Federal Support Service. The Sammool House is a place where they can experience God's love and care. The Sammool House is where they are equipped and empowered to build a new and flourishing life for themselves and their families.

- *Helping women*
- *Asian-American ministries*

United Methodist Homes and Services (#5000121)

Founded in 1898, United Methodist Homes & Services is the nonprofit, faith-based parent organization of Chicagoland Methodist Senior Services (CMSS)—the most extensive senior services network on Chicago's north side. Our continuum of care includes rehabilitation and subacute care, skilled memory support, memory support assisted living, customized supportive living, home care services, computer lessons and repairs, affordable housing for seniors with low incomes, and adult day wellness programming. CMSS Life Enhancement Programing (Engagement Through The Arts) offers innovative art programs (including teaching artists and art therapists) that powerfully impact and enhance the lives of each older adult we serve.

- *Older Adult Ministry*

Wesley Willows Good Samaritan Program (#5000144)

Wesley Willows is a nonprofit, senior living community that offers independent living homes and apartments, assisted living, personal care services, Medicare-certified rehabilitation therapies, skilled nursing care, Alzheimer's and memory loss care, respite care, and end-of-life hospice care. The Good Samaritan Fund Program allows Wesley Willows to provide ongoing personalized care to residents who have outlived their financial resources. Each year, over \$600,000 is needed for charitable support. Gifts to this fund guarantee a lifetime of care to all residents and supports their spiritual, physical, and social well-being. We are CARF/CCAC and EAGLE accredited.

- *Older Adult Ministry*

Wesley Woods Conference Center(#5000046)

Wesley Woods provides facilities and staff for NIC Summer Residential Camps, Summer Day Camp, Adult and Youth Retreats, and numerous community service and missional projects. These funds are used to maintain and improve facilities, furnishings and equipment, as well as to support specific ministry opportunities that sometimes arise outside the annual programming and budgeting process. These funds function as a site-specific discretionary fund for Wesley Woods that enables the site staff and Board to direct funds where they will have the most impact at the time of need.

- *Camping Ministry*
- *Youth*

DISTRICT ADVANCE PROJECTS (BLUE BAND)

In addition to Conference-wide ministries, each year the NIC also votes on certain projects that work within specific NIC districts.

- Below many descriptions are keywords to direct your congregation's search.

Aurora District

Bridge Communities, Glen Ellyn (#6000208)

Bridge Communities mission is to transition homeless families to self-sufficiency by working with partners to provide mentoring, housing, and supportive services. Our vision is a community where all families are healthy, financially stable, and living in affordable housing by providing housing, case management, transportation, tutoring, life skills mentoring, and job readiness for permanent housing and life-long financial stability. We currently serve over 115 families annually who are living and working in DuPage County, Illinois. We inspire and affect change by advocating for homeless families while at the same time provide opportunities that connect them to a better future. • *Housing*

Dupage United (#6000230)

Begun by the United Methodist Church and supporting the UMC Social Principles, DuPage United is made up of member institutions (congregations, non-profits and associations) who identify and develop leaders to effectively act in the public arena to solve challenges in our communities such as the following: increased access to training, job placement and English classes; identified government waste, saving tax payers \$35 Million; won a long battle for county board approval to build a mosque; and preserved over \$7 Million in county grant funding for non-profit human services. Current activities include working to reduce incarceration of mentally ill and increasing resources for homeless populations. • *Community Organizing* • *Mental Illness* • *Housing*

Fox River Valley United (#6000231)

The Fox River Valley Organizing Initiative is a broad-based group of non-partisan, everyday citizens dedicated to resolving pressing social problems facing communities along the Fox River Valley in Kane and surrounding counties. We believe that people working together have the power to change their communities. We are a broad-based, non-partisan organization made up of institutions: churches, non-profits and others. Together with relational power, we take collective action on social and economic issues to benefit the people of the Fox River Valley. We are currently focused on expansion of affordable housing and diverting persons with mental illness away from the criminal justice system. • *Community Organizing* • *Mental Illness* • *Housing*

Hesed House PADS (#6000017)

Public Action to Deliver Shelter, Inc. dba Hesed House is a comprehensive homeless resource center working to end homelessness one person—one family—at a time. Hesed House equips ninety area churches 1) to provide food, shelter and services to its homeless neighbors, 2) to provide the opportunity to hope again (job training, mental health counseling, substance abuse counseling, legal services, veteran's services, etc.), and 3) to work for systemic and societal justice on behalf of the least of these. Several United Methodist Churches support Hesed House PADS, both financially and with volunteers. • *Housing*

JUST of DuPage (#6000101)

JUST of DuPage (Justice, Understanding, Service, and Teaching) is the only social service ministry in the DuPage County Jail. We are a Christian charity serving a nightly average of 600 to 800 inmates. We provide chaplaincy, spiritual enrichment, addiction recovery, and education services. Spiritual enrichment includes ecumenical and interreligious services and Bible studies for men and women and one on one counseling. Addiction recovery programs include Alcoholics, Narcotics, and Cocaine Anonymous meetings and Men's and Women's Recovery Pods. • *Addiction Recovery* • *Prison Ministry*

Morning Star Mission (#6000143)



We offer the hungry, needy, and homeless of Joliet and Will county safe indoor accommodations and meals to all who enter our doors. We also aim to introduce the gospel of Jesus Christ to all our program participants experiencing addictions or life hardships and struggles. It costs approximately \$76 for a day in one of our recovery and transition programs. With the funds we received from our partnering Methodist parishes, we were able to help approximately seven guests. We are most thankful to these congregations that support our mission and our ministry to share the good word of the Gospel. • *Housing*

Ridgewood United Community Ministries (#6000203)

The Ridgewood United Community Food Pantry is a ministry initiated by Trinity United Methodist Church now engaging volunteers from five other United Methodist Churches (New Lenox, Hope—Joliet, Grace—Joliet, Ingalls Park, and Plainfield UMC). The Pantry serves residents of two zip codes on the East Side of Joliet. Open weekly, clients receive services once a month. Food is supplied primarily through the Northern Illinois Foodbank. Funds are used to purchase food from the Foodbank and support the utility budget of Trinity in order to defray the costs of operating freezers. • *Fighting Hunger*

Chicago Northwest District

Center for Changing Lives (#60000106)

Center for Changing Lives was founded in 1989 when Humboldt Park United Methodist Church began an outreach ministry. Today, CCL has a vibrant network of partner UMC churches and individual volunteers and donors. CCL connects people, resources, and opportunity so that all may thrive. Too often, resource and opportunity limit participants' choices and capacity to achieve their goals. By providing a suite of innovative, financially-focused services, households build their economic capacity to realize their promise and potential. CCL clients are supported as they develop and mobilize resources, obtain employment and career advances, and achieve short- and long-term financial goals.

- Life Coaching
- Personal Financial Development
- Coalition Building

Hemenway Soup at Six (#60000216)

Soup at Six, a weekly hot meals ministry, is the oldest soup kitchen in Evanston and is operated out of the Hemenway UMC kitchen and Gym. Weekly serving between 100 and 150 diners, Soup at Six provides 'food with dignity' in the form of a salad, an entree, a bread, a soup, coffee or hot chocolate, milk and a bag lunch once a week. Originally at six o'clock, Soup at Six soon moved to serving meals beginning at 4pm due to local shelter schedules. Website: www.hemenwayumc.com

Housing Forward (formerly West Suburban PADS) (#60000180)



The mission of Housing Forward is to transition people from housing crisis to housing stability. Housing Forward is the primary provider of service-supported housing in west Cook County. The PADS Emergency Shelter is at the foundation of our solution to homelessness, which spans six program areas (including housing, prevention, outreach, employment, & supportive services). The PADS Emergency Shelter provides overnight shelter to homeless

men, women and families. The shelter operates through broad ecumenical support from the community, involving more than 1,000 volunteers and 40 support congregations at 10 rotating sites (including two sites at United Methodist congregations). • Housing

Mujeres a Mujeres (Women to Women) (#60000222)

Mujeres a Mujeres was birthed at Humboldt Park UMC in 2003 to help meet the holistic needs of Latinas. Through ministries such as free professional counseling, domestic violence survivors support group, workshops tailored to help Latinas grow in power, and health and wellness opportunities. Rooted in the congregation, Mujeres a Mujeres continues to flourish because we reveal Christ's love in practical ways without forcing anyone to be a part of our church. For HPUMC, Mujeres a Mujeres is one way we truly reveal open hearts, open doors, and open minds to the most vulnerable of our neighbors.

The Night Ministry (#60000223)

The Night Ministry was founded in 1976 through a collaboration of congregations to reach out at night to the homeless and vulnerable. Since The Night Ministry's start, the agency has grown to provide services throughout the city in street outreach and youth housing programs. That has included an overnight shelter, opened in January of 2011, for temporary housing for ages 18-24 in Lakeview.

United Church of Rogers Park Community Feast (#60000108)

The United Church of Rogers Park Community Feast serves 60-100 people in Chicago a nutritious meal every Sunday evening throughout the year. The feast is run by committed volunteers from United Church and the neighborhood and by many faithful people from churches around the Northern Illinois Conference and through our ecumenical connections. More than just a "soup kitchen," we provide a service of vespers after the meal for those who are interested, and we treat each guest with the dignity and respect due to any child of God.

Youth Lounge at Broadway UMC (#60000228)

Broadway Youth Lounge is a program for LGBTQ youth who are experiencing homelessness or housing instability, are predominantly people of color, and between the ages of 16 to 23. Youth Lounge is related to ministry of the United Methodist church because our volunteers help us demonstrate our mission to provide a safe space, personal, educational and/or spiritual development for youth that attend. While we don't push religious studies on the youth, we do allow them to express themselves through artistic and developmental practices such as group discussions, relaxation and meditation groups, art groups, music, dance, tutoring and mentoring.



Chicago Southern District

Empowering North Korean refugees (ENoK) (#60000235)

For the past several years, dozens of young lay members of Hyde Park Korean United Methodist Church (HPKUMC) have been volunteering their time and resources to provide resettlement support to North Korean refugees living in America through ENoK, a 501©3 nonprofit organization, founded by one of HPKUMC's lay members in 2011. In addition, dozens of other Korean and non-Korean United Methodist churches serving communities in greater Chicago area have taken part in this ministry by regularly making in-kind donations as well as organizing house services and cultural activities with North Korean refugees served by ENoK.

The Seeds Center Community Development Corporation (#6000225)

A faith-based ministry of Maple Park UMC dedicated to growing the community by planting and nurturing programs that contribute to the educational, economic, social, and spiritual growth of area residents. Programs: The Park Café addresses food insecurity, social isolation, and poverty by providing a welcoming place where individuals fellowship and “dine with dignity”; Josephine & John’s Place offers Bible study, exercise, and cultural programs for seniors; Community Garden (new), will facilitate food security, community involvement, and sustainable urban land-use by providing education and locally grown organic fruits and vegetables; Let’s Go to Work Job Readiness Program; and the CyberPark Café.

DeKalb District**Buddy Bags of Dixon (#6000236)**

Started during the school year of 2013-2014, Buddy Bags of Dixon provides food to identified low income students, within the Dixon Public School District. Sacks containing enough food (12 items) for two breakfasts, two lunches, and two snacks are given to each identified student for the weekend. In 2015, 52.2% of the enrolled students were considered low income. That is an increase of 5.3% over 2014 (46.9%). As the number of identified students increase, so does the financial need. This ministry utilizes the volunteer and monetary support of local congregations, businesses, and individual community volunteers. • *Hunger*

Food For Sharing (#6000118)

This program started in 1984 when lay members in the DeKalb District churches learned of a need for food in Chicago Southern District churches where unemployment was high. The church members responded by providing fresh produce. It expanded to donations of clothing and household goods and year-round purchases of food from area food banks. The program annually funds transportation from Chicago to Malta where the participants visit farms and an orchard to experience a day in the country. Food for Sharing is a vital link in communicating the love of Jesus Christ to those in need. • *Hunger*

Jennings-Lyon Day Home (#6000119)

Jennings-Lyon Day Home (JLDH) is a rural community modern day learning center for ages 2 - 12. Preschool and preschool with extended care prepare children in a safe learning environment to develop educationally and socially. For ages 5—12 we provide before and after public school care and exciting adventures on no school days as well as summer fun days engaging these active minds in socialization and learning adventures. JLDH is an outreach ministry of the Sheridan UMC. Your donations help provide a nutritious breakfast to start their day and provide special enrichment activities for these growing minds.

Elgin District**“Easy” Care Youth Program (#6000219)**

The philosophy of the “Easy” Care program is to provide a safe, structured and supervised environment for Blackhawk Middle School (Bensenville, IL) students whose parent/ guardian is not able to be home with them during the after school hours. The program will allow working parents the opportunity to enroll their youth in a quality program instead of worrying about their welfare. A working parent/guardian will have the assurance of knowing where their youth is and that she/he is receiving well-rounded, supervised care.

Faith Community Homes-Affordable Housing (#6000220)

Faith Community Homes was established by the Ministerial Association of Arlington Heights. Our mission is to help families avoid homelessness and move out of poverty and into financial stability in the Arlington Heights and Palatine communities. The program consists of three important elements: case management, mentoring and financial assistance. The program provides assistance for budgeting, goal setting, encouragement and finding ways to increase income, along with rent support for two years. Several local Methodist Churches actively provide Board members, volunteer mentors, financial support for family rents, and significant in-kind donations of food, furniture, and gift cards for gasoline and food.

Habitat for Humanity Lake County, IL (#6000184)

Members of Methodist churches support Habitat for Humanity as volunteers who build, rehab and repair homes on our construction sites. Some Methodist members support our ReStore through donations of building items, furniture and appliance and some volunteer at the ReStore. Methodist members assist as volunteers and donors in behind the scenes ways. We invite Methodist members to participate in our Neighborhood Revitalization Program as we target specific blocks for physical improvements and support through community action.



Elgin District (cont'd)**Journeys | The Road Home (#6000221)**

JOURNEYS | The Road Home, of Palatine, IL, walks alongside residents facing housing crises, helping homeless residents secure housing and preventing near-homeless residents from losing their housing. The agency accomplishes this through three foundational programs: the Emergency Shelter Program consisting of 18 faith-based PADS sites (including 3 hosted at United Methodist congregations), the HOPE Day Center's case management and counseling resources and services meeting basic human needs, and the Pathways Housing Readiness Program, the agency's affordable supportive housing arm. It serves residents from 37 communities of northwest and north suburban Cook County. In 2015, these sites served 347 homeless guests.

**Lake County United (#60000)**

Consistent with United Methodist social principles to support basic rights to equal access to housing, education, and medical care, the Lake County United Housing Team is working with developers and the Village of Mundelein to build 40 units of affordable housing including accommodations for differently abled. The team continues to look for land to address the housing shortage. The Education Team is drawing attention to challenges regarding high school education in the county's largest city. The Mental Health Team is meeting regularly with county officials to address the problem of the incarcerated mentally ill by increasing CIT training and establishing a Crisis Center.

- Fair Housing
- Equal Education Opportunities
- Mental Health

Waukegan to College (#6000233)

Waukegan to College creates brighter futures for students, families, and communities by preparing students to enroll in and graduate from college. W2C sends first-generation students to college who, without our intervention, may have dropped out, as one in three Waukegan High School students do. We are creating a college-going culture within an at-risk population with high poverty, low literacy, and low college attainment. With the help of volunteers, staff and the community, W2C is putting families on a path to higher education and out of poverty. Through workshops and one-on-one counseling, tutoring and mentoring, W2C helps students achieve academic success.

Rockford District**Saturday Kids' Club of Centennial (#6000201)**

Saturday Kids' Club is currently entering its 22nd year of ministry to the underserved children in the Rockford community. This multicultural arts based program which meets Saturday mornings year-round, provides children, ages 5 to 12, with breakfast, lunch, and a morning filled with games and activities; Our goal is to provide a program through which the children will develop respect for oneself and others of different backgrounds. Through positive relationship building, we are actively working toward social transformation, one child at a time.

Rockford Urban Ministries (RUM) (#6000151)

Rockford Urban Ministries is an outreach of twenty area United Methodist congregations that finds new ways to do Christ's work in the urban setting. The director is empowered to speak out on social justice issues and work with social service agencies to find ways to fill the ever-increasing gap in the social net, bringing Christ's love to those who need it most. The many projects RUM supports include a fair trade store at 201 Seventh Street. RUM transformed the building from a notorious liquor store to a Christian gift shop and installed alternative energy. The RUM office is in the basement and hosts meetings and tours. We pray for less violence and victories over gambling addictions.

Rockford Work Camps (#6000234)

Put your volunteers to work! Rockford Work Camps is the best volunteer and mission site in the Northern Illinois Conference. Mission groups from around the country stay in Rockford at local United Methodist churches and do good work for nonprofits and families in need. Your support purchases materials so that repairs can be made in depressed neighborhoods. Low income families receive a helping hand and maybe a "new porch." Wheel chair ramps are our specialty. To volunteer, call 815/315-3957 or email us at rockfordworkcamps@gmail.com.

MISSIONARY SUPPORT (PURPLE BAND)

Clara Midrula Biswas

#13952Z

Cambodia



Clara Mridula Biswas works in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. She works with the 'poorest of the poor' in slum areas and garbage dumps to facilitate their move to relocation and rehabilitation centers. She assists education programs, giving 620 public school students music, computer, and art classes, and she also assists health programs that refer patients to hospitals and local organizations.

E-mail: clarabiswas@online.com.kh

Sandra Kaye Raasch

#15075Z

Honduras



A Native of Missouri and a member of the Church of the Resurrection in Leawood, KS, Sandy was commissioned as a missionary in 2005 and has been active in the Honduras Mission Initiative ever since. She currently coordinates VIM teams to Honduras, allowing them to work with and equip Hondurans in ministry. An example of her work is that she finds temporary licenses for medical teams to practice in Honduras.

Email: godsplansforme2011@gmail.com

Larry and Jane Kies

#09572Z (Larry) and #10739Z (Jane)

Zimbabwe

Larry and Jane Kies are assigned to Africa University in Zimbabwe. Jane teaches Intensive English to students from non-English countries. Born in Zambia, Jane grew up in Southern Africa and England. Larry is a "Technical Advisor" working with the farm manager in developing the agricultural program at the University. He is also involved in agricultural practicals, as well as teaching classes in crop production and farm management.



E-mail: lkies@africau.ac.zw

Helen Roberts-Evans

#3021129

Liberia



A member of Sherman UMC in Evanston, IL, Helen Roberts-Evans serves as Director of the Department of General Education and Ministry of the United Methodist Church in Liberia. She teaches, trains, and coaches others to help them grow in their profession. Growing up in Hyde Park, she interacted with persons of many religious and cultural backgrounds. She writes, "at my home church in Evanston, I heard we are part of a connectional church, but I did not fully understand what they meant until I came to Liberia."

E-mail: micradon@hotmail.com

Rev. Nkemba and Mbwizu Ndjungu

#12909Z(Nkemba) and #12910Z (Mbwizu) Cameroon



As mission superintendent, Rev. Nkemba oversees church development and construction, Christian education, health, youth and prison ministries and VIM teams. Prior to his appointment in Cameroon, he served in Dakar, Senegal from 1998-2007, where he was involved in evangelism, church-planting, and theological education. His wife,

Mbwizu, is also a GBGM missionary to Cameroon. With a degree in nursing, Mbwizu has developed ministries related to health care and education. E-mail: NNdungu@umcmmission.org (Nkemba) and MNdjungu@umcmmission.org (Mbwizu).

Betty Tshala

#15167Z

Zambia



Betty Tshala serves in the nutrition program of the Mujila Falls Agricultural Project in the Northwestern Province of Mwinilunga, Zambia. With a degree in nursing administration, she has long taught about the overlooked treasures in the local diet, such as the Moringa tree, recently recognized by the international community as a "superfood." Betty's husband, Tshala, was also a missionary supported from our Conference. He died in a bus accident in 2014 while returning from the market. E-mail: difand2@yahoo.fr

Rev. José Roberto Peña-Nazario

#14026Z

Honduras

Rev. José Roberto Peña-Nazario is a mission superintendent for the Honduran Mission Initiative. In addition to his superintendent responsibilities, he also pastors Danli Central United Methodist Church, where he is active in developing new churches, bringing new members into the Christian community, and assisting people in the community to improve their living conditions. A native of Fajardo, Puerto Rico, and he is a clergy member of the Methodist Church of Puerto Rico. E-mail: joropena@yahoo.com



Karen Johnson Ujereh

#10918Z

Malawi



Karen Johnson Ujereh is the Director of the United Methodist Malawi Microfinance Project based in Blantyre, Malawi. The microfinance project trains women and men in small business development, helping them to form a small team that receives and enforces micro-development loans. A Native of New Orleans, Karen has served in Dakar, Senegal. Immediately prior to this assignment, she was the North Central Jurisdiction Missionary in Residence.

E-mail: KUjereh@gbgm-umc.org; website: umcmicrofinance.org

See more biographical information and project descriptions at:

www.umcmmission.org/Explore-Our-Work/Missionaries-in-Service/Missionary-Landing

Albert Willicor

#15151Z

Liberia

Dr. Albert Willicor is a native of Liberia and has been the Chief Medical Officer of Ganta United Methodist Hospital in Ganta, Liberia for over a decade. A distinguished surgeon and hospital administrator in Liberia, Dr. Willicor also has experience as a leading OB/GYN in the Republic of Guinea. He serves with his spouse, Angeline, who is a nurse at the hospital in Ganta. E-mail: alb.wcor@yahoo.com



CAN WE CONTACT A MISSIONARY DIRECTLY?

Yes! Missionaries are available for direct contact via e-mail or other means. If your church is travelling to the area on a mission trip, doing a special study, or praying about a specific country, feel free to contact them. Missionaries have skyped in to youth group meetings, led a church's joys and concerns over the phone, and led mission study tours. Keep in mind, however, that missionaries may not check e-mail as often as those in business in the United States. It may take more than one contact to reach a missionary. Also, newsletters are sent when ready rather than on a schedule.

How Do We Get a Missionary to Visit Us?

Global Ministries missionaries are encouraged to visit their supporting congregations about every three years. These visits are known as Missionary Itineration assignments and usually occur in Conferences that support the missionary.

As visits are scheduled, priority is given to congregations that have a *Covenant Relationship* with the missionary. Other interested congregations may request a visit, too, subject to availability. Sundays are usually the first to be scheduled. Other times are highly preferred.

Contact Rev. Shirley Pulgar Hughes, Conference Mission Secretary, to schedule a missionary visit. Email: Shirleymph@outlook.com

Congregations hosting a visit of a missionary need to be able to do the following: house the missionary overnight, if needed; provide meals as needed; and take a free will offering. The offering will not be given to the missionary, but rather be made to the *Northern Illinois Conference* and sent to the Treasurer's office.

Churches giving that free-will offering should write "Missionary Itineration" and the name of the missionary on the memo line of the check. Send the check to NIC, Missionary Offering, Attention: Athena Staveris, 77 W. Washington St., Suite 1820, Chicago, IL 60602.

These funds will help pay the travel expense for the missionary's tour through the conference. Extra funds will be sent to an *Advance Special* project designated by the missionary.

Missionary Support (Purple Band)

This section of the Rainbow Covenant invites a congregation to consider supporting and entering into a relationship with a missionary listed on these pages. Giving a financial contribution allows a congregation to learn about a particular country, missionary, or project. Gifts given to a missionary's Advance go to a pool that supports both that missionary and all missionaries.

You may choose to go further and develop a Covenant Relationship with a particular missionary (see below). Giving any amount fulfills the Purple Band of the Rainbow Covenant.

To complete this section of the Rainbow Covenant:

1. Choose one of the missionaries in this section.
2. Make a check payable to the NIC.
3. Write the name of the country, missionary, and Advance code (#) on the memo line of the check.
4. Send the check to the Conference's financial offices along with your apportionment payment.

Missionaries Are...

From Everywhere, to Everywhere



The Covenant Relationship Program

More than a financial commitment, the Covenant Relationship is a dynamic partnership between a congregation and a missionary. Both the church and the missionary pray for one another and communicate regularly. During itineration (travel to the U.S.A.), the congregation will receive priority in the missionary's schedule, hopefully allowing them to meet face-to-face. By deepening their own awareness of the struggles and triumphs of the missionary, the congregation participates in work that is truly connectional.

Establishing a Covenant Relationship depends on the type of relationship. There are corresponding amounts for each type:

- Church (\$2,500 or \$5 per member)
- Individual (\$500)
- Other (\$5/member, e.g. youth group, campus ministry)

Please note that these relationships are available after apportionment opportunities have been met.

For more information and a Covenant Relationship form contact: Rev. Shirley Pulgar Hughes, Conference Mission Secretary. Shirleymph@outlook.com

Rainbow Covenant Form

The Rainbow is God's promise to us. Here is our promise to God.

Church _____ City _____ District _____

I. Apportionments – First-mile Giving: \$ _____

*We are committed to meet our apportionments in full,
and we set these additional goals.*



II. Advance Projects – Second-mile Giving (select at least 1 project in each Band; you may select more)

Red Band – Global Advance Projects

Project(s) _____

Orange Band – Disaster Relief/UMCOR Advance Projects

Project(s) _____

Yellow Band – US-based Projects

Project(s) _____

Green Band – Northern Illinois Conference Advance Projects

Project(s) _____

Blue Band – NIC District Projects

Project(s) _____

Purple Band – Missionary Personnel

Missionary(ies) _____

Total Advance Special Giving \$ _____

TOTAL GIVING \$ _____

Pastor's Signature: _____ Mission Chair's Signature: _____

Church Council Chair's Signature: _____

Advance gifts are due at the Conference offices no later than January 10th.

This form is for your congregation's records only. It is not necessary to send this form to the Conference Office. This form is meant as a guide and not a contract. Advances you select can be changed at any time.



SPECIAL SUNDAYS

Special Sundays are a way for your church to join with other congregations across our connection to recognize specific kinds of ministries. Special Sundays may involve receiving an offering, having a “minute for mission” about the day, or to recognize ministry in your specific context (like a scout troop or VIM team). Special Sundays are set by the General Conference and the Northern Illinois Conference.

Gifts given to Special Sundays are not measured as a part of your congregation’s response to the Rainbow Covenant.

NIC-Designated Special Sundays

Scouting Ministries Sunday

Any Sunday in February or March

The United Methodist Church has had a close partnership with the civic youth-serving agencies in our society. This fund supports Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Campfire, 4-H, and Big Brothers and Big Sisters Amachi programs.

Golden Cross Sunday/ United Adults Services Sunday

First Sunday in May

Proceeds from this offering are used to support the six retirement and long-term adult facilities within the Northern Illinois Conference and to provide education scholarships for persons pursuing careers in the field of adult services.

Volunteers in Mission

Any Sunday in July or August

This Sunday helps to promote any short-term mission trips in your congregation, especially those organized under the auspices of the Volunteers in Mission program of Global Ministries. For more information about VIM or to organize a VIM Team in your congregation, visit www.umcnic.org/ministries/missions/volunteers-in-mission/

Christian Education Sunday

First Sunday in September

Christian Education Sunday is designed to inform the congregation of the crucial church growth ministry of Christian Education and to recognize teachers and leaders for their dedicated service.

Accessibility Sunday

First Sunday in November

Offerings will be used to provide accessibility grants to local churches. The worship service should call church members to recognize and celebrate persons with handicapping conditions in their congregation and community, including those persons in the service of worship, and recognizing the gifts of all God’s people. Resources may be obtained from the NIC Accessibility Committee.

HIV/AIDS Awareness Sunday

First Sunday in December

The HIV/AIDS epidemic is spreading throughout the population, especially among youths. This special offering is designated to fund ministries to victims of HIV/AIDS and their families.

United Voices for Children Sunday

Each fifth Sunday in months with 5 Sundays

Receipts from these offerings will be divided among the institutions in the United Voices for Children coalition:

- ChildServ
- Rosecrance Health Network
- MYSI

General Conference Designated Special Sundays

Human Relations Day

Sunday before Martin Luther King, Jr. Day in January

UMCOR Sunday

Fourth Sunday of Lent

Native American Ministries Sunday

Third Sunday after Easter

Peace with Justice Sunday

Second Sunday in Pentecost

World Communion Sunday

First Sunday in October

United Methodist Student Day

Last Sunday of November

Find out more about each of these General Church Special Sundays, including free resources you can order for your congregation, by visiting www.umc.org/how-we-serve/special-sundays.

It’s always a hard choice to choose one submission for the cover. These are the runner-ups.



From top left to right

Delia, Age 9, Oswego
 Maria, Age 7, Aurora
 Iliana, Age 11, Aurora

All from Wesley UMC,
 Aurora

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