

LOVING & SERVING

Let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds...

Hebrews 10:24



GLOBAL MINISTRIES

General Board of Global Ministries

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

UMCOR

United Methodist Committee on Relief

**ANNUAL
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TOWARD LOVE AND GOOD DEEDS

And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another – and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

– **Hebrews 10:24-25 (NIV)**

The community unswervingly fixed on God has missional responsibility. The writer of Hebrews puts the matter in the strongest of terms: to “spur” one another toward love and good deeds means to put force in action; the verb here means that love and good deeds are not optional in the community faithful to God.

In 2023, Global Ministries and the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) embraced many opportunities for love and service. UMCOR responded to 111 disasters around the world, including relief in the Middle East and long-term war recovery in Ukraine. Support for health services, infrastructure, medicines and personnel of United Methodist health facilities saved lives. Missionaries worked alongside partner churches and new faith communities, supporting and training leaders and laypeople in ministry and Christian discipleship.

In May, Global Ministries and the East Africa Episcopal Area announced the restoration of their historic relationship, ending a 12-year freeze on distribution of funds. Moving forward together, Global Ministries’ partnership with the people of East Africa has resumed.

To encourage and serve alongside one another more intentionally, Global Ministries held strategic consultations with many partners. Listening cultivated learning and deeper understanding among staff, missionaries and partners, which spurred new ways of connecting and seeing the intersections of our work.

“We all walk together with Jesus, hand in hand,” was how one group facilitator described the April Africa Partners

Mission Consultation held in Mozambique. In August, missionary representatives from across the globe gathered at Emory University’s Candler School of Theology to reexamine guiding principles of missionary service. Later in the month in Seoul, Korea, staff attended the World Council of Churches 4th Roundtable for Peace on the Korean Peninsula and then met with leaders of the Korean Methodist Church for dialogue on mission and ministry. And in November, mission advocates, conference disaster response coordinators, missionaries and other mission representatives gathered in Atlanta for the U.S. Mission Partners Consultation.

2023 was also the first year Global Ministries hosted both board of directors’ meetings outside the U.S. – in Mozambique in the spring and Cambodia in the fall. In October, the board unanimously voted Roland Fernandes’s appointment as general secretary of the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry (GBHEM), effective in 2024, a position that he will hold along with his leadership duties with Global Ministries and UMCOR. This role is a natural extension of collaborative work between GBHEM and Global Ministries that began in early 2022, focusing on missional, programmatic and operational alignment.

We look forward in hope to peaceful and productive relationships, deeper understanding of one another and recognition of our mutual participation in God’s mission during this transformative time for The United Methodist Church and the world.



Roland Fernandes
General Secretary,
Global Ministries
and UMCOR



Bishop Hee-Soo Jung
President,
Global Ministries



Bishop Thomas J. Bickerton
President,
UMCOR



Baguio Episcopal Area DMO

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WHERE WE WORK

Africa

Angola
Burundi
Cameroon
Central African Republic
Côte d'Ivoire
Democratic Republic
of the Congo
Ethiopia
Guinea
Kenya
Liberia
Libya
Madagascar
Malawi
Morocco
Mozambique
Namibia
Nigeria
Rwanda
Senegal
Somalia

Sierra Leone
Somalia
South Africa
South Sudan
Tanzania
Thailand
Togo
Uganda
Zambia
Zimbabwe

Asia

Afghanistan
Bangladesh
Cambodia
Fiji
Hong Kong, SAR,
P.R. of China
India

Indonesia
Japan
Laos
Malaysia
Mongolia
Nepal
Pakistan
Philippines
South Korea
Sri Lanka
Taiwan
Vietnam

Middle East

Israel
Jordan
Lebanon
Palestine
Syria
Yemen

Europe

Albania
Austria
Czech Republic
Estonia
Finland
Georgia
Germany
Greece

Hungary
Ireland
Kyrgyzstan
Latvia
Moldova
North Macedonia
Norway
Poland
Portugal
Russia
Serbia
Spain
Switzerland
Turkey
Ukraine
United Kingdom

Latin America and the Caribbean

Argentina
Bahamas
Barbados
Belize
Bolivia
Brazil
Chile
Colombia
Costa Rica
Dominican Republic
Ecuador
El Salvador
Guatemala

Haiti
Honduras
Jamaica
Mexico
Nicaragua
Panama
Paraguay
Peru
Saint Lucia
Uruguay
Venezuela

North America

Canada
Guam
Puerto Rico
United States

A woman wearing a purple puffer jacket, a white headscarf, and black gloves is walking through a desolate, destroyed area. She is carrying a yellow bucket in her left hand. In the background, there is a large fire with thick white smoke rising from it. The ground is covered in ash and debris. The sky is overcast and grey. The overall scene conveys a sense of hardship and the aftermath of a disaster.

Humanitarian Relief and Recovery

RESILIENCE AND HOPE

Humanitarian relief and recovery are rooted in the work of The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR), founded more than 80 years ago as a response to the devastation caused by WWII. Today, UMCOR alleviates human suffering and provides hope and healing through response and recovery efforts to natural and humanmade disasters, through support of refugees and migrants, and through efforts to increase environmental sustainability and decrease food insecurity. Partners, volunteers and caseworkers collaborate to create resilient communities, regardless of nationality or race, faith or status.



Cal-Nev Disaster Response Ministry

IN FLORIDA, RELIEF ON TOP OF RECOVERY

Hurricane Idalia was the second major hurricane to batter Florida in less than a year, and many people were still recovering from the wreckage of Hurricane Ian. Trish Warren, the Florida Conference’s disaster response coordinator, said that after being pummeled by Ian last year, Pine Island was now experiencing flooding from Idalia.

“Some of the clients that we’ve been working with for long-term recovery now need response work again, which has just been very traumatic for them,” Warren said. “So, we’re having to provide some social and emotional care also.”

An UMCOR grant for more than \$2 million undergirded the work of the Florida Conference’s recovery from Hurricane Ian and ensured the structures were up and running for Hurricane Idalia.

“There’s gonna be needs here for the next six, eight, 12 months. I hope everyone doesn’t forget about us once we’re off the front page because it’s gonna be a long recovery.”

– The Rev. Marcus Zillman, senior pastor of Cypress Lake United Methodist Church in Fort Myers, regarding Hurricane Ian, which struck in Sept. 2022 and was in recovery throughout 2023

In 2023, UMCOR awarded 252 grants totaling \$20,105,153 to partners around the world.

TOOLS OF HOPE

One of the ways the California-Nevada Conference participates in fire recovery is to join other churches, NGOs and government agencies at local assistance centers. They work with different long-term recovery groups depending on the path of the fires. The groups will often set up in spaces like local schools or churches to reach the affected populations.

“Sherry” came to the table to talk with volunteer Susan Hunn. She asked about tools she would need to sift through the ash that was her home. Cal-Nev Early Response Teams (ERTs) are trained in this task and could send a team, but Sherry wanted to do it herself.

“When we offered what she needed – a sifting box, shovel, rake, protective clothing, gloves, masks and hand tools, she beamed with confidence,” Hunn noted. “Amid her losses was an antique teapot collection. She wanted to see if she could find just one teapot in the rubble. She believed she would. We helped her out with tools of hope.”

“It seems so overwhelming when you lose your home, traumatizing in so many ways. Our conference helped with 50 survivor long-term recoveries totaling \$307,000, funded by UMCOR, an American Red Cross grant and our Conference Disaster Response fund. This funding primarily assisted survivors with establishing new living situations.”

– Steve Elliott, Conference Disaster Response Coordinator, California-Nevada Conference



Mike DuBose, UMC News



SOLAR TRAILERS ENHANCE DISASTER RESPONSE

A new solar trailer, powerful enough to charge an electric vehicle, is being used by the North Georgia Conference Disaster Response Ministry to provide emergency clean power for their disaster response team and community relief hubs.

Each solar trailer is rapidly deployable and can be towed to where it is needed most. In between disasters, it can also help offset the use of traditional gas or diesel generators at local live events and festivals.

“Our United Methodist ERT volunteers are some of our denomination’s best models of connectional collaboration. When need arises, our disaster response ministry mobilizes and responds,” said the Rev. Blair Boyd Zant, North Georgia Conference Director of Connectional Ministries and of the Center for Congregational Excellence. “This solar trailer is the perfect example of what we look like at our best: key partners contributing critical resources to create something that will be both a practical aid and a visible sign of hope to someone on their worst day.”

“In addition to providing cleaner energy for communities in crisis, the mobile solar microgrid trailer is an outreach and education tool that can be used to promote and celebrate resilience.”

— Jamie Swezey, Program Director at Footprint Project

75 trainings were offered in the areas of disaster relief and recovery, renewable energy and migration, with 1,553 participants trained.



FOOD AND WATER RELIEF IN SOUTH SUDAN

An UMCOR partnership with Water is Basic and WESI (Women Empowerment Solutions Initiative) distributed food and household water filtration systems to 600 refugees caught in the middle of ongoing civil conflict. Many of the beneficiaries were women with children, students and elderly women who had fled without possessions from Sudan.

REACHING SURVIVORS IN GAZA

UMCOR immediately contacted its Middle Eastern partners as tensions escalated in the Gaza Strip after the October 7 attacks on Israel resulted in unprecedented retaliation on the civilian population of Gaza and the numbers of deaths and injuries soared. Israel’s closing of all Gaza borders prevented humanitarian aid from reaching those in dire need. In 2024, UMCOR staff have found ways to reach survivors in Gaza with food, hygiene kits and medicine through partners on the ground, and this work will continue.





MAKING COMMUNITIES SAFER IN UKRAINE

Funded by UMCOR and in partnership with Mines Advisory Group (MAG), the Ukrainian De-miners Association conducts information and training sessions as part of the Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE) Capacity Building in Ukraine Project.

During a recent meeting Kateryna, a young woman displaced in Kropyvnytskyi, told the team that she had been forced to leave Mariupol due to the threat of conflict and constant bombardment. She mentioned encountering mines and other explosive ordnance (EO) items on the side of the road during her fleeing. “The frequent sound of explosions was distressing and prompted me to prioritize my safety by leaving my hometown,” she said.

MAG is working to raise awareness of the significant risks posed by explosive ordnance and to promote safe behavior for residents and those planning to return to their original hometowns. The MAG community liaison team meets regularly with Kateryna to coordinate additional online sessions.

“It is crucial to follow the rules of safe behavior, to remember the signs of dangerous areas, not to enter them, to be very vigilant and not to put oneself in danger.”

– From a teacher at the MAG mines training session, injured during a family barbecue when a mine underneath the cooking fire exploded.

410,336 beneficiaries were reached from completed grants.

LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS

When a 7.8 magnitude earthquake struck southern Turkey in Feb. 2023, it precipitated the loss of tens of thousands of lives. At least 78 aftershocks were reported, and only nine hours later, a second 7.5 magnitude earthquake struck.

UMCOR quickly coordinated with longtime partner International Blue Crescent to offer immediate aid. A community center was established, used as a distribution hub for essential items. UMCOR funded a mobile health center to treat those who were both physically and psychologically in need of care.

The earthquakes heavily impacted neighboring Syria, where the 15 million people who depend on humanitarian assistance were already battling hardships like severe winter weather and cholera outbreaks.

Many displaced people had no choice but to continue living in tents. Without electricity, open flames or kerosene lanterns were used for a light source. UMCOR provided 3,960 solar lanterns so that families could still have light, but safely. The lanterns also charged cell phones so that survivors could remain connected and in communication with loved ones.

UMCOR responded to 111 humanitarian crises, including:

- 4 earthquakes**
- 7 fires**
- 14 migration events**
- 15 tornadoes**
- 17 tropical storms**
- 20 instances of mass violence/civil unrest**
- 21 floods**



HEALTH & WHOLENESS

Global Ministries' Global Health program responds to the world's need for mental, physical and spiritual wholeness. Through United Methodist conferences and health boards, Global Ministries strengthens networks of care, from revitalization of facilities and staff training to building better water sources, developing sanitation facilities and promoting nutrition. We work to eradicate preventable diseases such as malaria, HIV and AIDS, and support the most vulnerable populations including mothers, newborns and children.



MOZAMBIQUE MATERNITY WARD REVITALIZED

Mozambique is prone to tropical cyclones that are accompanied by exceptional rainfall levels. These natural calamities together with the old age of the infrastructure have greatly affected Cambine Health Center.

Today, Cambine has a new look and a stronger infrastructure thanks to Global Ministries' partnership. Construction of new sanitation facilities and rehabilitation of the maternity ward has given the health center space to accept additional pregnant patients who need care to deliver their babies safely.

"Now Cambine patients will be attended in acceptable conditions. The dream is now a reality, having a new infirmary, new maternity and toilets for patients and health workers. That has reduced the burden in our hearts and on our shoulders."

— Maria Matsinhe, Mozambique UMC Health Board Coordinator

In 2023, Global Health awarded 86 grants totaling \$6,016,527.

YOUTH MAKE IMPACT IN MALARIA PREVENTION

With Global Ministries' partnership, the Burundi Annual Conference mobilizes and empowers communities to take ownership of the fight against malaria, including making treatment and prevention options freely available. This key value of ownership is a guide for the conference health board as it develops awareness programs about malaria.

One innovative program designed for school anti-malaria clubs has been quite successful. Burundi UMC has created 18 clubs in 18 schools with 20 students each. The clubs contribute significantly to malaria reduction because the club members, after having been trained, have passed on their knowledge to their respective families and communities concerning what malaria is, mosquito transmission and ways to prevent its spread.

"The young people involved in anti-malaria clubs are a source of change in the community. In terms of malaria prevention and control, this activity has filled a gap in knowledge for malaria prevention."

— Dr. Aloys Nyabenda
Burundi UMC Health Board Coordinator





PREVENTING CHOLERA OUTBREAKS IN HAITI

In Haiti, rural communities are at special risk of cholera recurrence because of precarious socioeconomic conditions, including poor health systems and lack of access to basic public services. Combined with the ongoing crisis of gang violence, social unrest, and insecurity, the re-emergence of cholera has only further strained the capacity of local agencies to conduct rapid response.

Global Ministries partnered with FVCB to launch a comprehensive cholera response program in three remote communities: Belle-Anse, Fond'Oies and Petit-Goave. Building handwashing stations and latrines has improved community access to better sanitation facilities and formation of local committees and dissemination of information and materials through various community institutions, including schools, spread the word about the cause and prevention of cholera.

Over 10,000 people in Haiti are now equipped to prevent waterborne disease and have access to better sanitation.

“I was very happy to see FVCB (Voice of Grassroots Communities Foundation) come to the school with the WASH program. They came to talk to us about AKAT, a community approach for total sanitation. Through this activity, we learned how to manage the latrine and waste at school and at home. We learned how to manage our environment. This has brought many changes to our lifestyle.”

— Naika, a 13-year-old 8th grader whose school received new sanitation facilities from a Global Ministries WASH grant

COMBATING CHILDHOOD MALNUTRITION



Crispin, age 2, was brought to Majengo United Methodist Health Center in Goma, East Congo, because Crispin was suffering from severe acute malnutrition. After several weeks of treatment, he began to gain weight and regain his vitality. Christine, his 3-year-old sister, underwent three months of treatment for malnutrition at Mangobo Methodist Hospital Center in Kisangani. She, too, recovered.

Food insecurity and malnutrition are becoming more common in the region because of poverty, armed conflict and poor educational opportunities for women. The treatment given to more than 2,300 children across East Congo through Global Health’s Maternal, Newborn and Child Health program includes a diet of soya, corn, peanut paste, palm oil and sugar, which they eat three times a week until their health improves. United Methodist health care ministries provide nutritional supplements, medical care and advice to parents on infant feeding and care. They’ve also trained volunteers to raise parents’ awareness of the importance of a healthy, balanced diet for their children. When they see cases of malnutrition, they refer families to the appropriate health services.

“We are so grateful to the doctors and workers at the health center. The church, through Global Health, saved our children’s lives.”

— Francine Matisho and André Kubabezaga, parents of Crispin and Christine

2,206,047 beneficiaries were reached in 2023.



Evangelism and Church Revitalization

GROWTH & BELONGING

At the heart of the church in mission is God’s persistent call to invite new disciples to follow Jesus Christ. Finding creative ways to express God’s love in every community, Global Ministries supports the cultivation of new faith communities and growth of existing congregations. Evangelism and revitalizing churches includes equipping and strengthening leaders, embracing racial and ethnic diversity, and creating spaces of welcome and belonging.



RESTORING A CHAPEL AND COMMUNITY

In 2021, Hurricane Ida and subsequent storms destroyed much of Clanton Chapel, a church community in Dulac, Louisiana. The unique multicultural congregation included members of the United Houma Nation along with Black, Hispanic and Vietnamese parishioners. A Native American Ministry grant from Global Ministries and a partnership with the Louisiana Conference and Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference mounted a major rehabilitation effort in 2022-23. The church building received a new roof, exterior siding and front porch as well as interior reconstruction.

68 grants were approved for the Racial/Ethnic Ministry plans, over \$1 million.

“When the hurricane hit, I heard from Pastor Kirby Verret with the news of the devastation in Dulac and damage to the historic Clanton Chapel church. Clanton Chapel has provided not only a worship place but has also played a role in education and more. It may be the only Houma UMC in Louisiana. The church is a gathering place for many events and is very important to the Houma people.”

– Bishop David Wilson, Great Plains Episcopal Area

CHURCH GROWTH IN CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

The Rev. Aquilas Soronaka, country director of Global Ministries’ mission initiative in the Central African Republic (CAR), was ordained as an elder in The United Methodist Church on Aug. 29, 2023, by Bishop Gabriel Unda. He is the only ordained UMC minister in CAR. His wife, Cynthia Priscila Soronaka, was ordained as the first deacon in CAR.

CAR was designated as a new mission initiative in 2015, focused on congregational development; forming youth fellowship groups, scouts, women’s and men’s groups; and training church leadership. This work builds on mission outreach from the adjoining East Congo Episcopal Area across CAR’s Southeast border.

Under Soronaka’s leadership as the country director and ordained elder, new United Methodist faith communities are forming. There are now close to 20 churches in CAR.

“My ordination gives me the conviction that The United Methodist Church in CAR will continue to make a great impact.”

– Rev. Aquilas Soronaka, country director and National in Mission, Central African Republic

198 faith communities were supported in current mission initiatives.



A VOW TO SERVE



Although Claudine Leary was already in her early twenties when she fled Rwanda, she spent a lot of time with the children in the refugee camps she where she lived. “Some of them genuinely saved my life because playing with them and caring for them made camp life bearable. I promised myself that if ever life gives me an opportunity, I will serve disadvantaged children and their families,” Leary said.

After finishing undergraduate studies at Africa University in Zimbabwe, she received additional scholarships from the UMC to complete her degree. From there, she was able to secure a visa to the U.S., complete her MBA and later received a scholarship to study at the Methodist Theological School in Ohio, earning her Master of Divinity, and is ordained as an elder in the West Ohio Conference.

Leary worked with friends to establish a nonprofit run by volunteers called “Watoto Read.” Watoto is a Swahili word for children. The nonprofit started work in 2016 and has since built multiple schools in the refugee camps of Chad.

“I longed to serve God full time since I was young, but it was during Rwandan war that I vowed to serve if I survived. Thanks to the scholarships I was awarded at Africa University and at the Methodist Theological School in Ohio, I am ordained and living out my faith and calling, fulfilling the vow I made in the war.”

— Claudine Leary, World Communion Scholar, who fled the Rwandan conflict as a young woman and survived in a series of refugee camps

35 new faith communities were formed in 2023.

Supported 299 Nationals in Mission through \$1,229,908.



RESPONDING TO FOOD INSECURITY ON CAMPUS

Columbia College in South Carolina was one of seven colleges that received Global Ministries’ grants to develop pantries or other means of supplying food and hygiene supplies for students. The colleges receiving grants, made possible by Human Relations Sunday offerings, were all United-Methodist related institutions with significant numbers of enrolled students of color with diverse racial and ethnic backgrounds.

At Columbia College’s Koala Pantry, some students disclosed that they would not have been able to continue their education without it. For students without reserve income for basic necessities, it is difficult to focus on being a full-time student while working to scrape together an income. Working in partnership with Global Ministries, churches, businesses and volunteer agencies, United Methodist-related institutions are responding to this particular form of food insecurity.

“On days that I was away from home from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., I didn’t worry about eating because of the Koala Pantry. When my family’s refrigerator broke for weeks I was able to eat well. Without this resource, I would not have been able to complete either semester.”

— Student attending Columbia College in South Carolina



Missionaries

PARTNERSHIP & JUSTICE

God calls missionaries into service from communities all around the world. Today, United Methodist missionaries serve as evangelists, health professionals, educators, agriculturists and through many other vocations. Missionaries care deeply about people and seek to form mutually enriching relationships, following Christ's example of unconditional love. They partner with others to transform communities, turning poverty into opportunity and justice into equality.



HOLISTIC MISSION IN CAMBODIA

Mission in Cambodia stretches beyond Phnom Penh to Christians and non-Christians throughout the country and even around the world. Because of their use of digital technology, missionaries Andrew and Janice Lee believe that is just how far the gospel is reaching.

When a local pastor approached the Lees to request that they create Sunday school curriculum, they wanted to ensure the curriculum would be relevant and useful. In the 21st century, in a country where everyone has smart phones, they conceived of a digital children’s education curriculum that includes PDF lesson plans for Sunday school teachers, YouTube versions of lessons and stories, children’s praise music videos and audio files, and cartoons sharing Christian values for children.

It’s the various videos that have proven to be popular beyond what the Lees could have imagined. They teach children about the love and character of Jesus through popular materials like these YouTube videos, but that love and Christ-like character is woven through every one of their holistic ministries – from providing clean water to empowering women for promising careers.

“One of the videos has 150,000 views. It is definitely going beyond the four walls of MCC churches. It is reaching out to other denominations – all the Christians in Cambodia.”

– The Rev. Andrew Lee, missionary in Cambodia

United Methodist missionaries serve in more than 60 countries worldwide.

FAITH AND VALUES IN ACTION



“I never received a toy growing up,” the leader of the NAR La Pista community told me at our last visit. “I remember the first box of toy cars I received was after signing the peace agreement. I still have it.” NAR stands for “New Areas for Reincorporation” for former members of the FARC guerilla group.

CEPALC’s pedagogy has always included games, theater, art, music and creative communication methods to amplify messages about human rights. But the adult groups are hesitant to participate in games and play with puppets. They tend to think that adults have grown out of games, having fun, or laughing until they cry. While hesitant at first, they learn to open up and surrender to joy.

Peace is not just the absence of weapons; it also requires building a culture of gender equality and respect within the community and beyond.

“CEPALC (Center for Social Communication in Latin America) has been in relationship with the communities of ex-combatants and peace signers in La Pista and the neighboring community, La Primavera, for the past few years, accompanying them in their peace process and reintegration. After more than 50 years of armed conflict in Colombia, these communities care deeply about teaching their children peace values.”

– Hannah Reasoner, missionary in Colombia

55 new missionaries were commissioned for service in 2023.

THE LORD'S SUPPER

We sit in a restaurant in the center of the city with a migrant father who, with his young children who are between 1- and 5-years-old, spends the day in front of a bank asking people for help. The family arrived in Quito five months ago and attend a program at one of the Methodist churches in the city. The mother traveled to a neighboring country for a job and has not returned; it's been three months.

All the suspicions of the world darken our hearts – has she abandoned her family? Is it human trafficking? Is it a dangerous situation that prevents her from returning? Meanwhile, the family is hopeful that she will return soon. For now, the church supports this family with what they can.

The joy and brightness in the eyes of the children is great when we sit at the restaurant table, with rich and hot food and with the gentle service of the people of the restaurant. We know that the Lord is present in our midst and opens his table for us to eat together with joy and gratitude.

“Many Methodist churches in Ecuador open their doors every week to share food, faith and hope with children, families most in need. In recent years they have also opened their doors to share food with migrant families, especially from Venezuela.”

– Sara Flores Quinones, missionary in Ecuador

RESPONDING TO A CALLING

Albarka Appo Wakila served as the Communications and Media officer at Pilgrim Wesleyan Church for his Global Mission Fellow assignment in Zambia. He produced print pieces for the church, such as its annual calendar, and he coordinated social media as well. As part of his responsibilities, he traveled to many parts of Zambia to youth events and gathered “stories of success, challenges and breakthroughs from various districts and charges, to project the face of the church to a global audience,” he notes.

Wakila's next chapter, after completing his GMF term in 2023, includes new travels and adventures as he moved to New Jersey to study at Drew Theological School for a Master of Divinity. “With each passing of the day, I am convinced that this pursuit is not merely a dream; it's a response to a calling, a commitment to contributing to a world where love, justice and compassion prevail,” he writes. “I carry the lessons learned and memories forged as a Global Mission Fellow with deep appreciation.”

By the end of 2023, there were 124 Global Missionaries serving, followed by 63 GMFs in the international track, 9 Church and Community Workers, 3 GMFs on the US-2 track, 2 Racial Ethnic Plan missionaries, and 15 Mission Volunteers.

POULTRY PROJECT FEEDS HUNDREDS

The expanding chicken project at Quéssua Mission will provide extra protein and nutrients to a healthy meal that is diligently prepared every weekend under the direction of missionary partners leading the children's meal mission. This is a challenging goal when between 400 to 500 village children are fed each week.

Chronic poverty contributes to a high rate of perpetually undernourished children. Most Quéssua village households can only manage to provide one meal per day. Toddlers are particularly vulnerable, and most school children go to school with no breakfast. Sometimes the most vulnerable have not had a meal the day before. The children love a sauce made with chicken, collard greens and roasted ground peanut from the farm production.

“The main goal of our project is to raise chickens for egg production that will be used to support malnourished children in the villages and contribute to the Sunday school children's meal every Saturday and Sunday.”

– Kutela Katembo Dieudonne, agriculturist missionary in East Angola



LISTENING TO PARTNERS

Conversation is fundamental to deepening relationships and giving space for God to create pathways for new forms of ministry.

Global Ministries continued to broaden and intensify purposeful conversations in 2023, making staff, directors and missionaries available for consultations with partners to hear about their challenges, successes and suggestions for better collaboration in mission.

The gallery that follows captures moments from many of the consultations held last year. These included:

- Global Ministries Board of Directors meetings in Mozambique in March and Cambodia in October;
- Africa Mission Partners Consultation; Mozambique;
- Consultations as missionary gatherings in Africa, Mexico, the U.S. and Asia;
- Continuing conversations about mission with the Methodist Church in Korea;
- A U.S. partners consultation with mission advocates, disaster response coordinators, ethnic plan and other conference Global Ministries representatives.



Adam Bowers

The Africa Mission Partners Consultation was the first held in several decades. It brought together African UMC bishops, representatives from each African UMC annual conference, members of the Global Ministries executive committee of the board, senior staff members and guests for high-level conversations about the future of United Methodist mission in Africa with the goal of coming to a more integrated vision.



Courtesy: Paul Kong

The United Methodist Mission in Cambodia hosted Global Ministries in Phnom Penh for the October board meeting. Both board meetings in 2023 were held outside of the U.S., a first for Global Ministries.



Adam Bowers

In the "Guiding Principles of Missionary Service" consultation held at Emory University's Candler School of Theology in Atlanta, Ga., Global Ministries convened a group of missionaries, mission staff, board members and ecumenical partners to reexamine and renew its practices of missionary sending.



We Hyun Chang

Roland Fernandes and bishops Thomas Bickerton and Hee-Soo Jung attended the 4th Roundtable Meeting for Peace on the Korean Peninsula in Seoul, Korea. Following the event, the General Board of Missions of the Korean Methodist Church and Global Ministries held a second mission consultation. The groups agreed to work jointly on mission in Asia by training local leaders, emphasizing Mongolia and Vietnam, as well as developing youth and women's leadership programming and peace and justice on the Korean Peninsula and worldwide.



Adam Bowers

Artist with her basket: Vivian Garner Cottrell

ART EXHIBIT THIS LAND CALLS US HOME

“This Land Calls Us Home: Indigenous Relationships with Southeastern Homelands,” an art exhibit featuring more than 60 works by 26 Native American artists and designers, opened in November 2023 at Hartsfield–Jackson Atlanta International Airport.

Through visuals and literature, the works express the visions and voices of Cherokee, Mvskoke and other Native Americans and how ancestral homelands are integral to their present lives.

The exhibit was developed by Global Ministries in collaboration with the United Methodist Native American Comprehensive Plan, which supports and amplifies the voices of Indigenous peoples to promote increased public understanding about contemporary Native American identity and experience.



Mike Jensen



Mike Jensen



Mike Jensen

REVENUE

General Board of Global Ministries

Global Ministries' total operating revenue in 2023 was \$46.4M, a decrease of \$2.7M, or 5.8%, compared to 2022. The World Service Fund made up 48% of total operating revenue in 2023, down \$1.4M, or 6.5%, primarily due to the impact of disaffiliation. Revenue for The Advance, which is the "second mile," donation channel for mission giving, closed at \$7.8M in 2023, a decrease of \$1.1M, or 12.7%. Bequest giving for 2023 was also down \$1.2M. Shared costs reimbursements from UMCOR in 2023 were up by \$1.0M due to a slight increase in overall agency costs.

UMCOR

UMCOR's total operating revenue in 2023 was \$42M, down \$22M, or 31.4%, compared to 2022. UMCOR's revenue, which primarily comes through Advance giving, tends to fluctuate widely year over year depending on donation responses to natural or humanmade disasters. For example, the 2022 Russia invasion of Ukraine sparked a very strong response to the International Disaster Relief (IDR) Advance, which ended that year at \$30M, significantly impacting UMCOR's overall revenues in 2022. When comparing Advance giving in 2023 to 2021, however, giving levels were similar. Bequest giving in 2023 was \$8.5M, up by \$5.8M. Sager Brown ramped up operations post pandemic, which brought program income up to \$1M, growth of 130%.

EXPENDITURES

General Board of Global Ministries

Global Ministries' operating expenditures for 2023 ended the year at \$43.4M, an increase of \$1.8M, or 4.2%, compared to 2022. Programmatic spending increases were responsible for most of the expenditure growth. In 2023, the National in Mission granting budget was doubled to \$1M. Additionally, the agency convened several consultations and gatherings focused on connecting with missionaries and conferences. These meetings, which were designed for listening and collaboration, took place in Mozambique, Cambodia and Atlanta in 2023, and in East Africa in early 2024.

Support services costs concluded at \$10.6M in 2023, an increase of \$428K or 4.2%.

UMCOR

UMCOR operating expenditures were \$36.8M in 2023, a decrease of \$22.1M from expenditures of \$58.9M in 2022. The decrease was due to lower granting in 2023, when compared with 2022's Ukraine-focused granting of \$17M. Global Health spending decreased to \$6.9M in 2023, a reduction from 2022 expenditures of \$8.1M, which included a \$2M grant for renovations to Philander Smith College's School of Allied and Public Health.

NET ASSETS

General Board of Global Ministries

Total net assets for Global Ministries were \$357.3M in 2023, an increase of \$34.5M. Investment gains were the primary reason for the growth in net assets.

UMCOR

Total net assets for UMCOR were \$109.4M in 2023, an increase of \$17.5M compared to 2022. Like Global Ministries, investment gains were the primary driver in the growth of net assets.

The faithful partnership provided by generous donors fuels our work and ministry - connecting the church in mission and alleviating human suffering through many of the programs described in this annual report. We sincerely appreciate your trust and unwavering support.



Michael Gurick
Chief Financial Officer,
Global Ministries
and UMCOR

GENERAL BOARD OF GLOBAL MINISTRIES STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION

DECEMBER 31, 2023 AND 2022

ASSETS

	2023	2022
Cash and cash equivalents	\$8,745,932	\$12,846,958
Accrued World Service Fund allocation	\$6,228,873	\$6,900,328
Due from General Council on Finance and Administration	\$5,811,703	\$12,926,836
Due from related entities	\$289,655	\$259,622
Accounts receivable	\$512,437	\$510,971
Prepaid expenses and other assets	\$887,057	\$844,948
Investments	\$283,830,836	\$244,651,489
Restricted investments	\$23,194,181	\$20,857,749
Revolving loan fund held by Wesleyan Investive	\$21,098,134	\$20,745,399
Buildings and equipment, net	\$21,250,879	\$21,706,173
Beneficial interest in timberland forests	\$4,223,000	\$4,175,000
Perpetual trusts held by others	\$29,610,473	\$27,397,299
Total Assets	\$405,683,160	\$373,822,772

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Liabilities:

Accounts payable, accrued expenses and other liabilities	\$8,221,261	\$13,289,731
Grants and projects payable	\$3,495,176	4,448,161
Due to related entities	\$289,671	\$57,991
Annuities payable	\$71,555	\$95,529
Funds held for others	\$36,267,869	\$33,181,008
Total Liabilities	\$48,345,532	\$51,072,420

Net Assets:

Without Donor Restrictions:

Invested in buildings and equipment	\$21,250,879	\$21,706,173
Designated for programs	\$25,100,384	\$21,792,258
Designated for missionaries including pension and health benefit costs	\$15,982,432	\$18,840,416
Contractually restricted reserve for Collins Pension Plan and Collins Health Benefits Trust	\$23,194,181	\$20,857,749
General operating fund	\$104,124,279	\$81,163,655
Total Without Donor Restrictions	\$189,652,155	\$164,360,251

With Donor Restrictions:

Subject to purpose restrictions	\$16,976,113	\$17,719,809
Endowments and other perpetual gifts	\$150,709,360	\$140,670,292

Total With Donor Restrictions **\$167,685,473** **\$158,390,101**

Total Net Assets **\$357,337,628** **\$322,750,352**

Total Liabilities and Net Assets **\$405,683,160** **\$373,822,772**

GENERAL BOARD OF GLOBAL MINISTRIES

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023

	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total
Operating Revenues			
Allocation from World Service Fund	\$19,366,801	\$1,416,540	\$20,783,341
Special Sunday Offerings	—	495,544	495,544
Advance Special Gifts:			
Support for persons in mission	—	2,507,490	2,507,490
Other	3,055,860	2,188,044	5,243,904
Shared cost reimbursements	6,351,529	—	6,351,529
Benefit Trust distribution	2,003,361	—	2,003,361
Bequests	336,164	846	337,010
Grants and other contributions	300,000	173,499	473,499
Interest income on cash equivalents, mortgage loans, and perpetual trusts	1,602,696	125,277	1,727,973
Timberland forests income distribution	875,323	—	875,323
Missionary salary reimbursements	1,014,455	—	1,014,455
Other	1,622,154	—	1,622,154
Total Assets	36,528,343	6,907,240	43,435,583
Net assets released from restrictions	12,697,848	(12,697,848)	—
Operating Revenues	49,226,191	(5,790,608)	43,435,583

YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023

	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total
Expenses			
Advance Special Gifts:			
Global Mission Connections	\$7,412,173	—	\$7,412,173
Missionary Services	11,916,778	—	11,916,778
Board-wide programs	7,040,800	—	7,040,800
Distribution of designated funds and gifts	7,364,214	—	7,364,214
Total Program Services	\$33,733,965	—	\$33,733,965
Supporting Services:			
Management and general	9,383,991	—	9,383,991
Fundraising	1,218,165	—	1,218,165
Total Supporting Services	10,602,156	—	10,602,156
Total Expenses	44,336,121	—	44,336,121
Change in net assets from operating activities	4,890,070	(5,790,608)	(900,538)
Nonoperating Activities			
Investment return, net	20,401,834	12,342,107	32,743,941
Net appreciation in fair value of perpetual trusts	—	2,123,076	2,123,076
Net appreciation in beneficial interest in timberland forest	—	48,000	48,000
Net increase in revolving loan fund held by United Methodist Development Fund	—	352,734	352,734
Contributions	—	220,063	220,063
Change in net assets from nonoperating activities	20,401,834	15,085,980	35,487,814
Change in net assets	25,291,904	9,295,372	34,587,276
Net assets, beginning of year	164,360,251	158,390,101	322,750,352
Net assets, end of year	\$189,652,155	\$167,685,473	\$357,337,628

GENERAL BOARD OF GLOBAL MINISTRIES

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES (cont'd)

YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2022

	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total
Operating Revenues			
Allocation from World Service Fund	\$20,700,386	\$1,518,155	\$22,218,541
Special Sunday Offerings	—	471,625	471,625
Advance Special Gifts:			
Support for persons in mission	—	2,524,094	2,524,094
Other	3,024,818	3,334,529	6,359,347
Shared cost reimbursements	5,345,222	—	5,345,222
Benefit Trust distribution	2,079,492	—	2,079,492
Bequests	1,492,396	3,091	1,495,487
Grants and other contributions	—	69,308	69,308
Interest income on cash equivalents, mortgage loans, and perpetual trusts	1,507,088	139,681	1,646,769
Timberland forests income distribution	1,439,853	—	1,439,853
Missionary salary reimbursements	1,105,877	—	1,105,877
Other	1,340,281	—	1,340,281
Total	38,035,413	8,060,483	46,095,896
Net assets released from restrictions	11,762,296	(11,762,296)	—
Operating Revenues	49,797,709	(3,701,813)	46,095,896

YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023

	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total
Expenses			
Program Services			
Global Mission Connections	\$6,366,992	\$ -	\$6,366,992
Missionary Services	11,146,922	—	11,146,922
Board-wide programs	5,970,755	—	5,970,755
Distribution of designated funds and gifts	8,885,695	—	8,885,695
Total Program Services	\$32,370,364	—	32,370,364
Supporting Services:			
Management and general	8,714,844	—	8,714,844
Fundraising	1,459,115	—	1,459,115
Total Supporting Services	10,173,959	—	10,173,959
Total Expenses	42,544,323	—	42,544,323
Change in net assets from operating activities	7,253,386	(3,701,813)	3,551,573
Nonoperating Activities			
Investment return, net	(30,826,822)	(19,782,356)	(50,609,178)
Net depreciation in fair value of perpetual trusts	—	(6,567,200)	(6,567,200)
Net depreciation in beneficial interest in timberland forest	—	(2,174,000)	(2,174,000)
Net increase in revolving loan fund held by United Methodist Development Fund	—	210,547	210,547
Contributions	—	5,806,404	5,806,404
Change in net assets from nonoperating activities	(30,826,822)	(22,506,605)	(53,333,427)
Change in net assets	(23,573,436)	(26,208,418)	(49,781,854)
Net assets, beginning of year	187,933,687	184,598,519	372,532,206
Net assets, end of year	\$164,360,251	\$158,390,101	\$322,750,352

UNITED METHODIST COMMITTEE ON RELIEF OF GLOBAL MINISTRIES, INC. AND AFFILIATES

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

DECEMBER 31, 2023 AND 2022

	2023	2022
ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 8,412,587	\$ 12,931,545
Investments	110,199,999	92,764,523
Investments in securities of Wesleyan Investive	1,477,488	1,703,796
Receivables		
Advance special gifts	3,815,041	9,126,299
Note receivable	4,156,459	–
Bequests and other	1,667,270	1,273,386
Due from General Board of Global Ministries of The United Methodist Church, Inc.	375,344	136,531
Inventory and other assets	8,121	21,745
Buildings and equipment, net	1,730,020	1,804,063
Endowment funds held by General Board of Global Ministries of The United Methodist Church, Inc.	1,604,591	1,513,146
Perpetual trusts held by others	1,462,691	1,376,771
Total Assets	\$134,909,611	\$122,651,805
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
Liabilities		
Due to General Board of Global Ministries of The United Methodist Church, Inc.	\$398,344	\$331,088
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	1,865,502	671,559
Grants payable	21,859,022	26,162,968
Funds held for others	1,401,713	3,538,611
Total Liabilities	\$25,524,581	30,704,226
Net Assets		
Without Donor Restrictions:		
Invested in buildings and equipment	1,730,020	1,804,063
Undesignated	50,038,064	36,546,206
Total Without Donor Restrictions	\$51,768,084	38,350,269
With Donor Restrictions:		
Subject to donor restrictions	53,076,723	49,350,439
Endowments and other perpetual trusts	4,540,223	4,246,871
Total With Donor Restrictions	\$57,616,946	53,597,310
Total Net Assets	109,385,030	91,947,579
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$134,909,611	\$122,651,805

YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023 AND 2022

	2023			2022		
	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total
Operating Revenues						
Advance special gifts	\$10,367,827	\$19,621,103	\$29,988,930	\$11,595,373	\$44,100,587	\$55,695,960
Special Sunday Offerings	1,566,220	–	1,566,220	1,739,150	–	1,739,150
Allocation from World Service Fund	–	–	–	–	55,686	55,686
Gifts and bequests	7,155,534	1,370,000	8,525,534	2,463,397	300,397	2,763,794
Grants from General Board of Global Ministries	20,943	–	20,943	–	2,561,082	2,561,082
Sager Brown program income	1,002,687	10,000	1,012,687	440,672	–	440,672
Other income, net	850,125	–	850,125	690,960	–	690,960
Net assets released from restrictions	19,590,663	(19,590,663)	–	43,652,562	(43,652,562)	–
Total	40,553,999	1,410,440	41,964,439	60,582,114	3,365,190	63,947,304
Expenses:						
Program Services						
Specialized ministries	7,229,656	–	7,229,656	7,003,286	–	7,003,286
Advance projects	17,104,034	–	17,104,034	39,071,092	–	39,071,092
Health programs	6,879,168	–	6,879,168	8,058,074	–	8,058,074
Total Program Services	31,212,858	–	31,212,858	54,132,452	–	54,132,452
Supporting Services						
Management and general	4,938,849	–	4,938,849	4,207,307	–	4,207,307
Fundraising	627,761	–	627,761	587,272	–	587,272
Total Supporting Services	5,566,610	–	5,566,610	4,794,579	–	4,794,579
Total Expenses	36,779,468	–	36,779,468	58,927,031	–	58,927,031
Changes in Net Assets						
From Operating Activities	3,774,531	1,410,440	5,184,971	1,655,083	3,365,190	5,020,273
Nonoperating Activities						
Investment returns, net	9,594,422	2,441,257	12,035,679	(10,658,611)	(3,669,777)	(14,328,388)
Investment returns, net - Wesleyan Investive	48,862	(10,426)	38,436	53,326	9	53,335
Investment returns, net - General Board of Global Ministries of The Methodist Church, Inc.	–	91,445	91,445	–	(462,135)	(462,135)
Net (depreciation) appreciation in fair value of perpetual trusts	–	85,920	85,920	–	(256,803)	(256,803)
Contributions	–	1,000	1,000	–	181,698	181,698
Total Nonoperating Activities	9,643,284	2,609,196	12,252,480	(10,605,285)	(4,207,008)	(14,812,293)

2016-2024

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Because of the postponement of General Conference 2020, directors for all UMC general agencies have remained in place since the last General Conference in 2016. Individuals have been replaced when the original board members can no longer serve.

President: Bishop Hee-Soo Jung

Corporate Secretary: Molly Rebecca McEntire

Vice President: Bishop Joaquina Nhanala

Treasurer: Carmen Vianese

Chair of UMCOR: Bishop Thomas J. Bickerton

Directors: General Board of Global Ministries and UMCOR

Rev. Frank Aichele
Central Conference—Central/Germany

Jana Jones (UWF)
Western Jurisdiction—Mountain Sky

Rev. Rene Antonio Perez Avalos
Northeastern Jurisdiction—New England

Darlene R. Alfred (UWF)
South Central Jurisdiction—Central Texas

Bishop Hee-Soo Jung
North Central Jurisdiction—Wisconsin

Rev. Corey Daniel Perry
North Central Jurisdiction—West Ohio

Rev. Øyvind Aske
Central Conference—Northern Europe/Eurasia

Anne Konima Koroma
Central Conference—Sierra Leone

Dr. Yvette K. Richards
South Central Jurisdiction—Missouri

Bishop Thomas J. Bickerton
Northeastern Jurisdiction—New York

Allison Ross Lindsey
Southeastern Jurisdiction—South Georgia

Rev. Ismael A. Ruiz-Millan
Southeastern Jurisdiction—North Carolina

Mele Faiva Manu Blagojevich
Western Jurisdiction—California-Pacific

Rev. Celestin Malamba Lohalo
Central Conference—East Congo

Andreas C. Staempfli
Central Conference—Switzerland-France

Scott Brewer
South Central Jurisdiction—Kansas

Rev. Pat Longstroth
Western Jurisdiction—Pacific Northwest

Abel Vega Jr.
South Central Jurisdiction—Rio Texas

Rev. Dan C. Bryant
North Central Jurisdiction—East Ohio

Molly Rebecca McEntire
Southeastern Jurisdiction—Florida

Carmen Vianese
Northeastern Jurisdiction—Upper New York

Andrew Eunpa Chung
Northeastern Jurisdiction—
Western Pennsylvania

Rev. Elvira Moises-Cazombo
Central Conference—West Angola

Rev. Sara Ann White
Southeastern Jurisdiction—South Carolina

Dr. Elizabeth Warden Corrie
Southeastern Jurisdiction—North Georgia

Stanislas Ilunga Mutombo
Central Conference—North Katanga

Rev. Christy Bulus Yusuf
Central Conference—Nigeria

Timothy E. Crisler
Southeastern Jurisdiction—Mississippi

Mary T. Newman
Southeastern Jurisdiction—Tennessee

Rev. Katie Z. Dawson
North Central Jurisdiction—Iowa

Bishop Joaquina Nhanala
Central Conference—Mozambique

Luis R. Fuentes-Marcado
Methodist Church of Puerto Rico

Bishop Israel Painit
Central Conference, Davao, Philippines

Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson
Southeastern Jurisdiction—Virginia

Dr. Glenn Roy Villa Paraso
Central Conference, Philippines

Rev. Margaret Johnson
South Central Jurisdiction—Oklahoma Indian
Missionary Conf.

Debra Payne (UWF)
Southeastern Jurisdiction—North Alabama

Directors: United Methodist Committee on Relief

President: Bishop Tomas J. Bickerton

Vice President: Rev. Sara Ann White

Recording Secretary: Rev. Katie Z. Dawson

Treasurer: Carmen Vianese

Board of Directors

Rev. Frank Aichele
Central Conference—Central/Germany

Bishop Thomas J. Bickerton
Northeastern Jurisdiction—New York

Rev. Dan C. Bryant
North Central Jurisdiction—East Ohio

Rev. Katie Z. Dawson
North Central Jurisdiction—Iowa

Jana Jones (UWF)
Western Jurisdiction—Mountain Sky

Anne Konima Koroma
Central Conference—Sierra Leone

Celestin Malamba Lohalo
Central Conference—East Congo

Molly Rebecca McEntire
Southeastern Jurisdiction—Florida

Bishop Joaquina Nhanala
Central Conference—Mozambique

Dr. Glenn Roy Villa Paraso
Central Conference—Philippines

Rev. Corey Daniel Perry
North Central Jurisdiction—West Ohio

Carmen Vianese
Northeastern Jurisdiction—Upper New York

Rev. Sara Ann White
Southeastern Jurisdiction—South Carolina



GLOBAL MINISTRIES

General Board of Global Ministries

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

UMCOR

United Methodist Committee on Relief