



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/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/ 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 issue of HIV/AIDS and explore ways you can support the work of the annual conference task force.

Promote the UMC Global AIDS Fund, Advance #982345 in your local church. Visit www.umglobalaidsfund.com for information on the fund.

Write articles on HIV/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 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 AIDS. If you don't know anyone with AIDS, become connected with a local AIDS serving effort. Meeting people living with 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 www.umglobalaidsfund.com, www.umc-gbcs.org or www.umcorhealth.org, by clicking on HIV/AIDS and viewing the World AIDS Day page.

Advocate for adequate funding for AIDS at the National, State and Local levels. Contact your legislators to make sure 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 AIDS ministries.

To become an AIDS Ambassador and a member of the AIDS Network, go to: http://action.umc-gbcs.org/signup_page/joinnetworks and sign up for the AIDS Network.

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