



AIDS Is Not Over

"Give a child love, laughter and peace, not AIDS"
...Nelson Mandela



Bishop Gregory Palmer speaks at "Aids is Not Over" Conference, May 9, 2016

"WE CAN DO MORE"

Bishop Gregory Palmer spoke boldly at the United Methodist Global AIDS Fund Conference "AIDS is not Over" held May 9, 2016 at Rose City Park UMC in Portland, OR.

More than one hundred attendees heard a powerful sermon of witness and advocacy preached by Bishop Gregory V. Palmer, episcopal leader in the West Ohio Annual Conference in the United States.

In a world where 37 million people are living with HIV/AIDS, a budget of \$62,000 for the United Methodist Global Aids Fund is "a sin, a scandal, an embarrassment and a shame" said Bishop Gregory Palmer.

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Bishop Albert Mutti and his wife, Etta Mae Mutti, observe a moment of silence during an AIDS Vigil held May 11 at the United Methodist 2016 General Conference in Portland, Ore. The Vigil was sponsored by the UMC Global AIDS Fund Committee.

AIDS VIGIL HELD AT GENERAL CONFERENCE 2016

UMGAF sponsored an outside vigil in Portland to lift up the importance of working to eliminate deaths from HIV and to honor and remember the millions who have died from the virus. Bishop Fritz and Etta Mae Mutti, parents of three sons two of whom died of AIDS, led those assembled in this solemn time of remembering.

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PARENT TO CHILD TRANSMISSIONS

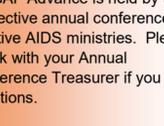
Nine hundred babies are born HIV positive each day as a result of parent-to-child transmission.

At a May 9th meeting in Portland of the UMGAF Committee, a decision was made to appropriate funds from the UMGAF Advance Special (#982345) to projects that work to prevent the spread of HIV to newborns.

"Mother-to-child transmission will be the focus of our international grants in 2016-2020 in partnership with the General Board of Global Ministries. We hope to eradicate this transmission by ensuring AIDS testing for pregnant women and working with the health agencies on the provision of drug treatment for women who are HIV positive," reported Dr. Donald Messer, UMGAF Co-Chair.

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Annual Conferences in the United States are strongly encouraged to support initiatives in their respective areas that are addressing AIDS. Twenty-five percent of every dollar given through a local church to the UMGAF Advance is held by the respective annual conference for creative AIDS ministries. Please check with your Annual Conference Treasurer if you have questions.

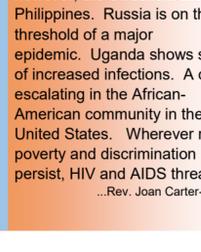


Don Messer and Linda Bales Todd, co-chairs of The United Methodist Global AIDS Fund,

UMGAF CO-CHAIRS INTERVIEWED ON DIGITAL LOUNGE

United Methodist Global AIDS Fund co-chairs Don Messer and Linda Bales Todd were guests in the General Conference Digital Lounge, where United Methodist leaders and newsmakers engaged in conversation about the news of the day. Host Diane Degnan, Director of Public Information at United Methodist Communications, talked with them about how the Global AIDS Fund offers hope to people living with HIV/AIDS.

[see more...](#)



Dr. Don Messer, Rev. Joan Carter-Rimbach and Rev. Dr. Anne Gatobu report at General Conference, 2016

UMGAF Reports to the 2016 General Conference

On May 18, 2016, three members of the UMGAF Committee (Dr. Don Messer, Rev. Joan Carter-Rimbach and Rev. Dr. Anne Gatobu) delivered a dynamic report to the 2016 General Conference about the work of UMGAF the past quadrennium. A powerful plea to the delegates was made by UMGAF presenters to work to ease stigma and continue addressing HIV and AIDS at all levels of society.

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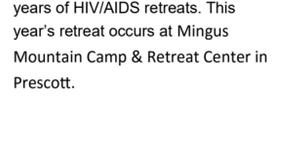


"God is moving in exciting ways through United Methodists as they respond to the serious need to do more to ensure HIV-free newborns around the globe. We can close the gap through generous giving that supports efforts such as AIDS testing for pregnant women and needed treatment if they are HIV positive."

...Linda Bales, UMGAF Co-Chair,

More Than \$10,000 in Contributions for AIDS

In May, United Methodists gave generously to the UMC Global AIDS Fund (UMGAF) during General Conference events in Portland, and the contributions are greatly appreciated! Offerings were taken at UMGAF's one-day conference on May 9th as well as during the opening worship service at General Conference the following day. UMGAF will be working in partnership with the General Board of Global Ministries on the allocation of these funds for projects preventing the spread of HIV to newborns.



Desert Southwest AC celebrates 26 years of HIV/AIDS retreats. This year's retreat occurs at Mingus Mountain Camp & Retreat Center in Prescott.

CAMPS AND RETREATS FOR PEOPLE EXPERIENCING HIV/AIDS

Camps and retreats for people living with HIV/AIDS and/or those affected by the disease are occurring this summer in the following Annual Conferences:

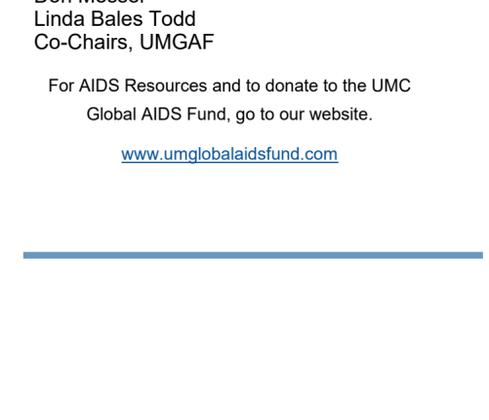
- Baltimore-Washington
- California Pacific
- Desert Southwest
- Holston
- Oregon-Idaho
- Pacific Northwest
- West Ohio

[see more...](#)

INSPIRATION

Leaders in all spheres who are living with HIV should be encouraged, not coerced, to lead by example and disclose their HIV status.

...Nelson Mandela



Don Messer
Linda Bales Todd
Co-Chairs, UMGAF

For AIDS Resources and to donate to the UMC Global AIDS Fund, go to our website.

www.umglobalaidsfund.com