

## THE PACIFIC ISLAND MINISTRY PLAN REPORT TO GENERAL CONFERENCE 2020

“If you want to travel fast, travel alone. If you want to travel long, travel together.” (An African proverb.) The Pacific Island Ministry (PIM) Plan experienced a new the age-old wisdom inherent in this saying. The seven years journey of the PIM Plan has been slow, but the journey itself has been a valuable teacher. True to the ancient saying, the desire to travel together has meant a slower pace but travelling together is a non-negotiable. As such, we will necessarily revisit some of the goals and objectives set in the last two quadrennia, but we do so with a deep sense of gratitude and affirmation for the journey thus far, more keenly aware of our shared privileges and responsibilities as United Methodists living out our faith authentically as Pacific Islanders called to be disciples and to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Ultimately, the call is the journey, and we journey in faith knowing that Christ goes with us.

### LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

One of the primary goals of the PIM Plan from its inception, is to empower Pacific Islanders to participate in the life of the church using their authentic gifts and graces, and thereby help the UMC to more closely reflect the fullness of God. This requires a holistic, multi-faceted approach, that is developed with sensitivities and appreciation for contexts and experience as well as incorporating critical tools and resources. We seek to continue this journey by proposing the following goals and objectives:

**Equip First Generation Leaders:** The Plan will continue to equip first generation leaders with appropriate tools for disciple making in their new surroundings. One of the specific characteristics of Pacific Islander United Methodists, is that they practice a form of Wesleyan as learned and lived out in their native setting. Those faith practices sustain their existence in the new land and should be appreciated and recognized as a gift.

- Development of Lay leadership:
  - The Plan will offer strategies through partnership with general agencies and annual conferences for aligning existing lay leadership initiatives within the Pacific Island ministries with current denominational leadership paradigm, such as Lay Speaking and Lay Missioner ministry programs.
  - The Plan will provide a strategy for developing lay leadership skills that will enable full participation in all levels of the church’s administration and governance.
- Development of Clergy leadership:
  - The Plan will provide strategies for the development and advancement of clergy leadership from licensing, certification and ordination.
  - The Plan will provide strategies for equipping first generation leaders who were trained in their native setting, to enable them to fully participate in their new charge.

### Develop Second Generation Leaders:

- Youth and Young Adult Ministry:
  - Focus on 18-40 years old: Experience and engagement over the last two quadrennia confirmed our initial finding that this age group needed to find affirmation and validation within the church family and ministries. Young people of this age group were

in the pews, in the parking lot, in the periphery of church community and life, but church, led by many first-generation leaders, was not readily relevant to them. The Plan will continue to provide learning and training opportunities for this age group, with hopes of developing leaders for their current setting and for the future.

- Provide grants for youth and children's ministries.
- Develop strategies for supporting young people who are called into ordained ministry, by accompanying them from the discernment process into ordination.

## **DEVELOPING THE CHURCH COMMUNITY**

In the Pacific Island context, the church is the community and everyday life is lived out within the confines of this community. This is certainly a gift that we want to sustain. However, this calls the church to be more than just place of worship, spiritual nurturing and fellowship, but to be a critical link to the wider world, by providing avenues for social, political, and educational growth.

**Congregational Development:** Developing new congregations and revitalizing existing congregations is a priority for the PIM Plan. Thus far, we have managed to maintain existing church communities that have for the most part been transplanted from the home country. The growing Pacific Island population and the changing demographics within that population require a new iteration of church, recognizing the gifts innate to the Pacific Island community and also responding to the organic needs of the church community and its social and geographical context. The Plan will continue to assist Pacific Island communities in starting up and revitalizing new and existing congregations by providing training and programs, and scholarships to attend denominational training and initiatives.

**Church as Community:** The Plan will provide grants to assist local congregations and church community to provide appropriate services. Possible projects include parenting, elderly care, domestic violence, and cultural knowledge and preservation.

**Social Justice and Advocacy:** Pacific Islanders are living into the knowledge that there is no holiness without social holiness. In traditional settings, social justice advocacy was not always a part of the church's role. Hence, it is a part of the Plan's role to provide educational opportunities for learning in this area. In addition, the Plan will also provide grants for local programs that will promote social justice and advocacy in areas such as immigration, poverty, mass incarceration, gang, drugs and other social needs.

## **RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT**

**Language Resource:** As recent immigrants, Pacific Islanders have great language resources needs. Most Pacific Islanders speak only their native language and understands very limited English. Most of the existing congregations rely on resources from their home country. The plan will partner with appropriate general agencies and program initiatives to produce specific relevant language resources for worship and other appropriate needs.

**Cultural Appropriate Christian Education Curriculum:** The plan will partner with appropriate agencies and programs to produce contemporary and cultural appropriate curriculum for all ages, for the community with the greatest need in this area.

## **HEALTH**

Pacific Islanders have great health challenges. The change in lifestyle and food intake has led to disturbingly high rates of serious chronic illness, including congestive heart disease, hypertension and diabetes among Pacific Islanders and yet, they are among the highest number of uninsured people in the United States. Grants will be made available for health projects. There are a variety of needs depending on areas and existing community health resources in those areas. Hence, it would be best to make funds available through grants and each congregation/ministry can respond to this need in the best possible form.

## STRUCTURES AND RESOURCES

### *General Agencies Partnership*

The United Methodist Church's mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. The PIM Plan is a means for carrying out this mission. The Plan is committed to joining The UMC church in making disciples who will offer their authentic gifts and graces to be used in carrying out the mission of the church. A hurting world needs diverse means of disciple making, of care and love, and the Pacific Island Ministry Plan, along with the other ethnic plans, are in the best position to offer this to the world. Indeed, God is calling the whole church to engage with ethnic communities across the United States to fulfill our United Methodist Church's mission.

In ongoing collaboration with the Ethnic Ministerial Plans each general agency is expected to continue collaborating with the implementation of their proposed programmatic goals and objectives for the 2021-2024 quadrennium, as described in this quadrennial proposal.

1. To provide processes of accompaniment to assist annual conferences on developing and assessing their strategic plans for ethnic ministries based on guidelines developed under the direction of the respective Board or committees of each of the ethnic groups by establishing holistic partnerships which includes financial and technical resources.
2. To create and contextualize design, test, perfect, and implement model programs initiatives and resources that applies different methodologies to identify and respond to each ethnic community
3. To design and produce contextualize written resources and workshops to address the systemic and structural issues related affecting to ethnic communities such as immigration, health care, education, unemployment, housing and poverty, mass incarceration, retribution, and other social issues.
4. To continue evaluating and updating current and new laity development curriculum by creating small groups and teams which design and implement workshops that relate to making disciples for the transformation of the world.
5. To continue supporting the candidacy process of local missional development by partnering with schools and general agencies to promote, collaborate, review and upgrade the academic quality of the course of study programs.

6. To continue working on designing, testing, implementing, and evaluating at least one alternative model of theological education for pastoral leaders with undergraduate United Methodist colleges, seminaries, and/or training centers that facilitate these pastors' movement toward ordination.
7. To identify placement opportunities for missionaries that support the ethnic plans' stated strategies, priorities, and goals; and to recruit, train, commission, deploy, and accompany missionaries.

#### *Committee Members Organization*

The Plan recommends that the Pacific Island Ministry Committee will provide oversight and guide the implementation of the Pacific Island Ministry Plan. It is recommended that the committee be composed of the following: (currently approximately 10 persons)

- Two (2) persons from each of the related Pacific Island Sub-ethnic groups
- One (1) Staff of the Office of Asian Pacific Ministries of the General Board of Global Ministries or Consultant
- One (1) Staff of the Pacific Islanders National Caucus United Methodists
- Other persons as needed (to be determined by the Committee)

The committee will meet at least annually to:

- Develop guidelines and policies for the implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of the Pacific Island Ministry Plan.
- Determine the ministries that will be developed for that current year.
- Recommend funding for new or continuing projects.
- Develop reports of the ministries that are in process.
- Evaluate projects funded.
- Recommend changes in order to accomplish the work.
- Support each other's work.
- Develop recommendations for the following quadrennium.

#### BUDGET FOR 2021-2024

To achieve all the above goals with the existing organization, we request the 2020 General Conference approve \$540,000.00 for the continuation of the implementation of the Pacific Island Ministry Plan during the 2021-2024 quadrennium. This amount will be allocated to Global Ministries.