

An Overview

of the work of Global Ministries



Our Theology of Mission

The Holy Spirit calls all Christians to engage in God's mission of bestowing grace, love, forgiveness and reconciliation in the world through Jesus Christ. We affirm that believers of all ages, races, genders and nationalities of all times and places are united in bearing witness to God's presence in all creation. Holy Scripture proclaims this truth and gives the church its mission mandate (*Matthew 28:19, Acts 1:8*). Mission sustains the church in its work of preaching, teaching, serving, transforming and healing.

We invite others to join us in the experience of faith through Jesus Christ, who, in servanthood, poured himself out for all humanity, assuming all human limitations and pain, but in his Resurrection restores and reconciles all to himself. The church in mission is the community embodying Christ's transforming and reconciling love.

In keeping with our Wesleyan heritage, we acknowledge our dependence on God's grace and guidance in all we do to establish personal and social holiness among all people and communities, advancing peace, justice, responsible human interaction and respect for the natural world.

The Holy Spirit is always moving us into a new mission age. With openness and gratitude, we await the leading of the Spirit in ways not yet seen as God continues to work out God's purposes in our day.

This is a summary of a two-page document, Global Ministries' Theology of Mission statement, that was drafted in 2012 and approved by the board of directors.

Read that statement here:

<https://www.umcmision.org/Learn-About-Us/About-Global-Ministries/Theology-of-Mission>

What Is Global Ministries?

The General Board of Global Ministries is the global mission, relief and development agency of The United Methodist Church. As a biblically rooted and historically informed organization, Global Ministries facilitates engagement in God's mission. As part of Global Ministries, the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to alleviating human suffering around the globe.

PURPOSE

Connecting the Church in mission

VISION

The General Board of Global Ministries equips and transforms people and places for God's mission around the world

FOUR MISSION GOALS

Make disciples of Jesus Christ

Strengthen, develop and renew Christian congregations and communities

Alleviate human suffering

Seek justice, freedom and peace



Photo: Cynthia Mack

Missionaries

“From everywhere to everywhere”

Global Ministries helps identify and assist people who are responding to God’s call to mission and volunteer service, providing training, resources and support for the missionaries in the global context, including the U.S. context.

There are over 350 missionaries serving in more than 60 countries as pastors, teachers, doctors, nurses, social workers, church planters, evangelists and in a variety of other ways through various forms of denominational or ecumenical ministries.

Global Ministries connects churches and individuals with missionaries to provide financial, spiritual and emotional support through a covenant relationship. Missionaries connect the church in mission.

Global Ministries currently has more than **350 MISSIONARIES** in more than **60 COUNTRIES**

Church and Community Workers

For more than 135 years, Church and Community Workers have answered God’s call to accompany the poor. CCW’s serve in a wide variety of contexts, joyfully adding their gifts and graces to the communities they serve. As their name implies, CCW’s take the church into the community and bring the community into the church, working to bridge the distance between programs and resources.

Global Mission Fellows

“Young adult leadership formation”

Service placements for young adults in US-2 or international tracks provide opportunities to connect, engage, and grow professionally, personally, and spiritually. During their two years of service, Global Mission Fellows experience community and reflect on their leadership while engaging in justice work and becoming ambassadors for mission. Many GMFs find their experience in the field impacts the rest of their lives.

Today more than 114 GMFs are serving in 37 countries around the world.

Recent International Track locations include:

Colombia, Germany, Grenada, Ireland, Japan, Kenya, Mexico, Mongolia, the Philippines, Russia, South Africa, South Korea and Tanzania.

Recent U.S. locations include:

Detroit, Miami, Nome, Philadelphia, San Francisco, Seattle and Washington, D.C.

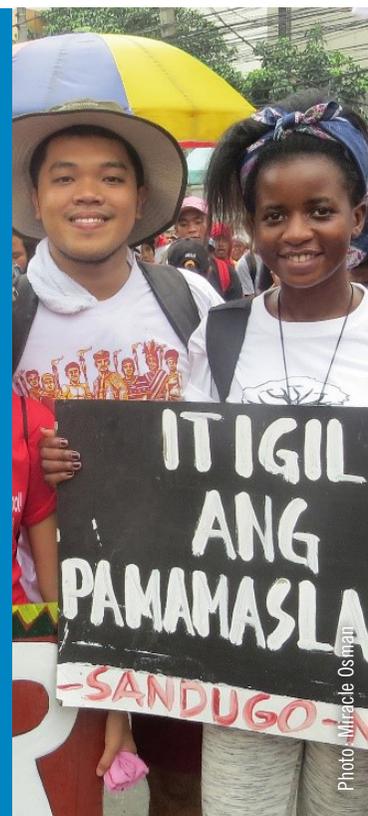


Photo: Ultracle Osanan

Mission Volunteers

Each year tens of thousands of United Methodists serve as short-term mission volunteers across the globe. While most go in teams organized by local churches, many individuals become mission volunteers serving terms of two months to two years. They use their skills and abilities to strengthen communities in the U.S. and around the world. <https://www.umcmmission.org/Get-Involved/Volunteer>

Global Ministries works in partnership with the United Methodist Volunteers in Mission (UMVIM) network and host communities to provide training and support for mission volunteers.

Global Health Volunteers

Medical professionals partner with Global Ministries to offer their skills and resources to assist with health-related projects supported by United Methodists in a variety of communities. Opportunities for service, typically working with United Methodist hospitals and clinics in Africa, are available for individuals and groups.



Photo: Mike DuBoise, UMINS



The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR)

“Hope and healing”

UMCOR provides humanitarian relief and disaster response in the United States and internationally. Our efforts target places where natural disasters, war or conflict have done so much damage that communities are unable to recover on their own. While UMCOR is not a first-response organization, it stands ready to accompany communities in need over the long haul of their recovery until they are well on their way to establishing a “new normal” after a crisis.

As the humanitarian relief and development arm of The United Methodist Church, UMCOR transforms and strengthens people and communities.

OUR MISSION

Compelled by Christ to be a voice of conscience on behalf of the people called Methodist, UMCOR works globally to alleviate human suffering and advance hope and healing.

Disaster Relief Volunteers

Volunteers are critical in many aspects of disaster response and relief. UMCOR works in partnership with annual (regional) conferences to create opportunities to serve. Currently, communities in Puerto Rico, Florida, Oklahoma, Texas and other places are receiving volunteer teams to assist with recovery and rebuilding.



Disaster Response

Through UMCOR, United Methodists extend loving care to people within the United States, Africa, Asia, Central and South America, the Middle East, South Pacific and Caribbean islands. Survivors are considered partners rather than victims, and UMCOR works to empower them. Empowerment includes disaster preparedness, equipping partners and volunteers with skills and systems to respond to disasters before they happen. Wherever possible, UMCOR cooperates with other aid organizations to extend its reach.

UMCOR also supports United Methodist churches to provide direct ministry to those impacted by disasters. Annual (regional) conferences responding to disaster may receive training, capacity building, supplies and funding.

Sustainable Development

Moving from relief to development, UMCOR works to alleviate suffering around the world by addressing the root causes of hunger, poverty, and poor health through awareness, advocacy, and action. We specialize in solutions that help people become self-reliant. Working through partners—including faith-based nonprofit organizations, nongovernmental organizations and United Methodist-affiliated organizations—UMCOR provides grants and technical support to projects worldwide.

UMCOR’s sustainable development work focuses on food security and sustainable agriculture, livelihoods, renewable energy access, and the water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) program. UMCOR accompanies beneficiaries as they become thriving individuals, families and communities.

UMCOR also works with partners to address the needs of migrants of all types, regardless of the cause of migration. All migrants should have the right to stay, the right to safe passage, the right to welcome, and, when safe, the right to return home.

UMCOR cares about the created world and works to train Earthkeepers, United Methodists committed to connecting their church through projects that care for God’s creation. UMCOR also works with partners to save and utilize energy wisely and sustainably.



Relief Supplies

Relief supply kits help provide care for the most vulnerable during times of crisis. UMCOR collects school kits, cleaning buckets and hygiene kits assembled by United Methodist volunteers for distribution after disasters. UMCOR operates two relief-supply depots located in Louisiana and Utah and works with a network of depots across the United States.



Photo: Paul Jeffrey

Global Health

“Abundant health for all”

Global Ministries’ partners with thousands of communities through health boards, missionaries and community health workers, and in more than 300 United Methodist hospitals and clinics. The work focuses on the well-being of women and children and using preventive and curative measures to confront major health issues, such as malnutrition, malaria, and HIV and AIDS. Global Ministries’ programs seek to increase access to clean water as the root cause of water-borne illness and death.

In the United States, Global Ministries’ health programs promote and provide resources for the establishment of health ministries in local congregations, especially through a network of faith-community nurses and health advocates. The work focuses on risk factors, such as poor diet, substance abuse, inactivity and stress, which are responsible for many diseases, including heart problems, diabetes, cancer and pulmonary illness. The U.S. health ministry also provides resources and support for persons with disabilities and persons who are deaf or hard of hearing.

Abundant Health

As United Methodists, we are committed to creating abundant health for all—a global connection striving for mental, physical and spiritual well-being. Lifesaving health ministries are enriching the lives of people around the world.

God calls us to the ministry of healing. We have opportunities to utilize our resources to extend hope to all people, offering them a path to wholeness, joy and abundant life in Christ. We believe that God, who is already at work healing, renewing, and redeeming creation, not only calls us to follow the path of Jesus in this way, but will also empower us with the Spirit as we step forth in mission to seek abundant health for all!



As the lead agency for The United Methodist Church’s Abundant Health initiative, programs prioritize the needs of the most vulnerable and marginalized.

To learn more, visit umcabundanthealth.org.

Evangelism and Church Growth

“Working with partners to spread the Gospel through love and action”

Global Ministries is committed to deepening its partnerships around the globe. In order to better serve and engage our partners, we have opened regional offices in Seoul, South Korea, and Buenos Aires, Argentina. Preparations to open a third office on the continent of Africa are underway. This presence, both global and regional, enables us to connect the church in mission in new and innovative ways that increase capacity for mission and effectiveness in our shared work of spreading God’s love and grace.

Mission Initiatives

Since 1992, Global Ministries has engaged in new or renewed mission initiatives in Africa, Asia, Europe, and Latin America.

Mission initiatives planted 963 new faith communities in the seven years from 2009-2016. These movements take increasing responsibility for their leadership and governance. Vietnam now has local Elders in Mission; Cambodia has transitioned to an all-indigenous cabinet (district superintendents); and Honduras, Vietnam, Cameroon and Senegal have partnerships with boards of ordained ministry in existing annual conferences to ordain clergy locally. Missionaries are still essential in a range of roles, primarily as trainers, facilitators and specialists.

Some initiatives have matured to the point of becoming more integral parts of the United Methodist connection. Annual conferences have been established in Russia and other parts of Eurasia. Malawi is now a provisional annual conference and Lithuania and Latvia are districts of the Estonia Annual Conference.

“I look upon all the world as my parish,” John Wesley once said. He couldn’t have known the guiding impact this statement would have on the church today. Global Ministries has since served a mandate to craft and implement programs to extend the gospel into the world. Mission initiatives accomplish this in specific locations where the church is living out the call to make disciples.

Currently mission initiatives support Methodist communities in nine countries:

- Cambodia
- Cameroon
- Central African Republic
- Honduras
- Laos
- Mongolia
- Senegal
- Thailand
- Vietnam



Photo: Paul Jeffrey

In Mission Together

In Mission Together (IMT) partnerships, often a key part of mission initiatives, provide an opportunity for individuals, congregations and conferences to develop healthy partnerships for mission and ministry. A vision of asset-based, long-term relational partnerships practicing mutuality in mission have replaced previous mission approaches that often provided only needs-based, short-term relief. IMT coordinators are available to equip a church or conference with the training and resources it needs to move to a new way of “doing mission” that builds capacity, utilizes everyone’s skills and resources, and fosters self-sufficiency.

National Plans for Ethnic/ Language Ministries

“Striving for unity within diversity”

The national plans for ethnic and language ministries are United Methodist initiatives that build solidarity while providing resources for growth within ethnic ministries of the church. These plans consist of goals for congregational development, recruitment and training of pastoral and lay leadership, immigration ministries, development of language resources, fostering of global partnerships and development of community ministries.

Current ethnic and language ministry plans

- The National Plan for Hispanic/Latino Ministry (NPHLM) www.umcmmission.org/NPHLM
- The Korean Ministry Plan (KMP) www.umcmmission.org/KMP
- The Asian American Language Ministry (AALM) www.umcmmission.org/AALM
- The Pacific Islander National Plan (PINP) www.umcmmission.org/PINP

Racial and Ethnic Plan Missionaries

Racial and Ethnic Plan missionaries serve a coordinated effort between annual conferences in the United States and Global Ministries to support and strengthen the implementation of the strategies and programs of a particular National Plan.

Giving To Mission

“Funding God’s mission”

Global Ministries benefits from the generosity of United Methodists across the connection, receiving support through three primary channels:

APPORTIONMENTS

Approximately 49 percent of Global Ministries’ annual budget is funded from local church offerings through apportionments.

SPECIAL SUNDAYS

UMCOR Sunday (formerly One Great Hour of Sharing), World Communion Sunday, Human Relations Day, and Native American Ministries Sunday all give people the opportunity to show their support for congregational offerings that undergird key programs related to Global Ministries.

INDIVIDUAL GIVING

Generous United Methodists annually contribute millions of dollars to United Methodist missionaries and mission projects through direct giving to UMCOR and the General Board of Global Ministries.

Global Ministries is committed to transparency and accountability. The finance and administration unit provides support for the programmatic work of the agency through a growing emphasis on monitoring and evaluation. Monitoring and evaluation of programs enables Global Ministries to continually learn new ways to be more efficient and effective in program design and delivery. A rigorous system of auditing and accountability also ensures that resources are used for their intended purposes.



Photo: Paul Jeffrey

The Advance — Celebrating 70 Years of Methodist Mission Giving

More than \$1.6 billion has been contributed to missionaries and mission projects over the last 70 years. Today, United Methodists support annually over 350 missionaries and 600 projects in more than 120 countries. The Advance is a critical source of support to UMCOR, which receives no apportionment dollars.

The Advance is an accountable, voluntary giving arm of The United Methodist Church which ensures that 100% of each gift is used for its intended mission or ministry as designated by the donor. Advance projects fulfill both physical and spiritual needs through a variety of worldwide mutual partnerships that make life-changing and long-lasting impact.



Photo: Melissa Himmen

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