



November/December 2019  
UMGAC Newsletter  
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Editor: Douglas B. Smith

### Message from UMGAC Chair

Blessed Advent! As we move into this sacred season, we can't help but think of the ways Jesus changed the world. He provided a new way of being, transforming ways of treating people as he gave witness to the abundant love of God for all persons. He turned the tables upside down when confronting the powerful asking, in so many words, "what are you doing to bring life and well-being to the world?". We each can ask that question.

The UM Global AIDS Committee (UMGAC) strives to bring such well-being to those living with HIV or AIDS as we tackle stigma, advocate for increased treatment and other services for positive people and challenge oppressive systems and beliefs that bring harm rather than healing.

Our work continues and we're grateful for your support and partnership. Thanks for walking with us on this journey! Have a wonderful celebration of Christ's birth and a joy-filled new year! Be encouraged! See you in 2020!

Be encouraged,  
Bishop Julius C. Trimble,  
UMGAC Chair



Bishop Julius C. Trimble, Chair  
United Methodist Global AIDS Committee



*"We were both very surprised and honored that they chose us to receive this certificate. We are pleased that the Saint Paul School of Theology has continued to observe World AIDS Day for 15 years," says Bishop and Mrs. Mutti..*

### Bishop Fritz and Etta Mae Mutti honored on World AIDS Day!

Saint Paul School of Theology honored Bishop Fritz and Etta Mae Mutti for 15 years of commitment to the Saint Paul's observance of World AIDS Day. The issue of HIV & AIDS is personal to Fritz and Etta Mae. They lost two of their three sons to AIDS, and since then have been tireless advocates for the issue.

Fritz and Etta Mae served faithfully for several years as co-Chairs of UMGAC beginning in 2005. During the 2018 UMGAC "Breaking Barriers" Conference in Indianapolis, a lecture series was named after the Muttis with Jeanne White Ginder, mother of Ryan White, delivering the first lecture during that event. A second Mutti Lecture will be given at the May 4, 2020 UMGAC AIDS Conference by Ambassador Deborah Bix, Global AIDS Coordinator for the United States.



Congratulations Fritz and Etta Mae!

### Your Christmas Donation to the UMC Global AIDS Advance Special is so important

**Please consider giving a gift to the United Methodist Global AIDS Fund (#982345)** which supports projects providing education about HIV as well as care for those living with the virus. Programs funded by UMC AIDS Advance Fund include

- Programs for children living with HIV
- Prevention efforts with young people, pregnant and lactating mothers and children born to mothers who are HIV positive
- Pre and postnatal care
- Peer education and networks to promote understanding about mental health, substance use disorder, HIV status and linkage to several levels of care
- Sexual and reproductive health

*The Global AIDS Fund Advance is administered by the General Board of Global Ministries. Your contribution is tax deductible and 100% goes directly to AIDS related projects.*

Children Living with HIV  
Feeding program funded by UMC Global AIDS



### Peer Education

Youth HIV Training in Mzuzu, Malawi conducted by Dr. Douglas Smith, UMGAC Secretary

Donate



As a volunteer corps of "believers without borders", WorldHope Corps offers technical, relational and financial support as well as professional training, consultation and project development in Malawi, Uganda, Palestine and the USA in a spirit of mutual exchange and "reverse mission"—which means we gain much more than we offer from those we seek to help as we work together for community transformation.

Rev. Dr. Michael Christensen is the CEO of WHC and former director of Communities of Shalom which was a ministry of GBGM. Dr. Christensen also served on the United Methodist Global AIDS Committee. WHC is actively conducting HIV education in Africa and was awarded an Abundant Health Grant for Preventing Parent to Child Transmission of HIV in Malawi.

Visit WHC Website

## UMC Abundant Health Initiative and WorldHope Corps Partner for Change in Malawi

The **Abundant Health Initiative** at the UMC General Board of Global Ministries has partnered with **WorldHope Corps, INC** to help HIV positive people in Malawi find strength and hope for their future.

Having received a grant from Abundant Health, WorldHope Corps, Malawi Director Dennis Singini has been coordinating the integrated program with the participation of government health agencies, hospitals and staff in five regions and local village leaders, shamans and women. Among other things, the program trains women in the village to be peer counselors to those in their village who are HIV+ and want to have a HIV- child.

We celebrate work in Malawi through the Abundant Health Initiative and partner WorldHope Corps to decrease transmission, combat stigma, and offer hope to those living with HIV and AIDS.

The program is successful and has been refunded for 2019-2020. We commend this short video to you! It highlights the work being done.



## Support for All Foundation, Uganda

by Dr. Douglas Smith, Secretary UMGAC

At our Fall 2019 UMGAC meeting, I reported on my work with **Support for All Foundation (SFAF)**, a new non-profit created in Uganda to deal with youth most at risk of HIV infection—Men who have sex with Men, sex workers and IV drug users. These populations are highly stigmatized and punished by incarceration. The challenges are many as they seek a facility to provide a safe space for HIV testing and education. **WorldHope Corps** is in the process of building connections for **SFAF**.

In recent months, clients of **Support for All Foundation** have participated in zoom meetings with me as I provided HIV education and listened to their stories. I repeatedly reminded each of them that "they are a beloved child of God, just as they are!" Sharing bits of my life as a gay man who was married in my church and is living publicly with my loving husband and supporting family and faith community was a challenge for them to understand.

### Excerpts for Stories

Some of the young people in *Support for All* shared stories of their experiences. Here are a few excerpts..

"Since everyone knew I was a gay, they started discriminating me. My mother and all the people around me rejected me claiming that I was possessed by evil spirits, they started praying for me thinking I was influenced by the bad spirits to do such things.. When I was forced out of school, I could not get any support because even my mother had abandoned me and could not allow me to go back home. She only wished me to die."....(man)

"Prostitution was the only job which was there and I had no option but to join the business but still money wasn't enough as I expected because men could only give me little money. Thereafter, a friend of mine asked me to work in his bar at Makindye. And now it's the same thing. I have been forced into prostitution. With this situation I am in right now, I met uncle Herbert the founder of Support For All Foundation. He gave me counselling about men who just use me and therefore no future and I may have HIV. "...(woman)

Am [REDACTED] UGANDAN, aged 40 years and I have four orphans who are already beneficiaries of **Support For All Foundation**. These children stay

Projections indicate that the HIV infection rate will increase 340,00/year by 2025 ( up from 53,000 year in 2016), if these populations are not addressed.

Let us all pray that this pandemic can be stopped before it explodes.

[Read More on SFAF](#)

with me and they are not schooling because their parents died of HIV AIDs but God is great they are not affected by HIV. The problem is that they stay with me yet am also a poor man who has only ride a boda boda (motorcycle) to get what they need, food among others. Since I get little money from my job, I find it very hard and difficult to support them and that's why I joined **Support For All Foundation** in order to get some assistance...(man)

[Read the Stories](#)

## SAVE the DATE!



[Registration Open](#)

[Scholarships Available](#)

**May 4, 2020 — “Breaking Barriers, Tackling Stigma”**  
Hennepin Ave. UMC, Minneapolis, MN

. Keynote Speaker: Ambassador Deborah Birx, US Global AIDS Coordinator.

Preacher: Bishop Karen Oliveto, Mountain Sky Annual Conference.

More information forthcoming!

**July 4-5, 2020 - USA - Faith Pre-Conference to the 2020 International AIDS**  
San Francisco/Oakland

Event sponsored by the World Council of Churches

[Check It Out](#)

**October 10-13, 2020 – Puerto Rico/ United States**  
Conference on AIDS

More Information to Come

## Did You Know That...

Women can protect themselves from acquiring the HIV virus by using a monthly vaginal ring?

[Read More](#)

You can check out the status of how the world is doing on the issue of HIV & AIDS?

[UN AIDS](#)

People without insurance can get free PrEP?

[Read More](#)

Annual new infections are projected to grow rapidly to around 340,500 in 2025 – up from 52,000 in 2016 ?

[Read More](#)

## Prayers for those living with HIV or AIDS



**Global AIDS Committee**  
The United Methodist Church

The United Methodist Global AIDS Committee

**Faithfully works to engage annual conferences and local churches in HIV/AIDS education and advocacy and loving and compassionate outreach by raising awareness and providing faith-based resources and training. By doing this, we aim to eliminate deaths from HIV and AIDS, reduce stigma and advocate for and affirm persons living with and affected by HIV and AIDS around the world.**

Find us facebook and our website..



*The United Methodist Global AIDS Committee is funded through The United Methodist Church. We are grateful for its support as well as the various UMC agencies that support our work: The Council of Bishops, General Board of Global Ministries, General Board of Church & Society, United Methodist Women, Division on Ministries with Young People, General Commission on Communication.*

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We sent out this message from the United Methodist Church  
If you no longer wish to receive these emails, simply email [umgafund@gmail.com](mailto:umgafund@gmail.com)  
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