



Global AIDS Committee

The United Methodist Church

Role of a United Methodist Church AIDS Ambassador

The responsibilities of an AIDS Ambassador are described below. As an AIDS Ambassador, you can play a pivotal role in the eradication of HIV and AIDS in the U.S. and globally. This ministry is a “faith-based call for such a time as this”.

Background: Each annual conference is charged by General Conference legislation (2004) to have some sort of AIDS Task Force or working group. And, each annual conference has a key contact person for HIV and AIDS. Anyone in an annual conference can be a powerful contributor and support to the Annual Conference AIDS task force or working group by serving as an AIDS Ambassador.

As an AIDS Ambassador, you can:

Inform the annual conference AIDS primary contact person of your willingness to address the issues of HIV and AIDS and explore ways you can support the work of the annual conference task force.

Promote the UMC Global AIDS Fund Advance Special (#982345) in your local church. This Advance Special supports AIDS-related efforts around the globe! Visit www.umglobalaidsfund.com for more information.

Write articles on HIV and AIDS for your local church or annual conference newsletter to continue raising the issue before the congregation.

Find out what’s happening in your local community regarding HIV and AIDS services. Where are the gaps in services? How can you work with others to fill those gaps?

Pray for people living with or affected by HIV or AIDS. If you don’t know anyone with HIV or AIDS, become connected with a local HIV/AIDS serving effort. Meeting people living with HIV or AIDS will be transformational in your life.

Organize a World AIDS Day event in your local church and/or community. World AIDS Day is commemorated on December 1. Resources can be found at <https://umgaf2014.wordpress.com/resources-2/>

Advocate for adequate funding for HIV/AIDS at the National, State and Local levels. Contact your legislators to make sure HIV/AIDS funding is a priority.

Explore how the twenty-five percent of contributions to the UMC Global AIDS Fund retained in your annual conference is being used for HIV/AIDS ministries.

To become an AIDS Ambassador and a member of the **UMC AIDS Network** email: gbc@umcjustice.org and submit your name requesting to be added to the AIDS Network as an AIDS Ambassador.

If you have questions about this opportunity or the work of the UMC Global AIDS Committee (UMGAC), contact Linda Bales Todd, joylab47@yahoo.com, UMGAC consultant.