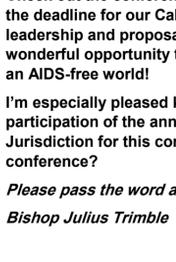
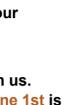




AIDS IS NOT OVER

March/April
2018 Newsletter
Volume 4, Issue 2

Editor: Douglas B. Smith,
Global AIDS Committee



Bishop Julius Trimble

**GREETINGS FROM
GLOBAL AIDS COMMITTEE
CHAIR
Bishop Julius Trimble**

It's an honor chairing the UMC Global AIDS initiative because I know the church can make a difference in eliminating HIV from the planet, and your help is so critical! Thank you for your faithful work and commitment!

We're excited about our October 25-27th UMC AIDS Conference in Indianapolis and hope you will be with us. Check out the conference webpage and register! **June 1st** is the deadline for our Call for Papers – we're seeking leadership and proposals for five specific workshops - a wonderful opportunity to share your talents and passion for an AIDS-free world!

I'm especially pleased knowing that we have 100% participation of the annual conferences in the North Central Jurisdiction for this conference. How about your annual conference?

Please pass the word and be encouraged.

Bishop Julius Trimble

[Call for Papers](#)

[Conference Registration](#)



Ambassador Deborah Birx, U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator & U.S. Special Representative for Global Health Diplomacy. Term of Appointment: 04/04/2014 to present

Meet Ambassador Deborah Birx, keynote speaker at the October Breaking Barriers AIDS Conference

Ambassador-at-Large, Deborah L. Birx, M.D., is the Coordinator of the United States Government Activities to Combat HIV/AIDS and U.S. Special Representative for Global Health Diplomacy. Ambassador Birx is a world-renowned medical expert and leader in the field of HIV/AIDS. Her three-decade-long career has focused on HIV/AIDS immunology, vaccine research, and global health.

As the U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator, Ambassador Birx oversees the implementation of the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), the largest commitment by any nation to combat a single disease in history, as well as all U.S. Government engagement with the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.

Serving as the U.S. Special Representative for Global Health Diplomacy, she aligns the U.S. Government's diplomacy with foreign assistance programs that address global health challenges and accelerate progress toward: achieving an AIDS-free generation; ending preventable child and maternal deaths; and preventing, detecting, and responding to infectious disease threats.

Ambassador Birx will be speaking at the October 26th evening banquet during the conference.

[Conference Flyer](#)

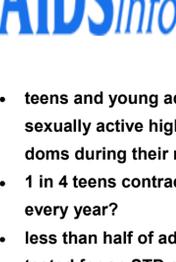


UMGAC Members Meet with Senator Todd Young (R-IN) to Advocate for HIV/AIDS Funding

In early March, Bishop Julius Trimble (UMGAC Chair) and two other UMGAC members, Kathy Griffith and Rev. Dr. Anne Gatobu sat down with Senator Todd Young (R-IN) to discuss the importance of U.S. funding for the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) and the Ryan White Act.

According to Bishop Trimble, the meeting was productive with Senator Young expressing support for these vital assistance programs. Senator Young is a member of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations which authorizes the continuation of PEPFAR and the Senate Health, Education, Labor & Pensions Committee which is the committee overseeing the Ryan White Act Program.

"Advocacy is central if we're going to eradicate HIV and AIDS", says Trimble.



Linda Girard, UM AIDS Ambassador

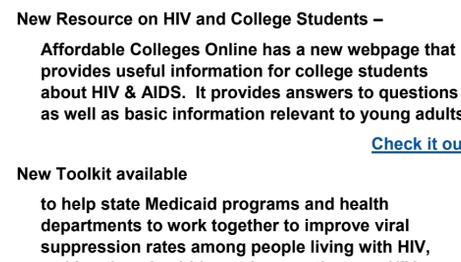
UMC AIDS Ambassador Receives Leadership Award

Congratulations to UM AIDS Ambassador, Linda Girard from the Desert Southwest Annual Conference for receiving the Center for Health and Hope's 2018 Leadership Award! The award was presented at events during the 4th Annual Swinging@AIDS benefit weekend – March 24/25, as well as at services at St. Mark's United Methodist Church that weekend.

"Her compassion and competence combined with her altruistic spirit of generosity motivates others to follow her lead in reaching out to the marginalized and stigmatized," stated the Rev. Dr. Donald Messer, Executive Director of the Center for Health and Hope and a member of the UMC Global AIDS Committee. "The Center's Board honors Linda and recognizes her husband, Jim, for their steadfast advocacy and support of equality and justice for LGBTQ people and people living with HIV."

Bravo!

[Read More](#)



Twenty-two percent of people living with HIV in the United States are women. The National Institutes of Health (NIH) has excellent resources addressing this reality. We commend a recently released [video](#) of Dr. Gina Brown, lead researcher on NIH's Office of AIDS Research that addresses women and girls and the importance of testing, care and treatment.



Photo by Philippe Kituka Lolonga, UMINS

Women in the Democratic Republic of Congo Receiving HIV Testing, Care and Treatment

According to a recent article in the United Methodist News Service, United Methodist hospitals in the Democratic Republic of Congo are escalating efforts to fight the epidemic of HIV/AIDS in Africa. One focus is educating women about the importance of HIV/AIDS testing.

"The lack of sufficient information to some women, contributes to HIV transmission" said Marcel Omelo, HIV/AIDS supervisor in East Congo. He emphasized the need to educate both men and women in order to prevent contamination and to save their families from its impacts, particularly from a socioeconomic point of view.

Kathy Griffith, GBGM Maternal, Newborn and Child Health Program Manager and UMGAF Committee Member, stated in response to this article that

"In this quadrennium, Bukhavu Hospital, and several United Methodist health facilities in that Episcopal Area, are part of the Abundant Health Initiative. An essential part of the basic prenatal package is HIV counseling and testing for pregnant women on their first visit. We work closely with Dr. Okonda, the Health Coordinator, who takes HIV very seriously. He is part of creating a great future for his country."

[Read More](#)



DID YOU KNOW THAT ...

- teens and young adults comprise a significant 6 in 10 sexually active high school teens reported using condoms during their most recent sexual intercourse?
- 1 in 4 teens contract a sexually transmitted disease every year?
- less than half of adults age 18 to 44 have ever been tested for an STD other than HIV/AIDS?
- in 2016, 17,528 African Americans received an HIV diagnosis in the United States (12,890 men and 4,560 women)?
- more than half (58%, 10,223) of African Americans with diagnosed HIV were gay or bisexual men?
- The United Methodist Church has [official statements](#) on HIV & AIDS?

Please let us know how you are involved with the AIDS issue! Send us a short paragraph on what's happening in your world regarding HIV and/or AIDS.
Send to: umgafund@gmail.com



NEW RESOURCES

New Resource on HIV and College Students – Affordable Colleges Online has a new webpage that provides useful information for college students about HIV & AIDS. It provides answers to questions as well as basic information relevant to young adults. [Check it out!](#)

New Toolkit available to help state Medicaid programs and health departments to work together to improve viral suppression rates among people living with HIV, making them healthier and preventing new HIV infections. Advocates may be interested in this as well so that they can use this information to work with officials in their state to develop or adapt programs that have benefitted people living with HIV in other states. [Read More](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

- September 5th – Faith Conference on AIDS** sponsored by the USCA Faith Coalition. Orlando, Florida. Stay tuned for more information.
- September 6-9, 2018 – United States Conference on AIDS – Orlando, FL** <http://2018usca.org/>
- October 25-27, 2018 – “Breaking Barriers” AIDS Conference** sponsored by the UMC Global AIDS Committee, Indianapolis, [Register Here](#)
- December 11-14, 2018 – National Ryan White Conference on HIV Care and Treatment - Gaylord National Hotel and Convention Center at the National Harbor in Oxon Hill, MD.**
Theme: *Catalyzing Success: Advancing Innovation. Leveraging Data. Ending the HIV Epidemic.*

Call for Abstracts: The deadline for abstract submission is April 30, 2018.

Six session tracks will serve as the basis for this year's workshop and poster sessions:

- Increasing access, engagement, and retention in HIV care and treatment;
- Data utilization;
- Leveraging innovative practices to improve outcomes and address emerging priorities;
- Clinical quality management and quality improvement;
- Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program planning and resource allocation: collaborative partnerships and community engagement; and
- Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program fiscal and grant management boot camp.

To submit an abstract for a workshop or poster presentation, visit <https://ryanwhite2018.hrsa.gov/>. On the website, you can also register for the conference and view the conference agenda in brief.

Sign up to be an AIDS Ambassador!
Each of you receiving this newsletter is considered an [AIDS Ambassador](#), and we encourage you to invite others in your local congregation and community to join the network! To join the AIDS Network and serve as an AIDS Ambassador, write to: gbc@umcjustice.org, and submit your name requesting to be added to the AIDS Network as an AIDS Ambassador. Thank you!

We close this newsletter with the passage of scripture that will be the focus of the Bible Study at the “Breaking Barriers” October AIDS Conference. The Bible Study will be led by Bishop Tracy Smith Malone.

Philippians 2:1-11 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

Imitating Christ's Humility

2 If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, ² make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³ Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴ Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. ⁵ Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, ⁷ but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, ⁸ he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross.

⁹ Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Global AIDS Committee Officers

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Rev. Dr. Youngsook Kang, Vice-Chair
Dr. Douglas Smith, Secretary

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