New England Conference
The United Methodist Church

Global Ministries 2018
Introduction

In the Great Commission, Jesus brings this charge, “Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.” In the New England Annual Conference we respond to this Commission by helping churches in our Conference connect and live out four mission goals of the General Board of Global Ministries (GBGM):

1. Make disciples of Jesus Christ;
2. Strengthen, develop, and renew Christian congregations and communities;
3. Alleviate human suffering; and
4. Seek justice, freedom, and peace.

GBGM’s online and printed resources describe mission opportunities across the Connection. In this companion guide to GBGM’s resources, we present many ways the New England Conference is living out the Great Commission. The Conference Board of Global Ministries prepared this guide to help leaders, pastors, and congregations explore ways to participate and be part of this ministry locally, conference wide, and globally.

As the New England Conference, may we boldly live out our faith by sharing the Good News and serving those in need.
New England Annual Conference Mission Work

A life lived in service to Christ includes feeding the hungry, offering water for those who thirst, clothing the naked, and visiting the imprisoned. It also includes caring for others, working for justice, and mending a broken world. New England United Methodists are stepping out in mission and ministry in our local communities, across our country, and across our world.

Our New England Annual Conference mission work takes place in diverse geographies, supports a wide range of demographic groups, and involves United Methodist organizations such as United Methodist Men (UMM), United Methodist Women (UMW), and the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR). Together we do God’s work.

Our mission work in the following four areas aligns with our mission goals.

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Just as we are all different parts of Christ’s body, each mission team has different parts. A team needs the right talent, spirit, tools, and materials to do Christ’s work at the site. It also needs organizers, those who can find or provide financial resources, and other support persons. Some people can swing the hammer, others can write a check or a letter, and all can pray.
Supporting Our Mission Financially

Financial support can come from churches, communities, the Conference and beyond. Some New England churches have established and funded designated mission accounts. Some missionaries self-sponsor their work. Some churches hold fundraisers. Preparing a financing strategy benefits from examining all these options and from discovering what funding is available from the New England Annual Conference and other parts of the United Methodist Connection.

Bishop Weaver Scholarship—Offsetting Cost of Mission Travel:

The Bishop Peter D. Weaver Mission Scholarship Endowment Fund provides funding to assist New England Conference laity and clergy with travel expenses for mission outreach projects beyond their local community. The fund honors Bishop Weaver, who served in the New England Conference from 2004 until his retirement in 2012.

Our Conference Board of Global Ministries reviews all applications, determines applicants’ eligibility, and determines the scholarship amounts to be awarded. Scholarships may provide up to 50 percent of travel expenses.

Applications are accepted on an ongoing basis and must be received at least three months prior to travel dates. Each successful applicant may receive only one scholarship per year. The application is located at: https://www.neumc.org/weaverscholarship. For additional information, contact Barbara Burnside at baburnside@neumc.org.

Mission Funding Sources

Mission funding from our Conference and the United Methodist Connection comes from two basic sources: Mission Shares that each church pays annually and designated giving through Advances. Each is described below.

**Mission Shares:** Most of the money that we give to the local church is used to support the ministries of the local congregation. We also send a portion to the Annual Conference to collectively support Conference Mission Shares, General Church Mission Shares, and Clergy Benefits Mission Shares. Mission Shares are powerful: they enable United Methodists to do together what no church, district, or annual conference could do alone.

**Advances:** Designated giving supports a wide variety of work ranging from disaster relief work to specific missionaries overseas to local programs. Our Conference establishes Advances as does our United Methodist connection. UMCOR, for example, establishes Advances. We can go beyond giving to the church by contributing gifts to specific programs, missionaries, and ministries through The Advance for Christ and His Church and through contributions to Special Sunday offerings.
Advance Specials of the New England Conference

God’s mission in the world has no boundaries. When we first think of mission, many think of ministry in some other part of the world. We also know, however, that the need for us to participate in God’s mission is evident next door. Our call to local mission and ministry is represented by the following New England Advance Specials, which have been chosen for special emphasis by the Conference Board of Global Ministries. When we give to Advance Specials, we know that 100 percent of the gift goes directly to the project. This is a major benefit of our United Methodist Connection. The Conference invites us to support one or more of the Advance Specials by submitting funds to the Conference office and designating the Advance Special on the memo line.

For more information about these New England Conference Advance Specials, visit the Conference website at: https://www.neumc.org/missionsministriesinnewengland.

Aldersgate Camp and Retreat Center, #617
Gives youth, adults, and families a sacred summertime space where they can unwind from the world and be renewed in their faith.

Boston Seafarer’s Friend Society, #722
Serves as the face of humanity and the hand of friendship to the multitude of international seafarers who visit the ports of Boston, Portsmouth, and Portland.

Camps and Retreat Scholarship Fund, #676
Offers financial assistance to individuals and families for events at our Camp and Retreat Ministry sites.

Central Vermont Mission, #855
Supports Volunteer In Mission teams working on homes needing repair and restoration by providing lodging and construction support.

Down East Maine Missions, #694
Enables and enhances the spiritual, cultural, and economic welfare and sustainability of Down East Maine communities.

First Radio Parish Church of America, #701
As America’s oldest continuous religious broadcast (since 1926), shares God’s Good News of love.

Camp Mechuwana, #703
Offers more than 50 programs for youth and adults during the summer to introduce individuals to Christ and spread His love to others.
**Methodist Conference Home, Inc., #699**
Assists individuals, primarily older adults and people with disabilities, to remain independent and active in their own homes and communities.

**Mid-Maine Homeless Shelter, #689**
As a faith-based organization, provides comfortable, clean, safe and friendly accommodations (including 18 beds) to adults and children.

**New England Justice For Our Neighbors, #685**
Provides legal assistance to immigrant individuals and families in finding their way through the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service protocols and requirements.

**Nicaragua Covenant and Ministry Partners/Nicaragua Planning Committee, #803**
Provides education, meals, clean water, health and dental care to 30,000 people in 60 communities via a one-of-a-kind Mobile Health Clinic.

**Prince of Peace Methodist Church, Bogotá, Colomba, #678**
Empowers women, educates children, and gives youth tools to transform their world, comforting those most marginalized and afflicted by radical economic injustice.

**Rolling Ridge Retreat and Conference Center, #620**
Provides a sacred space for retreats, meetings, picnics, and programs for churches, Conference agencies, and individuals.

**Safe Havens Interfaith Partnership Against Domestic Violence, #771**
Promotes hope and justice for victims and survivors of domestic violence and elder abuse by coordinating the efforts of faith communities and service providers.

**Spirit Wind Fair Trade, #602**
Sponsors two women's cooperatives in Nicaragua by marketing their products to greater New England.

**United Methodist Economic Ministry, #691**
Assists elderly, disabled, low-income, unemployed, and underemployed individuals and families to meet their basic needs.

**United Methodist Elder Care, #639**
Provides independent, assisted living, skilled nursing, and rehabilitation care for seniors ages 64 and older.

**Wanakee United Methodist Center, #673**
Provides a residential Christian camping experience for New England youth.

**Wilson Center, University of Maine, #650**
As a faith-based organization, serves mainline, progressive, and liberal Protestant students at the University of Maine.
Disaster Response

The mission of United Methodist Disaster Response in the New England Conference is to provide a caring Christian presence in the aftermath of disaster. The mission of United Methodist Disaster Response in the New England Conference is to provide a caring Christian presence in the aftermath of disaster, which is the most important thing a team can do. We begin with disaster preparation, planning, and training—and then activate a response when disaster strikes. Trained volunteers partner with survivors doing debris removal, mucking out, tarping roofs, and removing mold through long-term recovery. As local United Methodist churches and district offices assist their communities and individuals to prepare, respond and recover from disaster, the Conference provides resources and training for them, in cooperation with the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR).

Types of disasters to which we respond: The Disaster Response effort of the New England Conference is primarily focused on natural disasters, such as floods, ice storms, tornadoes, and hurricanes. Other disasters, often called human-caused, may result from terrorism, such as the Boston Marathon bombing, or from accidents, such as chemical spills. Resources of the conference could also be used to assist individuals and families impacted by these kinds of disasters.

How does the New England Conference respond to disasters?: Trained conference volunteers stand ready to assist any time disasters are so large that the resources of the local community or the district are not sufficient to meet the needs. These volunteers are trained to respond mainly in their own conference (the six states of New England, in our case). They may be invited to help other conferences after major disasters, such as Hurricanes Katrina, Sandy, Harvey, Maria, and Irma.

The response from the conference can take many forms. Experts can provide advice to help the local community to meet immediate needs or to plan for recovery from a disaster; UMCOR kits such as cleaning kits and hygiene kits are available; and the conference disaster response coordinator can recruit volunteers to help communities. The Conference Disaster Response Coordinator deploys Early Response Teams (ERTs) once the area has been declared safe by first responders. In addition, just-in-time training is available for Ministry of Care volunteers. They provide support to individuals and congregations, helping them cope with the loss caused by a disaster. Then, when a community moves into the long-term recovery phase, United Methodist Volunteers in Mission (UMVIM) teams are invite to respond.

Disaster responders in our Conference rarely act alone. We work with partners to provide the best possible relief to survivors of the disaster. Our most important partners are The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) and Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD).

VOAD: A national, state, and local coalition of non-profit and non-governmental organizations works to foster cooperation, communication, coordination, and collaboration in disaster response. All six New England states are members of the state VOADs. Conference membership in VOAD fosters this cooperation. VOAD organizations also cooperate and coordinate with the state departments of emergency management and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Visit https://www.nvoad.org/ to learn more and access resources.
UMCOR

UMCOR is a vital partner in the disaster response effort of the Conference. We are all UMCOR: when volunteering, we are the church and the hands and feet of Christ. UMCOR staff and consultants provide 1) training before and during the disaster response, 2) expert consultants to help the conference meet special needs during and after a disaster, 3) mitigation grants and emergency funds immediately after a disaster to enable a quick response, 4) connections with non-governmental organizations (NGOs), volunteers, community experts, local government, and other organizations to help communities recover from disaster; and 5) relief supplies and other important resources to assist with long-term recovery.

One hundred percent of donations to UMCOR go to assist those affected by disaster. Gifts can be donated by phone at 1-888-252-6174; mailed to UMCOR, c/o Advance GCFA, PO Box 9068 GPO, New York, NY 10087-9068; or given online at www.umcor.org. Donations are designated for US Disaster Response, Advance #901670, Material Resources, Advance #901440 for relief supplies or International Disaster Response, Advance #982450.

United Methodist Volunteers In Mission

United Methodist Volunteers in Mission (UMVIM) is a grassroots movement to help teams demonstrate “Christian Love in Action.” UMVIM partners with communities in need, not only after a disaster, but also in building ongoing relationships with communities. UMVIM serves locally, nationally, and across the globe. The key word is “WITH.”

This ministry exists to promote, encourage, and enable Christians to volunteer in short-term mission service. Persons of various skills and abilities serve in construction, mentoring, teaching, supporting health care initiatives, cleaning up disaster debris, or leading vacation bible schools. Some serve simply by being present in mission settings with those who need a listening ear. When we cross borders, including borders that divide classes, races, or ethnic groups in our own community, we can find Christ on the other side, and it can change our lives. UMVIM is about relationships and people first and then about the project.

The Northeastern Jurisdiction (NEJ) of The United Methodist Church coordinates UMVIM invitations between conferences. This occurs when there is a need for help from outside a conference during the long-term recovery phase. NEJ also provides information and connections to mission opportunities all over the world. To learn more about New England Conference programs, resources, and training, visit https://www.neumc.org/volunteersinmissionumvim.

For more information about UMVIM, contact Conference UMVIM Coordinators Jeff Munson & Susan Baker at NEUMVIM@gmail.com. To schedule a training or for information about disaster response, contact Conference Disaster Response & Mission Coordinator Barbara Burnside at baburnside@neumc.org.

Also visit the England Conference website at https://www.neumc.org/upcomingtrainingopportunities.
Becoming a Disaster Response or UMVIM Volunteer

Volunteer opportunities include serving on an Early Response Team (ERT); becoming a United Methodist Volunteer in Mission (UMVIM) to offer short-term help with part of a long-term recovery effort; training to be a leader; helping a church organize and build cleaning, hygiene or school kits; serving on a District Disaster Response/UMVIM Committee and taking a Connecting Neighbors course as a group to become better prepared to weather a disaster, individually and as a church, making the church better able to help in its community after a disaster.

If available when called, ERTs respond in the early stages of disasters, helping with debris removal, mucking out, cleaning, tarping roofs and mold clean-up. UMVIM teams help with recovery over the long term. One major form of assistance is providing volunteer labor to greatly reduce the cost of repairing damaged homes or sometimes completely rebuilding them.

All teams must have a trained leader. If another conference invites ERTs, they may require ALL team members be trained, badged and background checked. A criminal background and sex offender registry checks are required for ERT members. As stated in Safe Sanctuary guidelines and policies, they are also required for adults chaperoning youth teams. ERT members must be at least 18 years old. UMVIM teams are open to youth but must have enough experienced adult volunteers to supervise the youth.

Information about trainings in the Conference can be found on the New England Conference website at https://www.neumc.org/upcomingtrainingopportunities.

Young Adult Missionary Programs

Global Mission Fellow

Is God calling you to help change the world through mission service? Young people all over the world are encouraged to apply to serve in three different areas as a United Methodist Global Mission Fellow, Global Justice Volunteer or Individual Volunteer. Time commitments for these programs range from two months to two years, depending on the program. Missionaries can serve within the United States or internationally. For more information, visit www.umcmission.org/gt.

Mission Volunteers (ages 18 and up)

Get involved in mission during your vacation, required semester abroad or gap year. Put your faith into action while living in community with those you serve. The Mission Volunteer program offers individuals and couples the flexibility to volunteer for a period of two months to two years at placement sites all around the world, including the United States. Every effort is made to accommodate a volunteer’s placement choice. Raise your own funds, get trained, join with other volunteers, and be immersed in another culture.
Missionaries Supported by New England Annual Conference

Below is a list of the missionaries supported by New England Annual Conference. These missionaries serve in a variety of ways around the world.

**Eun Ha Choi, #13974Z**
Eun Ha “Grace” Choi is a community health worker to several community outreach programs of Harris Memorial College in the Philippines.

**Evelyn Erbele, #10832Z**
The Rev. Evelyn Erbele is co-pastor of the First United Methodist Church of Ketchikan, Alaska.

**Gayle Lesure, #982965**
Gayle Lesure, a Church and Community Worker and Deaconess, serves with the Greater Clarksburg Cooperative Parish in the West Virginia Annual Conference.

**W. Terence Erbele, #10831Z**
The Rev. Terence Erbele is co-pastor of the First United Methodist Church of Ketchikan, Alaska.

**Belinda Forbes, #12109Z**
Belinda Forbes serves with Accion Medica Cristiana (AMC or Christian Medical Action), a Nicaraguan Christian ecumenical organization.

**Tendai Manyeza, #3019567**
Tendai Manyeza, M.D., is administrator and Chief Medical Officer for Old Mutare Mission Hospital of the United Methodist Church in Mutare, Zimbabwe.

**Deirdre Zimmerman, #13171Z**
Deirdre Zimmerman serves in Kathmandu, Nepal, as advisor to Nutrition Promotion and Consultancy Services.

**Mark Zimmerman, #10908Z**
Mark Zimmerman, M.D, serves in Kathmandu, Nepal, as director of the Nick Simons Institute.
CONTACTS

https://www.neumc.org/volunteersinmissionumvim

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