

Remembering, Serving, Preparing: A Mission Anniversary Quadrennium Report of the General Board of Global Ministries to the 2020 General Conference

I. INTRODUCTION

The 2017-20 quadrennium was a time of celebrating the Methodist mission heritage, carrying out present-day commitments, and preparing for our role in God’s mission tomorrow. Global Ministries marked the bicentennial in 2019 of the formation of the first missionary organization in our legacy, the Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and joined United Methodist Women in observing the 150th anniversary of the Woman’s Foreign Missionary Society, the first organized expression in its lineage.

Along with remembering, anniversaries are occasions for validating allegiances, for projecting promises, and for assessing potential for the future. These observances focused especially on the diversity of people and places central to our past mission story, current reality, and emerging possibilities. A bicentennial world conference in April 2019 was entitled “Answering the Call: Hearing God’s Voice in Methodist Mission Past, Present, and Future.”

Especially rewarding in the bicentennial quadrennium was the rediscovery of the role Native American ministries played in the founding of the first missionary society and the consequent return of land (scheduled for September 2019) left in trust to that society when the Wyandotte People were expelled from Ohio in the 1840s (see additional information under **II. HIGHLIGHTS, BICENTENNIAL OF METHODIST MISSION**, and **IV. AREAS OF FOCUS, First Area of Focus**).

The bicentennial quadrennium opened with Global Ministries and the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) settling into a new regional operational model with new headquarters in Atlanta, Georgia. In 2018, both Global Ministries and UMCOR finalized transfer of their incorporations from the state of New York to Georgia. A new strategic plan developed by directors (see additional information under **II. HIGHLIGHTS, STRATEGIC PLAN**) put our focus on four functional priorities: 1) missionary service, 2) church growth and development, 3) disaster response, and 4) global health. A new unit, Mission Engagement, aligns communications, marketing, designated giving—including The Advance—and constituent relations, and is intent on forging stronger ties with annual conferences, congregations, and individual supporters.

Enthusiasm for the priorities within the connection was obvious in the support for missionaries and Global Mission Fellows from everywhere to everywhere (see additional information under **IV. AREAS OF FOCUS, First Area of Focus**), interest in global church extension, and high levels of giving to UMCOR and health ministries. In 2017, The United Methodist Church had a vital, palpable sense of unity in mission. As the quadrennium began closing, Global Ministries renewed its encouragement of the church to lean further into mission to preserve the unity of the church, as well as its global nature. Disunity in the denomination had begun threatening the framework at the very heart of the church’s life: participation in God’s mission, the *Missio Dei*. In response to a deep sense of uneasiness, Global Ministries’ directors initiated an invitation for unity in God’s mission following their April 2019 meeting. “United in God’s Mission” beckons all to join in God’s mission of saving, healing, and transforming, regardless of the form

their church takes in the future (see additional information under **II. HIGHLIGHTS, CALL FOR UNITY IN MISSION**).

Along with mission history, mission theology was an important quadrennial emphasis. We named a staff director of mission theology and continued a mission theologian in residence. Both positions enlarge our capacity in staff professional education, relationships to seminaries and ecumenical partners, and community involvement.

Global Ministries had a prominent role in planning and implementing the 2018 Conference on World Mission and Evangelism in Arusha, Tanzania, on the theme "Moving in the Spirit: Called to Transforming Discipleship." Such periodic events are sponsored by the World Council of Churches' Commission on World Mission and Evangelism. The United Methodist Church had a delegation of eight at Arusha, and two of our missionaries were seconded for central conference roles, one as primary administrator and the other as coordinator of young adult participation.

We celebrated the continuation at a new home of the 50-year old United Methodist Development Fund (UMDF), which has received investments and over the decades has made loans of more than \$500 million for sanctuaries, parsonages, and other local church buildings. The move to the Texas Methodist Foundation retains the UMDF identity and objectives.

With great reluctance, we said farewell to New World Outlook as the United Methodist mission magazine, a victim of the enormous cost of producing a high-quality print publication in the age of the internet. Under several imprints, the magazine served God's mission and the church for well over a century, providing a lasting record of vigorous and inspiring Methodist mission. The last issue came off press in the fall of 2018, its content marking the mission bicentennial.

The ensuing report begins with a series of mission highlights starting in 2017, followed by four sections that correspond to the denomination's four current Focus Areas. That part of our budget supported by General Conference-approved apportionments is organized around these areas. Then comes the report of UMCOR, which is funded entirely by designated giving and special offerings. Finally, the report includes the accounts of the work of four ethnic/language ministries supported by General Conference allocations and administered by Global Ministries. The ethnic/language ministries' reports were reviewed and approved by their respective constituencies so that Global Ministries could include them here.

May we gather at the 2020 General Conference as United Methodists connected in mission.

Bishop Hee-Soo Jung, President, Board of Directors, Global Ministries
Thomas G. Kemper, General Secretary, Global Ministries

II. HIGHLIGHTS

BICENTENNIAL OF METHODIST MISSION

In 2019, United Methodists celebrated Methodism's mission heritage and looked to the future of mission, from everywhere to everywhere, among the people called Methodists. The celebrations

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included a bicentennial recognition of the Methodist mission as it emerged from the United States. The bicentennial included a world conference, April 8-10, "Answering the Call: Hearing God's Voice in Methodist Mission Past, Present, and Future." Sponsored by Global Ministries, in collaboration with Candler School of Theology of Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia, USA, the conference coincided closely with the 200th anniversary of the founding of the Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church, the oldest forerunner of Global Ministries, on April 5, 1819.

During the conference, participants honored the memory of John Stewart whose mission with the Wyandotte Native Americans of Ohio helped inspire formation of the Missionary Society. The conference also recognized the emergence of the mission societies which followed. Notably, in 1869, women in the Methodist Episcopal Church formed the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society, becoming one of the most significant women's denominational mission societies globally and the forerunner to United Methodist Women. The conference also highlighted the longstanding participation in mission by Methodists from Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Europe, and Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as North America.

The conference attracted 250 participants, including United Methodists from 16 countries and representatives from at least 21 other Methodist-related communions. Participants representing 35 countries included current missionaries, students, mission volunteers, deans and professors, laity, clergy, bishops, and staff from general agencies. Speakers remarked on the varieties of mission and its role in addressing contemporary challenges, such as serving as a tool of peacemaking in places where war and violation of humanity prevail. The conference included recognition of mission's challenge in and readiness to attract new generations and respond to young peoples' desires for transformation.

Leading into the bicentennial year, Global Ministries solicited mission stories from around the world to help reveal, make available, and memorialize the history of mission in all its forms. The stories about mission came from churches, conferences, and individuals, and reflected the diversity of mission voices and the range of people worldwide who have devoted their lives to mission. Global Ministries launched a website, www.methodistmission200.org, to make these stories perpetually accessible. This online catalogue of mission service includes that of the Evangelical United Brethren Church and its predecessors.

A key purpose for gathering mission stories was not only to reflect the diversity of mission undertaken by Methodists over the last 200 years, but also to honor mission in the current life of the church, draw today's church further into God's mission, and enable the church to reflect collectively on the calling of Methodist mission for the sake of moving forward together. The collecting of mission stories and the bicentennial conference helped promote key questions facing mission and The United Methodist Church. What have we learned from our past in mission? How is God moving among Methodists today? Where is God calling Methodists to go in mission in the future?

For the bicentennial preparation, a steering committee included members from all global regions of The United Methodist Church and the participation and invaluable contributions from the General Commission on Archives and History, General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, and United Methodist Women. Acknowledging the role of the New York Conference in the founding of the Missionary Society in 1819, Bishop Thomas J. Bickerton served as chair of the steering committee.

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CALL FOR UNITY IN MISSION

Considering the disunity experienced by The United Methodist Church following the February 2019 Special General Conference, Global Ministries' directors issued an invitation for unity in God's mission following their April meeting that year. "United in God's Mission" beckons all to join in God's mission of saving, healing and transforming regardless of the form their church takes in the future. It was unanimously issued by the 32 voting directors who represent a broad range of theological and cultural perspectives but are one in commitment to what the statement calls "God's work."

The statement says in part:

We acknowledge and lament the deep division in our United Methodist Church and the conflict between peoples and places. We do not yet know how to overcome that division, but as Global Ministries and UMCOR, we believe that the work God has called us to do represent what is right with the global church. We believe we have an opportunity to work for healing, peace and reconciliation – no matter what form the future of United Methodism takes.

It also states:

The work of Global Ministries and UMCOR has always connected United Methodist churches, people and partners in God's mission – not our mission – in a variety of settings, countries and cultures. As United Methodists celebrate 200 years of mission, we are also learning from that past and have claimed a theology of mission emphasizing the *Missio Dei*. We are learning to confess the harm and the toxic nature of colonial rule and are in mission to witness to what God has done and is doing and to learn from what God is doing in every land where disciples gather in the name of Jesus Christ.

When a storm or conflict destroys a community, it does so without regard for sexual orientation, theological perspective, race, class, gender or religion. And when UMCOR shows up to respond, build resiliency, rebuild homes and empower people, it does so because every person in that community is our neighbor and we have been called by God to live out the good news of Jesus Christ. Global Ministries brings sight to the blind, heals the sick, seeks release for the prisoner and justice for the oppressed, builds peace where there is conflict, invites people to be transformed and perfected by God's love and starts new faith communities in various contexts around the world....

We remain committed to the *Missio Dei*. And we invite you to join in and continue to participate in what God is already doing in saving, healing and transforming the lives of all people, everywhere in this world.

ROUNDTABLE FOR PEACE ON THE KOREAN PENINSULA

On behalf of Methodism worldwide, Global Ministries hosted in 2018 a Roundtable for Peace on the Korean Peninsula. South Korean President Jae In Moon sent his personal greetings recognizing the event's importance for not only the church but also world peace.

Joined by former United States President Jimmy Carter, the 100 participants attending the Roundtable in Atlanta reaffirmed the global church's strong, ongoing commitment to peace on the Korean

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Peninsula. President Carter had in 1994 put his faith in dialogue for peace as jointly envisioned by then North Korean President Kim Il-sung, and in that light reflected on the current opportunities.

Another speaker was James T. Laney, former United States Ambassador to South Korea, retired president of Emory University and former Methodist missionary. Participants came from Asia and the Pacific, Africa, Europe, and Latin America, as well as from North America. They represented the Korean Methodist Church, The United Methodist Church, and the World Methodist Council, as well as the international ecumenical community, including the World Council of Churches.

An "Atlanta Statement" issued at the conclusion of the Roundtable and submitted to South Korean and United States governments pledged participants to work collectively and within their respective churches to encourage progress toward peace.

The statement specifically urged the United States and the international community to respect Korean self-determination, including supporting a step-by-step approach to achieve denuclearization. As an essential first step toward total peace on the Korean Peninsula, the statement encouraged an immediate and official end of the Korean War by the approval of a formal peace treaty.

Funding for the Roundtable from the Korean Ministry Plan, the Asian American Language Ministry Plan, the Korean Methodist Church, and the World Methodist Council supplemented support from Global Ministries.

In addition to the Roundtable in Atlanta, there have been two previous Roundtables. The Roundtable was initially proposed in 2016 at the World Methodist Conference in Houston, in the hope of engaging in meaningful dialogue for peace in Korea and recognizing the mutual concern and efforts of the Korean Methodist Church, The United Methodist Church, and the World Methodist Council.

NATIVE AMERICAN AND INDIGENOUS MINISTRIES

Global Ministries reinforced its long-standing commitment to Native American and Indigenous Peoples, undergirded by the United Methodist Act of Repentance with Native Peoples. At their annual meeting in October 2018, Global Ministries directors reaffirmed this commitment by holding a series of activities, inaugurated by the board's hosting with Native American leaders a sacred ceremony, welcomed by the Atlanta Mayor, at the site of what was once the region's largest Native American community.

Across the quadrennium, additional opportunities motivated further demonstration of commitment:

- The move of the agency's headquarters to Atlanta—where the major league baseball club appropriates images and expressions considered offensive to Native Americans and are opposed by The United Methodist Church—resulted in Global Ministries developing a new working group supporting Native American interests. Activities were developed and launched to improve education about and understanding of Native American history and culture. These activities incorporated information revealing the ways various organizations, when appropriating Native American images and expressions, can negatively shape perception of and behavior toward native people. Educational outreach was directed in 2018 to Atlanta-area schools, resulting in a teacher training workshop on Native American history and culture for K-12 teachers in one of

Georgia's largest school systems. The event addressed the negative effects of Native American sports mascots. In 2019, consultations began with a large regional Christian-based youth development program, which incorporates Native American culture and expressions, reaching more than 14,000 young people. Global Ministries also hosted or organized local events and took public stands in solidarity with Native Americans, including a film screening depicting the current Native American experience in American society. Additionally, dialogue began with curators of city-owned exhibit space about venues where Global Ministries can establish new exhibitions on contemporary Native American identity and experience. Some of the spaces under discussion, for example at the airport, attract more than 250,000 visitors per day.

- UMCOR, through its various programs, assisted 17 unique projects among 10 tribes/nations in seven US states from early 2017 to mid-2019. The total funding for these projects was \$2.28 million, benefitting 35,592 persons. An additional \$1.5 million in grants was committed through the end of 2019.
- The mission bicentennial observance in 2019 gave occasion to celebrate the historical importance of Native American contributions to the formation of the oldest organizational predecessor of Global Ministries, the Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church. The society was inspired in large part by the work of an African American lay preacher, John Stewart, among the Wyandotte People of Ohio. As part of the anniversary, a Wyandotte graveyard, left to the mission society in trust when the tribe was expelled from Ohio, was set to be returned to the Wyandotte in September 2019 (see additional information under **II. HIGHLIGHTS, BICENTENNIAL OF METHODIST MISSION**).

MIGRATION

With 70 million migrants, asylees, and refugees on the move and homeless because of natural disasters, wars, poverty, and intolerance around the world, migration grew during the quadrennium as a major concern of Global Ministries and the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR). Altogether during the quadrennium, Global Ministries and UMCOR assisted migrants in or from Argentina, Armenia, Bangladesh, Bosnia, Brazil, Colombia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, El Salvador, Iraq, Jordan, Mexico, Myanmar, Nigeria, Sudan, Syria, Tanzania, Uganda, Ukraine, and the United States.

The work incorporated a justice- and mercy-based approach to migration, with emphasis on human rights, alleviating human suffering, and addressing the causes of migration in all its forms. The approach seeks to reach the most vulnerable and provide food, water, shelter, clothing, and health care without discrimination, honoring migrants' right to stay, safe passage, welcome, and/or return with dignity.

Supporting this work, a church-wide Global Migration Sunday and offering on December 3, 2017, emerged from an interagency seminar and collaboration between Global Ministries and the United Methodist Immigration Task Force. The Global Migration Advance Fund for migration and refugee ministries (Advance No. 3022144) received more than \$3 million from early 2017 to mid-2019.

Following the 2019 news about children neglected and living in unsanitary conditions in United States government holding facilities along the United States-Mexico border, UMCOR received many requests to respond. Although the facilities unfortunately prevented UMCOR from responding directly, UMCOR

distributed tens of thousands of hygiene kits at nearby transitional shelters. Global Ministries declared June 30, 2019, A Sunday of Solidarity for Suffering Children and asked United Methodists to pray for the children, make UMCOR hygiene kits, contact lawmakers, and give to the Global Migration Advance.

UMCOR also supports National Justice for Our Neighbors (NJFON). The history of UMCOR's commitment includes its role founding NJFON, as well as its continuing role providing leadership on the NJFON board of directors. UMCOR also provides core budgetary funding to NJFON and grants for special projects. Through its 20 affiliates in the United States, NJFON provides free or low-cost immigration legal assistance. In 2019, through the JFON in San Antonio, Texas, UMCOR supported legal assistance in transitional shelters along the border.

Various Global Ministries missionaries are involved in welcoming and assisting migrant populations around the world. Missionary pastors lead multicultural congregations as places of welcome and worship for migrants. Church and Community Workers serve as lawyers in JFON offices. Missionaries with the national and racial-ethnic plan ministries provide welcome in the United States. Some missionaries specifically address the needs of migrants as foreign temporary workers in places such as Hong Kong, Taiwan, and Japan, providing pastoral care or other kinds of counseling.

CREATION CARE AND EARTHKEEPERS

In support of God's creation, Global Ministries established in the quadrennium a new program to recruit, train, and deploy United Methodists as volunteer Earthkeepers. These individuals recognize the growing urgency of the worlds' environmental crisis, feel a deep sense of God's call to take bold action, and want to join a broader community of United Methodists engaged in environmental ministries.

The Earthkeepers program has trained 200 laity and clergy, students, part-time and full-time workers, and retirees since inception in 2017. Training includes classes on eco-theology and strategies for social change. Participants develop a project plan to take back to their communities. Earthkeeper projects range widely: from community gardens, solar campaigns, and water management to curriculum and resource development, church green teams, and fossil fuel infrastructure advocacy campaigns.

LET THEM LEAVE

Through a campaign of prayer, petitioning, and media saturation, Global Ministries, assisted by other United Methodist and ecumenical partners, won the release of three young missionaries prohibited by government from leaving the Philippines in the summer of 2018. "Let Them Leave" garnered via internet petitions more than 18,500 signatures from 110 countries on behalf of missionaries Tawanda Chandiwana of Zimbabwe, Miracle Osman of Malawi, and Adam Shaw of the United States. Chandiwana had been incarcerated for eight weeks, while Osman and Shaw were prohibited from leaving by intentional government visa and passport red tapes. Chandiwana and Osman were Global Mission Fellows while Shaw was a Global Missionary. All three worked on the island of Mindanao and came under surveillance when they took part in February in an international investigation of alleged human rights violations on the island. They and United Methodist leaders in the Philippines denied any wrong doing.

The United Methodist Council of Bishops, the church's leaders in the Philippines, the World Council of Churches, the National Council of Churches in the Philippines, and United Methodist Women played major roles in the successful campaign for their release.

STRATEGIC PLAN

To guide its leadership in mission across the connection, Global Ministries put in place a Strategic Plan for the period 2018-2021. Consolidating in one place and drawing from other strategic documents and reports regularly submitted to the Connectional Table and other general church bodies, Global Ministries' Strategic Plan describes goals associated with engaging annual conferences and congregations and exploring with them new ways to serve and support their work in mission, as well as other strategic directions.

The Plan also serves well Global Ministries' goals for articulating its work to external audiences, including philanthropic donors interested in supporting the church.

Together, the components of the plan harmonize with the Global Ministries' historical, longstanding mission goals and vision, and demonstrate accountability and responsiveness to the current Four Areas of Focus of The United Methodist Church, the United Methodist *Book of Discipline*, and the *Book of Resolutions*.

Concurrently, Global Ministries further strengthened its structures and tools to monitor and evaluate its progress and its commitment to report results regularly to the United Methodist Connectional Table, in its role reviewing and evaluating the effectiveness of general agencies.

III. THE ADVANCE

Celebrating its 70th anniversary during the quadrennium, the Advance for Christ and His Church is the designated mission giving channel of The United Methodist Church through which donors may direct charitable gifts.

Since 1948, The Advance has gratefully welcomed gifts from individuals and charitable organizations and from United Methodist conferences, districts, and churches. Over time, The Advance has channeled \$1.7 billion to mission. In 2017 and 2018 alone, Advance gifts totaled \$117.9 million, including \$92.3 million for the United Methodist Committee on Relief, for projects in more than 100 countries. Through the Advance, the immense capacity of The United Methodist Church is evident, illustrating the hope and healing afforded when we are together in mission.

Advance gifts currently provide support for 422 longstanding ministries worldwide. The Advance celebrates how these many commitments vary widely in purpose, goals, and location. Building on this history, with an eye on enhancing how the Advance reflects the church's growing missional priorities worldwide, Advance projects with increasing importance and emphasis include:

- Abundant Health
- Evangelism and Church Growth

- Global Mission Fellows
- Missionaries Around the World
- International Disaster Response and Recovery
- US Disaster Response and Recovery
- Sustainable Development

For United Methodists, giving through The Advance has long represented "second-mile giving," complementing World Service apportionment dollars. For example, missionaries receive 55 percent of missionary funding through the World Service Fund. To date, Advance-giving has made up 16 percent of the funding and ensures the continued training, commissioning, and sending of additional missionaries on behalf of the church. Endowment and other funding sources provide the remaining 29 percent.

Looking toward the future and responding to structural and other changes under way in the church, as well as changes in the mission field, the Advance Committee has begun study of how to make its work more effective and efficient. In an effort to strengthen existing ministries and ensure the support directed through the Advance, studies have included a review of how the Advance's policies can be reshaped to ensure that gifts support the total costs of mission, especially as apportionment dollars are anticipated to decline further in the years ahead.

IV. AREAS OF FOCUS

First Area of Focus

DEVELOPING PRINCIPLED CHRISTIAN LEADERS FOR THE CHURCH AND THE WORLD

Goals: To deepen the strategic leadership capacity of clergy and laity so that they may have a positive impact on the priority needs of their churches and communities; and to enhance their ability to connect disciples to lives engaged in God's mission.

Accentuating the importance of this area of focus, the mission field is always changing. In pursuing its work in this area, Global Ministries continually seeks to strengthen capacity for mission and expand the church's opportunities for mission service.

Selected activities from the quadrennium include:

1. MISSIONARIES

During the quadrennium, 650 persons served as missionaries in 76 countries in roles such as evangelists, church planters, doctors, nurses, social workers, and teachers.

Global Ministries commissioned 75 new Global Missionaries, joining a community of 350 active missionaries serving around the world, including Church and Community Workers, ethnic plan missionaries, and Mission Advocates in the U.S.

Global Ministries commissioned 260 young adults to serve two-year missionary assignments as Global Mission Fellows (ages 20-30). These, plus others whose service overlapped from the previous quadrennium, brought the total number of GMFs to 300, for the four years. The impact of the program extends beyond the two years of active mission service, especially in equipping young leadership for the church. For example, one mission fellow who worked with a health board in Zimbabwe returned home to Nigeria to serve with the United Methodist health board there.

Almost half of all missionaries originated in countries outside the United States, further extending a global demographic trend among missionaries serving The United Methodist Church in the 21st Century from everywhere to everywhere. Quadrennial regional missionary gatherings allow mission personnel to share with one another and build supportive relationships.

Most U.S.-based missionaries focus on the social injustices of poverty, racism, and domestic violence. Specific roles included nurses in a free health clinic, contractors working with volunteers to provide affordable housing and home repairs, leaders and economic developers, and immigration attorneys.

Additional to missionaries, approximately 300 Nationals in Mission served annually in their home countries with financial support from their communities and Global Ministries. These Nationals in Mission supported emerging, innovative ministries in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Eurasia, and Latin America and the Caribbean, focusing on themes such as evangelism and church growth; advocacy and justice for the poor and oppressed; women, children, and youth; and community development and health care.

2. LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT SCHOLARSHIPS

Supporting students through scholarships not only ensures the future of the church in mission but also strengthens the social and civic communities globally.

During the quadrennium, Global Ministries awarded World Communion Scholarships totaling \$1,310,407, enabling 167 scholarships supporting 89 United Methodist and other students completing master's or doctoral studies at 51 universities or seminaries. Similarly, Global Ministries provided Leadership Development Grants (LDG) totaling \$1,759,170, enabling 326 scholarships supporting 171 students at 91 institutions. The LDG students complete higher and continuing education degree programs at all levels, from certificate and bachelor's degree programs to master's and doctoral studies.

In collaboration with Kenya-based CORAT (Christian Organizations Research and Advisory Trust of Africa), Global Ministries launched a training course on "Project Cycle Management" for project managers from all episcopal areas in Africa. Originating in the 1970s with Anglican encouragement, CORAT today provides capacity enhancement to individuals, churches, and other organizations.

Additionally, Global Ministries celebrated continuation of its long-standing partnership with the Japan-based Asian Rural Institute (ARI). During the quadrennium seven students from Ghana and Tanzania received Global Ministries support enabling them to receive ARI training, work in agricultural programs in their home countries, and use their new skills to further refine sustainable agriculture globally.

Since fund raising remains crucial for all leadership scholarship and related programs, Global Ministries worked across the quadrennium to reaffirm Methodists' individual philanthropic support for education, including in the Philippines through Harris Memorial College in Rizal. Recalling the 19th Century founding support from the Harris family of Chicago, beginning with forebear Norman Wait "N.W." Harris, Global Ministries orchestrated a 2018 reunion between the college and present-day members of the Harris family who continue to support the institution. Their philanthropic support ensures the college will remain, in the words of current Harris College leadership who participated in the 2018 reunion, "a center for deaconess training and formation not only for the Philippines, but also for Asia."

3. VOLUNTEERS

More than 125,000 mission volunteers each year give their time and talent to build churches, other mission facilities, and houses; respond to disasters; participate in community health programs; and take part in leadership training.

This remarkable grassroots movement (collectively UMVIM, or United Methodist Volunteers in Mission) benefits from the leadership of jurisdictional UMVIM coordinators and their network of global volunteer opportunities and the mission expertise of Global Ministries' Mission Volunteer Office.

Volunteers serve in six programs: 1. Short-term teams; 2. Early-response and long-term recovery teams, in partnership with UMCOR conference disaster management coordinators; 3. Long-term mission service for individuals and couples (Mission Volunteers who serve for two months to two years); 4. PrimeTimers, including educational forums, cross-cultural exposure, and spiritual journey renewal; 5. NOMADS (Nomads on a Mission Active in Divine Service) for individuals and couples with recreational vehicles sharing their gifts, time, and skills; and 6. Health Volunteers, working alongside medical staff to respond to medical challenges and build capacity.

The Mission Volunteer Office (MVO) provides a range of mission volunteer trainings in the United States and has co-lead training around the world with partners such as the Korean Methodist Church. Among other activities in the quadrennium, the MVO printed 5,000 additional copies of its popular guidebook, *A Mission Journey: A Handbook for Volunteers*, bringing to 10,000 issued in cooperation with Discipleship Ministries and the Upper Room. MVO staff also collaborated with UMCOM to promote among conferences and local churches the range of volunteer opportunities; served ex-officio on jurisdictional UMVIM governing boards and on the board of NOMADS; and supported UMVIM teams to Cuba.

4. MISSION ROUNDTABLES

Mission Roundtables draw together networks of partners engaged in a particular expression of God's mission. They may focus on a geographical area, topic or enterprise. Global Ministries organized or co-organized on behalf of The United Methodist Church, autonomous Methodist churches, or ecumenical churches a series of roundtables across the quadrennium: two in Africa, two in Asia, and four in the Americas, including Latin America and the Caribbean.

In several cases, these events included other general program agencies, US annual conferences, and various other UMC entities. For example, in the fall of 2017, Global Ministries co-organized a Mission Roundtable for its host the Baguio Episcopal Area in the Philippines. The Roundtable included

participation of leaders from the Greater Northwest Episcopal Area, the Connectional Table, and general agencies including Discipleship Ministries, the General Board of Church and Society, the General Commission on Religion and Race, and United Methodist Communications.

Mission Roundtables emphasize "mutuality in mission" and strategies for capacity building so that local communities can play a leading role in decisions and implementation of mission projects. To encourage vital congregations, the Mission Roundtables of the quadrennium often focused on strategies for enabling local leadership.

The value of Mission Roundtables was affirmed by churches and partners, notably from Latin America, taking part in Global Ministries' April 2019 Mission Bicentennial Conference in Atlanta. In fact, the roundtable model was pioneered in that region. For two decades, Methodist mission partners in a broad range of Latin American countries have met in periodic roundtables to form multilateral partnerships, strengthening cooperation and networks of churches, and sharing learnings. Their consultations have improved mission outcomes.

To celebrate the success of Mission Roundtables and encourage their expansion as a key strategy for the church in its global regions, Global Ministries compiled an online manual for the planning and conduct of Roundtables.

6. MISSION AMBASSADORS SUMMIT

In December 2018, Global Ministries hosted a Mission Ambassadors Summit for the denomination's US mission leaders. Two hundred participants representing every United States annual conference took part.

The summit gathered conference disaster response coordinators, conference secretaries of global ministries, and other conference mission staff, as well as health ambassadors, In Mission Together coordinators, and other mission ambassadors and volunteers. The objective was to build stronger connections in mission throughout the church. The program covered "mission across the street and around the world." It sought to bring clarity to mission priorities, share effective mission strategies, and develop stronger networking among different groups and partners within annual conferences and jurisdictions.

The summit provided a big picture of United Methodist mission. Participants heard from missionaries and staff who provided first-person accounts of ministries in action. Global Ministries staff members gained a better understanding of their annual conference partners, while conference representatives gained better understanding of how the agency can serve them more fully.

Second Area of Focus

STARTING NEW CONGREGATIONS AND RENEWING EXISTING ONES

Goals: To plan, establish, and strengthen Christian congregations in areas where opportunities and needs are found, in cooperation with partner churches and conferences.

Recognizing that the church in mission is always being formed and reformed everywhere, Global Ministries seeks to develop and expand the Methodist presence through new congregations in diverse place and to strengthen existing churches through more active participation in God's mission.

Selected activities from the quadrennium include:

1. MISSION INITIATIVES

During the quadrennium, Global Ministries continued to provide guidance to Mission Initiatives in Africa, Asia, Eurasia, and Central America, nine in total, some beginning in the last century and others of more recent origin.

Local, indigenous leadership is pivotal in shaping the vision of each Mission Initiative, as is local-led strategic planning. Systematic evaluation is gradually being introduced in each locale, emphasizing responsibility and accountability. Several Initiatives hosted professional evaluation teams from Global Ministries. These teams studied and assessed a range of factors influencing the Mission Initiatives' status and long-range self-sufficiency. Global Ministries celebrated several Mission Initiatives as they made progress toward new relationship within the global United Methodist connectional structure.

Cambodia Mission Initiative

Global Ministries' work began in the early 1990s, and in 2018 the Methodist Church in Cambodia (MCC) celebrated its first Provisional Annual Conference. The MCC is an inspiring story of pan-Methodist mission collaboration, creative missionary activity, and indigenous leadership development. The United Methodist mission began when Cambodian refugees became United Methodists in the United States. In 1998, four Cambodian-Americans were deployed as Global Ministries missionaries to Cambodia, joining other Methodist bodies such as the Korean Methodist Church, the World Federation of Chinese Methodists, United Methodists in France/Switzerland, and the Singapore Methodist Church in developing active missions. In 2004, the leadership of these Methodist bodies agreed to join to form one church and mission, working with local representatives in shaping the outreach. The Cambodian Initiative is focused on new church plants, particularly in the provinces of Kratie, Monduliri, Ratanakiri, Steung Treng, and in the capital city of Phnom Penh. Goals of these church starts include the empower of women to engage in Christian education, ministries with street children and youth, economic development, and community health services. Additionally, the work encompasses microfinance projects through Community Health and Agricultural Development Program (CHAD), and scholarship programs for children and youth. There are 142 Methodist faith communities with 62 clergy members and 70 active lay leaders. The Rev. Lun Sophy was elected as the first President of Methodist Church of Cambodia.

Cameroon on and Senegal Mission Initiatives

In July 2019, the Côte d'Ivoire Annual Conference approved the Cameroon and Senegal Mission Initiatives as new districts within it. This momentous step attracted celebration throughout the region following many years of hard work by the two Initiatives and the communities they serve. The work in each country began in the mid-1990s. At the time of the 2019 transition, the initiative in Senegal had 21 parishes and preaching posts. Nine ordained pastors and 31 lay preachers oversee the spiritual life of

the people. The Cameroon initiative had 12 churches. In addition to evangelism, major mission projects have covered Christian education, health, prison ministry, literacy, agriculture, and women activities. Recognizing that mission is everywhere, Cameroon United Methodists have sent three young adults to serve as Global Mission Fellows.

Central African Republic Mission Initiative

This initiative has eight churches in the capital city, Bangui, and three in the city of Bangasou. Places of worship are the greatest need, and growth plans include acquiring land and buildings with funds raised by existing congregations. Global Ministries encourages these efforts and a missionary provides leadership in church planting. Overall, the Central African Republic Mission Initiative faces uncertainties owing to security issues in the country. United Nations forces are in place to help minimize risks; however, conducting the work of the church remains challenging. Beyond church planting, concerns include agriculture, empowerment of women, and children's well-being. To address these, the initiative has developed a partnership with World Vision, which operates an office in the country.

Honduras Mission Initiative

The Mission Initiative in Honduras, the only United Methodist ecclesiastical body in Latin America and the Caribbean, continues to grow steadily in mission and ministry. Fifteen years since its inception, it includes 21 congregations and 86 small groups with a total approximate membership of 1,871. Mission work in rural and urban areas has focused on community health, ministries with the poor and migrants, youth and children's ministries, and church and leadership development. A notable mission effort, the John Wesley School in Ciudad Espana offers to 345 children and youth high-level, bilingual education based on Christian values. Previously, there was no secondary education in Ciudad Espana. Students had to either travel 45 minutes by bus to Tegucigalpa (oftentimes a dangerous trip) or sacrifice educational opportunities past the 7th grade. This led to teens joining gangs or settling for manual labor. With support of the Council of Bishops, the Mission Initiative is taking the necessary steps toward becoming a Provisional Annual Conference.

Laos Mission Initiative

Laos is one of the least developed countries in Southeast Asia. Agriculture is the mainstay of the economy. Currently, there are no railroads and just over 2000 kilometers (1,243 miles) of paved highways. This lack of infrastructure makes disaster relief difficult, particularly when there is flooding, which is very common. Two significant problems facing the nation are deforestation and its impact on the environment, and oppression of the minority Hmong population. Global Ministries' work in Laos was built on foundations laid by leaders of Hmong United Methodist churches in the United States. In 2005, a Global Ministries missionary couple was deployed to Laos. Since then, the mission initiative has grown steadily, and the church has established a significant presence in eight out of 17 provinces. There are currently 80 faith communities with 52 clergy members and 33 active lay leaders. Indigenous lay leaders support the work of various groups such as youth, women, and men. Global Ministries assisted the Mission Initiative in its registration as The United Methodist Church in Laos.

Mongolia Mission Initiative

Global Ministries' mission initiative in Mongolia began with a hospice ministry in 2002. Most of the mission activity is concentrated around the capital city, Ulaanbaatar, which is home to two churches that serve as the base for United Methodist ministries in Mongolia. These "center churches" each have a membership of more than 200 people and serve local communities through various outreach ministries, including after-school programs for children, daycare programs for preschoolers, job training, detention center ministry, and ministry to street people. The two center churches have raised local pastors who now serve churches in other areas. Currently there are 26 faith communities with seven clergy members and 13 active lay leaders.

Thailand Mission Initiative

In 2009, the mission initiative began social outreach ministries for children with HIV/AIDS in Chiang Mai. The approach to church development in Thailand is that of "center-churches." Compared to the goals set for other countries in Southeast Asia, the scope of the mission initiative in Thailand is small. There are currently five faith communities with three clergy members and five active lay leaders.

Viet Nam Mission Initiative

United Methodist mission work in Viet Nam began in 2002 with the placement of a missionary couple who had left as refugees years earlier. The United Methodist community grew steadily from the Mekong Delta region south of Ho Chi Minh City to the Central and Northern Highland regions of the country. However, upon retirement at the end of 2018, the missionary pastor organized an independent Methodist group, necessitating the reformulation of the United Methodist Mission, led by a new executive committee of local leaders. Leadership training for the new committee has been carried out in collaboration with the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry. There are 42 active faith communities with 29 clergy members and 23 active lay leaders.

2. RACIAL/ETHNIC LOCAL CHURCH SUPPORT

From January 2017 through mid-2019, more than 70 Racial/Ethnic Local Church (RELC) grants totaling \$526,525 were made to churches and annual conferences in the United States. The awards cover the four focus areas: 1) leadership development; 2) congregation growth and development; 3) ministry with the poor, and 4) health ministries.

RELC grants provide pastoral support such as at Amigo Ministries, Sterling United Methodist Church, Sterling, Virginia, the Samoan Mission at Medford United Methodist Church in Oregon, and the Kansas City Native American Fellowship; community-revitalization such as at New St. James Church, Milwaukee, Wisconsin; and education, such as at Freedom Schools at Grace Church, Dayton, Ohio.

In 2017, the RELC program supported the New Talent Project, a musical leadership and development ministry for youth at Vida Nueva Church, Porterville, California. Another grant that year assisted the community literacy ministry of County Line Church, Ellenwood, Georgia. A grant to First United Methodist Church, Johnson City, Tennessee made possible expanded ministries to growing numbers of multiethnic children and youth.

3. SCHOOL OF CONGREGATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Global Ministries joined with Discipleship Ministries and Path One in sponsoring Schools of Congregational Development (SCD) in 2017 and 2018, premier events for equipping conference leaders, clergy, and laity to lead vital, dynamic, life-changing congregations. The 2017 school was in Atlanta with the North Georgia Annual Conference as co-host, and the 2018 in San Diego with the California-Pacific Annual Conference as co-host.

SCD priorities during the quadrennium included the inclusion of more leaders, both clergy and lay persons, from racial/ethnic, small, and rural churches, acknowledging current denominational demographics. Although ethnic minorities continue growing in number, the denomination counts only eight percent among its members. Approximately 75 percent of churches in the United States remain small, with memberships of 150 or fewer members.

For the 2017 and 2018 SCDs, the design team adopted intentional steps to make the events more inclusive by offering scholarships within a Racial Ethnic Track and a Small Church Membership Track.

The schools in Atlanta and San Diego together attracted 1,462 participants including those who registered for the SCD's Online Teaching Events produced by GNTV Media Ministry. This consisted of live streaming of the plenary speeches and live online workshops in English and Spanish.

4. REGIONAL OFFICES

Global Ministries' second regional office opened in March 2017 in Seoul, South Korea. It serves congregations and supports mission collaboration in Asia and the Pacific. (The first regional office opened during the last quadrennium in Buenos Aires, Argentina, to serve Latin America and the Caribbean.)

The office in Seoul played a significant role in helping form the new Asia Methodist Mission Platform, which promotes the concept and practice of Methodists across the region "doing mission together." Participants at the first meeting in Hong Kong in June 2018 affirmed that "west to the east" no longer prevails, not only because mission continues to emerge from "everywhere to everywhere," but also because mission in the region continues to grow as a multi-church, inter-church, indigenous endeavor.

Other activities of the Asia-Pacific Regional Office included:

- Supporting training programs for Global Mission Fellows in Cambodia, Japan, and Korea
- Organizing mission roundtables, including with United Methodist partners, such as those held 2017-2019 in the Philippines in the Baguio and Davao episcopal areas (see additional information below under **VI. UNITED METHODIST COMMITTEE ON RELIEF, 1. INTERNATIONAL DISASTER RESPONSE**)
- Supporting the 2018 Pan-Asian Health Forum in Manila and assisting additional related meetings
- Planning regional missionary enrichment gatherings, including in Siem Reap, Cambodia
- Sponsoring a Global Migration Forum and related migration programs
- Hosting an Inter-Agency Consultation in Asia

Agency: General Board of Global Ministries

Title of Report: "Remembering, Serving, Preparing: A Mission Anniversary Quadrennium," Report of the General Board of Global Ministries to the 2020 General Conference

- Evaluating the Community Health Agriculture Development (CHAD) program in Cambodia for possible introduction in Laos and Vietnam

The regional office in Buenos Aires, since its opening in the last quadrennium, has strengthened relationships in the Latin American and Caribbean region, particularly with autonomous Methodist churches, ecumenical partners, and grassroots organizations.

In partnership with GBHEM and El Aposento Alto (The Upper Room), the office facilitated consultations on theological and missionary education for heads of churches, theological advisers, and leaders of theological training institutions, recognizing the special importance of theological formation of pastors in the Methodist theological and doctrinal tradition. Additionally, in cooperation with the World Methodist Evangelism Institute, the office helped coordinate an evangelism seminar, "Jesus, Life to Discover and Share."

The year 2019 saw a milestone in the history of the Encuentro con Cristo Fund (Encounter with Christ), celebrating the distribution of \$1 million since its founding in 1992.

Other activities included:

- Facilitating mission roundtables in Ecuador, Nicaragua, Panama, and Venezuela
- Trainings for Volunteers In Mission coordinators and heads of churches, with sites selected for proximity to partners in South America, Central America and Mexico, and the Caribbean area
- Coordinating and strengthening Methodist communications in the region, an inter-agency effort including Hispanic/Latino Communications of United Methodist Communications
- Trainings for treasurers and accountants of churches and ecumenical organizations
- Creating and implementing ministries in solidarity and support for migrants
- Developing with church partners policies to protect children and adolescents
- Establishing a Methodist presence and a missionary placement in French Guyana

5. RECONCILIATION AND REUNIFICATION IN BURUNDI

Following longstanding encouragement from Global Ministries, two United Methodist groups in Burundi, apart since 2005, held in February 2018 a successful reunification annual conference.

To prepare for the annual conference, representatives of the two groups attended the Comprehensive Africa Task Force meeting of the Standing Committee on Central Conference Matters in Harare, Zimbabwe, and there declared their intention to reconcile and reunite as one church.

Following the annual conference, the church in Burundi adopted three goals. 1) Double membership from 200,000 to 400,000 over the next five years. 2) Expand areas of service to include health ministries, education, and programs that address food security. 3) Strengthen structural and operational realities, involving human resources, financial reporting, and institutional accountability.

To assist the Burundian church's efforts toward doubling membership, Global Ministries in partnership with GBHEM helped establish a new pastors' school. In 2018, the Burundian United Methodist Church launched the new school emphasizing theological education and formation to help 195 local pastors further strengthen their capacities to establish or grow the church's congregations. Financial support

was provided by Global Ministries, the Burundi Annual Conference, churches and conferences in the United States.

The reconciliation in Burundi stands as a remarkable act of unity for The United Methodist Church. Division occurred following 12 long years of civil war and deep discord in the country after violent coups erupted in 1993 and 1994, igniting civil unrest. As fighting escalated, many fled the country, finding refuge in Kenya, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Tanzania and Rwanda. Tens of thousands lost their lives.

Today, a measure of stability in the country has facilitated the return of a significant portion of the displaced population. At the 2017 Harare meeting, Bishop Gregory Palmer, who chairs the Comprehensive Africa Task Force, said, "There was expression of readiness and overtures of reaching out to one another because, in some cases, people in the same household were aligned to the different groups in the church. The Lord was at work because people in the two groups had been talking, and they said they were 98 percent toward reconciling."

Third Area of Focus

ENGAGING IN MINISTRY WITH THE POOR

Goals: To inspire and resource church leaders to deepen their personal spiritual journey through building relationships with the poor; to cross boundaries and build authentic, mutual sustained relationships with people living in poverty; to understand and respond to systems that perpetuate poverty around the world; and to develop appropriate ministries with the poor and marginalized.

Global Ministries works to encourage, accompany, and resource church leaders to deepen their personal journey in Christ by building relationships with the poor, including the elderly, persecuted, unreached, and vulnerable, and with them establish authentic, mutually sustaining relationships.

Selected activities from the quadrennium include:

1. THE CHURCH AND AGRICULTURE IN AFRICA

Global Ministries facilitated an Africa agriculture summit, "Multiplying the Loaves: The Church and Agriculture in Africa," in Johannesburg in January 2019, connecting The United Methodist Church and partners in the region. The summit focused on new strategies and projects to help make United Methodist land in Africa more productive, a key goal of the Africa College of Bishops. In addition to bishops and other church leaders, the 80 plus participants included farm managers and agronomists.

Responding to an Africa College of Bishops call at its 2018 meeting in Accra, Ghana, the summit recognized that Africa has the potential of becoming self-sustaining if it develops its vast land into viable commercial enterprises and large-scale farming projects. Viable commercial farming enterprises bringing new economic and employment opportunities can help ensure empowerment and transformation, as well as food security, for the church and its people.

In his president's address to the College of Bishops in Accra, Bishop John K. Yambasu noted "the importance of agriculture as a conduit for raising the funds needed to support the various ministries of the church...." Given the opportunity, "The United Methodist Church can lead our nations into providing sufficient food, especially our staples such as rice, cassava, plantains, beans, maize, and meat products to feed our nations' populations." He encouraged "every episcopal area to establish robust agricultural development projects in every district within the episcopal area."

In Johannesburg, the participants interacted with representatives from successful farming ventures such as the Songhaï Centre in Benin, Nuru (Kenya), an organization that trains agriculture cooperatives, and the successful Community Health and Agriculture Development program in Cambodia. Agriculture and business experts presented data on the design and evaluation of successful agricultural projects. Report topics also included information on innovations in crop cultivation, ploughing, and fish-farming from United Methodist agriculture projects in Angola, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ghana, and Zambia, and educational opportunities available through Africa University's agriculture program and extension services. Issues of gender equality and justice in agriculture were also considered.

2. COMMUNITY DEVELOPERS PROGRAM

Since 1968, the Community Developers Program has had a rich history of advancing the church's capacity to be in empowering mission through partnerships with the communities where they are located. Historically focused on African American programming, the Community Developers Program now serves all racial/ethnic congregations and communities.

Sites within the Community Developers Program network address community concerns such as lack of affordable housing, health and wellness, school-age academic support, food insecurities, and children and youth development.

During the quadrennium, the Community Developers Program (CDP) recognized that new leaders must be identified and trained for the future and vitality of the program and its goals for community development. Accordingly, action steps were taken to begin a leadership pipeline to create a cadre of lay and clergy community developers. The CDP office will work directly with annual conferences, the racial/ethnic national plan leaders, general agencies, and external partners to provide focused training opportunities.

The Community Developers Program also took steps toward enhancing how it works directly with annual conferences to identify future potential CDP sites. It is the hope of the CDP Office that through focused programming and partnerships to develop future community developers and sites, the program will continue to expand throughout the United States.

3. MINISTRY IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Global Ministries and the General Board of Church and Society continued to take action during the quadrennium to form a United Methodist Task Force on Israel and Palestine. Additionally, Global Ministries collaborated with partners, including The Methodist Church in Britain and the World Methodist Council, to further the work of the Methodist Liaison Office in Jerusalem, founded by the three partners in 2012. It engages the world Methodist family in Christ's ministry of peace, truth, justice, and mercy among all peoples living in the land, in partnership with the Palestinian Christian community.

Actions of the Task Force, chaired by Bishop Hope Morgan Ward with 17 representatives from across the connection, included completion of reports by three working groups to help guide actions of the church. The Children and Advocacy Working Group received reports in March 2019 indicating that in Gaza alone 33 percent of children under five suffer anemia, while as many as 13 percent of all children in the region suffer some level of malnutrition. The working group encouraged churches and others engaging in mission trips to include time with partner organizations working with Palestinian children. The Investments Working Group evaluated companies benefiting from United Methodist investment and doing work in Israel and the Palestinian Territories that affect activities defining the lives of people in the region, such as Israeli settlements and military occupation. The group recommended assisting investors in making decisions and assessing business activities contributing to human rights violations. The Pilgrimage Working Group developed tour guidelines, "Come and See: Pilgrimage to Palestine and Israel," building on the General Conference resolution, "Holy Land Tours," to help tour groups, especially from the United States, include exposure to both Palestinian and Israeli faith communities.

In July 2019, the Methodist Liaison Office in Jerusalem received representatives of Global Ministries' and its partners who visited to demonstrate concern for the critical situation of the Palestinian people under military occupation. The "bitter fruits" of the occupation were described by the delegation. "We heard stories of family separation, the denial of basic human rights, inequality of treatment, and the need for the Palestinians to have a voice in the process of governing their own lives and futures. In Gaza, the lack of provision of basic services such as electricity and clean water have reached a point of crisis."

"We have seen the suffering of the indigenous Christian community," the delegation statement said. "We join their call to everyone to act decisively to support nonviolent actions for peace and justice for all—Palestinians and Israelis. We will continue to pray for all people in the region, and to remain there, through our Methodist Liaison Office, in order to walk in solidarity with those of all faiths who seek justice, peace and equal rights through nonviolent actions." The delegation also reasserted the commitment of the three founding partners to retain the Jerusalem office, acknowledging the long-term challenges and needs of the region.

Other actions by the Task Force included meetings with the United States Campaign for Palestinian Rights (USCPR) and Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP). The Task Force recommended that United Methodist general agencies continue membership in both groups recognizing their commitment to equal rights for all, international law, nonviolence, and rights of refugees.

Fourth Area of Focus

Improving Health Globally

Goals: To scale up existing programs on community health education; to improve the quality of health care services through church-supported hospitals and clinics; to increase the scope of such programs; and to increase mission service opportunities in health.

Global Ministries promotes abundant health for all with emphasis on life-saving and health-promoting measures to aid the economically vulnerable. This work recognizes how we are called to follow Jesus who was sent so that we all may have life and have it abundantly (John 10:10, NRSV).

New Churchwide Campaign – Abundant Health

Following its role in the last quadrennium as the implementing arm of The United Methodist Church's Imagine No Malaria campaign, alongside the communications and fund-raising support of United Methodist Communications, Global Ministries launched at the 2016 Portland General Conference, a new denominational signature health initiative, Abundant Health, with a goal of reaching one million children with lifesaving interventions by 2020.

The motivation for Abundant Health emerged from a survey of persons in 59 countries. The results identified several top health challenges, including maternal and child health, hunger and nutrition, and access to health care. For all areas, the most vulnerable include underserved, minority, and low-income populations.

The Abundant Health Initiative has reshaped United Methodist health ministries in all regions. Toward the promise of reaching one million children, Global Ministries reported in mid-2019 that 615,605 children had received life-saving interventions.

Abundant Health responds also to the United Nations' Every Woman Every Child Initiative, which seeks to reach 15 million children by 2020. The United Methodist Church is a major partner in this effort.

Alongside children's health, Abundant Health includes a range of additional ministries including those with pregnant women, mothers, people with disabilities, people suffering with non-communicable diseases, people with HIV/AIDS, people needing improved access to healthcare, and students needing scholarships for health training.

Global Ministries' Global Health Unit (GHU) administers the Abundant Health Initiative on behalf of the global church. GHU connects to and accompanies health partners around the world. Local congregations, small faith-based organizations, and other nonprofits form the partnership base for activity in the United States, Latin and Central America and Asia, while United Methodist Health Boards attached to Episcopal Areas continue to serve as the primary implementing entities for most programs in Sub-Saharan Africa. Health Boards also exist in the Philippines and Peru.

Global Health organizes its work under key programmatic themes. Selected activities from the quadrennium include:

1. MATERNAL AND NEWBORN CHILD HEALTH

This work represents a major emphasis of the Abundant Health Initiative. GHU provides grants to help increase access to quality prenatal care; ensure that pregnant women can deliver at well-equipped health facilities with the assistance of skilled birth attendants; offer effective postnatal care; and support careful and close follow up on young patients. GHU selects countries with the highest maternal and infant mortality rates and where communities and health facilities remain difficult to reach. In countries evidencing severe problems with malnutrition, GHU helps communities establish or expand local sources for high-protein, high-energy porridge. In other countries, projects include development of mobile, quick-response health clinics via motorbikes. For patients who need an ambulance and

transportation to onsite care in an established clinic, grants help pay the costs of the various necessary (and often the only available) modes of transport: bicycle, taxi, or airplane.

2. OBSTETRIC TRAINING

Medical research indicates that the maternal mortality rate following caesarian section in Sub-Saharan Africa remains 50 times higher than developed countries. In response, GHU supports a range of projects, especially those with long-range, lasting impact. For example, in 2019, fourteen surgeons and midwives from United Methodist hospitals in English-speaking Africa attended a training course at Mary Johnston Hospital (Manilla) to update their skills. Such trainings promise longstanding positive change over many decades into the future.

3. SUBSTANCE ABUSE PREVENTION AND RECOVERY

Addiction to drugs, alcohol and tobacco prevails worldwide in rich and poor countries alike. Drug addiction alone affects 247 million people worldwide. In the United States, opioid abuse takes an average of five lives every hour across the country. To help address these problems, GHU supports programs that focus on prevention, treatment, and recovery strategies for children and youth, adults, and families in vulnerable communities. For example, Healthy Youth USA in Dunwoody, Georgia, USA, provides full and partial scholarships for after-school and summer enrichment programming to students from low-income families. For congregations interested in learning more about and combating substance abuse, GHU provides many resources on the Abundant Health website: <<https://umcabundanthealth.org>>.

4. HIV/AIDS

In 2017 HIV affected about 37 million people, including 1.8 million children, predominantly in low- and middle-income countries or communities. In Africa, where HIV remains especially prevalent, Global Ministries focuses on two areas: 1) preventing mother to child transmission of HIV, with emphasis on protecting newborn babies from HIV infection, by promoting and funding early HIV counselling and testing of pregnant women, including their partners; and 2) reaching adolescents, especially teenage girls, by offering HIV counselling and testing and referral to treatment services. Building awareness in Sierra Leone, one of the areas in Africa experiencing disproportionately high rates of HIV, staff from the United Methodist General Hospital Kissy on World AIDS Day 2017 joined a march through the capital city, Freetown, to promote awareness about HIV infection especially among young people. Two United Methodist secondary schools paraded with banners, and several testing sites were set up along the way. The mayor of Freetown encouraged people to embrace those living with HIV: "Stigma must stop. When stigma is reduced, there will surely be a reduction in of HIV transmission."

Within the United States, where more than one million are living with HIV, Global Ministries focuses where HIV rates remain high. In the southeast, for example, GHU supports in Atlanta, the epicenter of Georgia's HIV crisis, organizations such as Lost N Found Youth and Someone Cares, both of which provide HIV counseling and testing for at-risk individuals and those living with HIV.

Global Ministries continues as a member of the United Methodist Global AIDS Committee, which plays a vital role in advocacy and awareness inside and outside the church.

5. MALARIA AND OTHER INSECT-BORNE DISEASES

Building on Imagine No Malaria, Global Ministries continues to maintain a focus on malaria prevention, diagnosis, and treatment, and continues to reach thousands of people each year through community and facility-based interventions. GHU supports 13 Imagine No Malaria partners in Africa and supplies more than 200 health facilities. During the quadrennium, United Methodist Health Boards in Africa received training in ways to keep health facilities supplied with malaria nets, rapid test kits, and medicines. By bus and motorbike, as well as by cell phone and email, health system workers helped communicate patient data and information on medicine stocks. Measuring the work, continually innovating data-collecting tools, and keeping shelves stocked help ensure patients receive effective treatment, especially important for at-risk pregnant women and children under five. In addition to malaria programs, GHU supports the prevention and control of other diseases similarly transmitted by biting insects. In Sri-Lanka, Global Health supported a country wide program to prevent dengue fever, a mosquito-borne viral disease. GHU supplied 12 districts with well covers and larvae-eating fish, significantly reducing dengue fever in the country over the past two years.

6. BETTER NUTRITION

In many countries, fresh fruit and vegetables, as well as clean water and safe places for physical activity, remain unavailable or inaccessible, negatively affecting health and nutrition. In the US, GHU emphasizes programs to encourage both good nutrition and physical activity, such as G.R.O.W. Harrisburg (Growing R Own Wellness) in Augusta, Georgia, USA. The program recognizes that inaccessible healthy foods and groceries stores to provide them contribute to the obesity, hypertension, and other chronic illnesses. In places such as the Democratic Republic of Congo, Nepal, and Sierra Leone, GHU supports nutrition projects focused on maternal, newborn, and child health. Community leaders, community health workers, and health facility workers help educate mothers, screen children, and make available nutrient-dense food from local products such as peanuts, soy, and green vegetables.

7. HEALTH SYSTEMS STRENGTHENING

To build and expand local capacities for health care, GHU works to strengthen health systems, especially the Health Boards in Sub-Saharan Africa. GHU follows the World Health Organization's Health System Framework, which highlights key areas: service delivery, health workforce, health information systems, access to essential medicines, and financing, leadership and governance. This strengthened infrastructure leads to improved health and equity, access and coverage, quality of care, and health worker patient and community safety. In 2018, GHU provided technical support for 15 health offices in Africa, Peru, and the Philippines, and 299 Methodist health facilities received assistance for essential medications, medical equipment, and staffing. GHU supported the training of 372 health professionals globally and helped revitalize 45 United Methodist mission hospitals and clinics.

8. LOCAL CHURCH HEALTH MINISTRIES

John Wesley advocated preventive care and healthy living. In turn, Methodist churches worldwide have long engaged in ministries that support mind, body, and spirit. GHU encourages churches to build on these traditions and create or expand ministries that promote life-changing interventions appropriate

for their communities. A good example is Haywood Street United Methodist Church in Asheville, North Carolina, USA, and its decision to focus on the 500 homeless people who on any given night had no place to sleep. The church understood homeless individuals are hospitalized more frequently, require longer inpatient stays, and are more likely to be re-admitted to the hospital than individuals with housing. A respite center was established to provide a safe place for homeless adults to stay on a short-term basis, after a hospital stay, to continue healing and connect with needed services. In 2018, Haywood Street Respite Center served over 200 individuals.

9. DEAF AND HARD-OF-HEARING MINISTRIES

In 1992, the General Conference recognized the need for a ministry among those who are deaf, deafened, or deafblind. Since that time Global Ministries has provided coordination and administration for several committees, task forces, and international programs working in this arena. Support for grants and resources come through The Advance and other funds. One goal is to expand the network of churches and conferences providing sign language interpreters, assistive listening devices, and captioning. One example of this vital work is the Deaf Ministry Boot Camp, an exciting and interactive workshop presented by Deaf & Hard of Hearing Ministries at Mount Pisgah UMC in Johns Creek, Georgia, USA. Participants learn basic sign phrases, share ministry ideas, improve communication access, and consider ways to begin a ministry for the deaf.

10. DISABILITY MINISTRIES

Global Ministries is committed to supporting programs that seek to improve the lives of persons with disabilities. Recognizing that there are over 1 billion people in the world living with disabilities, Global Ministries continues to explore ways to expand outreach around the world. GHU has programs in Cuba, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Liberia, Nigeria, Portugal, and Zambia, as well as in several states within the United States, such as Georgia, Michigan, Tennessee, and Virginia. Abundant Health paid tuition fees for disabled children from United Methodist families enrolled in schools in Nigeria and the eastern portion of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. GHU partners with the Prosthesis Program in Sierra Leone to assist amputees impacted by civil conflict. Another partner is the Emory and Henry College's Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy Clinics in southwestern Virginia. GHU funded equipment to implement physical and occupational therapy clinics serving uninsured and underinsured residents who face obstacles in affording such services.

Over the years, Global Ministries has provided support to the United Methodist Disability Committee and United Methodist Ministers with Disabilities Committee. GHU has aided in their mission to promote disability awareness and inclusion of persons with disabilities in all aspects of the church.

V. ACCOUNTABILITY AND STEWARDSHIP

During the quadrennium, with attention to sound accountability and stewardship, Global Ministries enhanced its strategies and tools supporting Monitoring and Evaluation and Internal Audit. This work ensured that Global Ministries' programs would function cost-effectively and deliver the greatest possible value to the church and its constituents. As the church continues to progress, Global Ministries' relationships with conferences and congregations, as well as other partners worldwide, depend more than ever on efficient, effective, nimble, responsive, and transparent operations and finance.

Global Ministries’ Monitoring and Evaluation team built a robust system at the agency level that provides support for all programs within the agency. Agency-wide performance indicators were developed. Data are collected on a quarterly basis from all Global Ministries’ departments to show departmental performance trends. Analysis generated from the data informs the agency’s decisions on resource allocation and strategic programmatic troubleshooting.

The Monitoring and Evaluation team also conducted evaluations of mission programs in 15 countries in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, South America, and North America. Ten macro-level and 25 micro-level evaluations were conducted. Aligning its work with the general church, Global Ministries’ Monitoring and Evaluation team organized its data collection in accord with the Connectional Table’s “values for evaluation” and The United Methodist Church’s Four Areas of Focus.

Internal Audit, meanwhile, played a crucial role communicating information about data integrity and reporting, accountability, stewardship, and transparency. Internal Audit provides independent assurance that recipients of church funds have the necessary internal controls, governance, and risk management to ensure that they operate effectively. Oversight of the audits is performed by an independent Audit Committee, meeting twice per year. Global Ministries outsourced the auditing activity to BDO LLP, a highly qualified global accounting firm based in London.

By mid-2019, Internal Audit had completed 100 audits related to programs and projects supported by funds released by Global Ministries totaling approximately \$52 million. Training workshops were held in six countries with 73 participants, including treasurers and accountants from 43 countries or regions, in order to enhance the capacity of the conferences’ treasuries.

VI. UNITED METHODIST COMMITTEE ON RELIEF

The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) is the means through which United Methodists collectively pray, act, and give for the relief of suffering without regard to religion, race, nationality, gender, or sexual orientation. Founded in 1940 to care for war refugees in Asia and Europe, the agency has grown to include ministries responding to persons, families, and communities affected by armed conflict, climate change, homelessness, intolerance, migration, and natural disasters. It also provides support for numerous global health ministries and projects addressing poverty (see additional information under **IV. AREAS OF FOCUS**, [Third Area of Focus](#) and [Fourth Area of Focus](#)).

UMCOR administers its work through four program areas: International Disaster Response, United States Disaster Response, Sustainable Development, and Global Migration. Work with migrants is the oldest component of UMCOR (see additional information under **II. HIGHLIGHTS**, **MIGRATION**). Earthkeepers is a new UMCOR program developed during the quadrennium, as a part of the church’s ongoing commitment to the care of God’s creation. The objective is to recruit, train, and deploy United Methodists as volunteers with a deep sense of God’s call to engage in environmental ministries (see additional information under **IV. AREAS OF FOCUS**, [First Area of Focus](#)).

UMCOR has a small administrative staff. For work in the United States and its territories, the UMCOR staff coordinates and depends on a network of annual conference-based volunteers trained in disaster

response and on grant partners. Outside the United States, the staff coordinates with partners and an emerging cohort of disaster management coordinators.

Selected activities from the quadrennium include:

1. INTERNATIONAL DISASTER RESPONSE

From the start of 2017 through mid-2019, UMCOR's International Disaster Response team made grants totaling \$17.2 million. These grants supported:

- Storm recovery in Africa, including Cyclone Dineo in Mozambique in 2017 and Cyclone Idai in Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Malawi in 2019 (Cyclone Idai was one of the worst storms on record in Africa and the Southern Hemisphere)
- Cyclone recovery in the Philippines
- Assistance to families displaced by conflict in Ukraine
- Landmine clearance in Laos, Lebanon, and the Nineveh region of Iraq
- Shelter provisions in conflicted areas of Iraq
- Rohingya refugees from Myanmar in Bangladesh
- Earthquake relief in Ecuador
- Flood recovery in Bangladesh and Côte d'Ivoire
- Syrian refugee services in Lebanon
- Water "harvesting" technology in conflict-torn Yemen
- Emergency protection measures in war-torn South Sudan
- Drought relief in Somaliland

The team also expanded the cohort of Disaster Management Coordinators (DMC) in international relief. DMCs operate through the episcopal areas of central conferences.

Two episcopal areas in the Philippines--Manila and Davao--completed by mid-2019 phase three of their DMC preparations, having carried out district assessments and sensitization of church leaders and members; disaster management volunteer identification; selection, training, and implementation of community-based contingency planning workshops in identified and prioritized high-risk communities; and short-listing and project design of potential mitigation projects.

All five episcopal areas in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Mozambique were in phase one in mid-2019. The first in-person DMC orientation event was in November 2017 with a second in June 2019. The first group of eight DMCs includes six men and two women.

2. UNITED STATES DISASTER RESPONSE

From the start of 2017 through mid-2019, UMCOR's United States Disaster Response team made grants in the United States and Puerto Rico totaling \$49.4 million. Major grants supported:

- Hurricane and tropical storm recovery—immediate and long term—in the following annual conferences: Alabama-West Florida (2019), Florida (2017, 2018), Louisiana (2017, 2018), North Carolina (2017, 2019), Rio Texas (2017, 2018), South Carolina (2017, 2019), South Georgia (2019), Texas (2017, 2018), and Virginia (2017) in response to Hurricanes and Storms Matthew, Bonnie, and Hermine in 2016; Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria in 2017; and Hurricanes Florence and Michael in 2018

- Hurricane recovery—immediate and long term—in Puerto Rico in response to Hurricane Maria (see below)
- Flood damage in the Louisiana (2017), Mississippi (2018), Rio Texas (2018), West Virginia (2018), and Wisconsin annual conferences (see below)
- Tornado recovery in Mississippi (2017, 2018) and Arkansas (2018)
- Recovery from Spring 2019 blizzards on the Pine Ridge Lakota Reservation in South Dakota
- The work of Church World Service responding to the refugee crisis
- National Justice for Our Neighbors, an UMCOR-initiated, separately incorporated network of legal clinics for migrants in the United States
- Response to wildfires in California, notably in 2018 when more than 1.8 million acres burned in California because of 8,054 wildfires, according to news reports

Following Hurricane Maria's devastation of Puerto Rico, UMCOR in the spring of 2018 allocated more than \$15 million received from donors to support recovery on the island and \$1 million to rebuild and equip churches, working in partnership with the autonomous Methodist Church of Puerto Rico, with which the denomination has a special relationship. A year later, the agency gave an additional \$1 million to the church restoration effort.

In response to storm and flood damage in the Upper Midwest United States, UMCOR approved \$1 million in 2019 to the Winding River United Methodist Church in Juneau County, Wisconsin, to bolster its leadership in long-term storm recovery in the area.

Gifts and grant-making made possible by donations kept pace with the increase in the numbers, scope, and scale of disasters in the United States and its territories during the quadrennium. In addition, UMCOR worked with its partners to further strengthen their capacities for accountability.

Part of UMCOR's commitment is to prepare United Methodists in the United States to respond to disasters. Toward that objective, UMCOR:

- Revised and made available through the connection and beyond the "Connecting Neighbors: A Ready Congregations Curriculum of The United Methodist Church";
- Provided opportunities for members to engage in disaster ministries such that more than 13,000 volunteers are currently listed as Early Response Team members (this program was successfully centralized for training, on-line background checks, and badging);
- Equipped people of The United Methodist Church and their partners to alleviate human suffering, with an emphasis on long-term recovery.

3. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

UMCOR's Sustainable Development program complements and extends its work in disaster relief, especially with regard for communities seeking to strengthen agriculture and food security and access to water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH). The work is conducted in collaboration "with" those whom it affects, multiplying their assets and fulfilling their aspirations. Most often, the people and communities involved exist on the economic margins. Accordingly, Sustainable Development aligns with The United Methodist Church focus on Ministry with the Poor (see additional information under **IV. AREAS OF FOCUS, Third Area of Focus**).

Examples of Sustainable Development ministries receiving support during the quadrennium include:

Agency: General Board of Global Ministries

Title of Report: "Remembering, Serving, Preparing: A Mission Anniversary Quadrennium," Report of the General Board of Global Ministries to the 2020 General Conference

- Food production and market access education programs at historic Cambine Mission in Mozambique
- Cassava cultivation by the development agency of the Côte d'Ivoire Conference
- Food production and family security in three villages on La Gonav Island, a part of Haiti, in partnership with Beyond Borders, a non-profit organization that helps people build movements to liberate themselves from oppression and isolation
- Women's economic empowerment in Haiti in partnership with Prosperity Catalyst, which develops and strengthens women-led businesses in distressed regions
- Food security for small-scale olive farmers in Gaza in collaboration with the Palestinian Agricultural Development Association
- Suicide reduction and recovery among farmers in India's Maharashtra state, a serious problem being addressed by CASA, the Church's Auxiliary for Social Action, an Indian ecumenical agency
- Agricultural start-up projects in several annual conferences or episcopal areas as follow up to the Africa agriculture summit, "Multiplying the Loaves: The Church and Agriculture in Africa," held in Johannesburg in January 2019 (see additional information under **IV. AREAS OF FOCUS, Third Area of Focus**)
- Village savings and loan project in Tanzania

The WASH program made 44 grants totaling \$4.54 million to projects in 25 countries with 605,705 beneficiaries from the start of 2017 to mid-2019. Projects included:

- Pure Water for the World, a community project in Darbonne, Leogane
- Assessment of water and sanitation infrastructure damages on the Pine Ridge Reservation In South Dakota
- Rongai Clean Water Project in Kenya
- Ganta Mission Station Hospital in Liberia
- Clean water programs in Ecuador through Engineers in Action
- Clean water development in Côte d'Ivoire

A grant of \$943,057 went to the National Tribal Water Center for the Newtok-Metarvik Community WASH Relocation Project, which is moving the entire southwest Alaska village of Newtok to the new site of Mertarvik, nine miles downriver on Nelson Island. In the planning for years, the relocation will preserve the sustainability and safety of the community, which is at risk owing to frequent storm erosion. The National Tribal Water Center helps develop capacity so that services are safe and properly operated to inspire the confidence of the community and provide maximum health benefits.

The objectives of WASH include: the provision of improved water infrastructure and sanitation facilities available year-round, eradication of open-defecation, education for schools and their surrounding communities, menstrual hygiene management and gender inclusion, cholera mitigation (conforming to the World Health Organization's Global Roadmap to 2030), investment in new technologies and baseline research, human rights to water and sanitation, and respect for the sacred beliefs and sovereign water rights of Native and Indigenous peoples.

4. GLOBAL MIGRATION

UMCOR has been assisting displaced persons since its inception in 1940. UMCOR further emphasized its work in this area during the period 2017-2019. Grants supporting displaced

persons, made possible by gifts to the Global Migration Advance, increased dramatically during the quadrennium (see additional information under **II. HIGHLIGHTS, MIGRATION**).

In addition to grantmaking, UMCOR works intentionally at collaborating with a variety of international and ecumenical agencies, so that real and lasting change may be made to migration policies on a global scale. UMCOR's goal is that migration policies become universally dignified, transparent, and predictable. Migration will always be with us, but how governments and humanitarian organizations work with this phenomenon influences the decisions of humanitarian assistance agencies and collective goals for avoiding death and suffering.

5. RELIEF SUPPLIES

UMCOR distributed large quantities of relief supplies from 2016 to second quarter 2019 to recipients throughout the world. Such supplies included hygiene, school, layette, sewing, bedding, birthing kits, and cleaning buckets. During that time, 1,017,286 kits were distributed in the United States and to countries including Haiti, Lebanon, Syria, and Ukraine. The kits were valued at \$21,155,966 million. A total of 13,019 volunteers served as the hands and feet of Christ at UMCOR depots, and their 326,547 hours of time were valued at \$5,547,063.

Beginning in January 2018, UMCOR began distributing hygiene and school kits and cleaning buckets only in the United States. While there has been longstanding support for shipping these items internationally to communities in crisis, UMCOR and its global partners recognized:

- There are faster, more effective ways to respond to disasters than international shipping
- Grants are the most effective way to quickly support places in acute need during a crisis
- Purchase of kit items locally helps stimulate the economy
- Using funds locally helps increase employment
- Providing funds for local purchases helps ensure that items are culturally appropriate