



November/December 2020 UMGAC Newsletter

Volume 6 Issue 6



Word from Bishop Trimble

UMGAC Chair

For those of us living in the northern hemisphere, we are moving into our winter season which gives us an opportunity to reflect on our lives, our family, our world and, perhaps, ask the question: "What am I doing to make the world a better place?" Heaven knows, the world has been crying for relief. What can we do to bring healing, love and peace so all God's children can thrive? The United Methodist Global AIDS Committee invites you to do what you can to support those infected with or affected

by HIV or AIDS. Over 38 million people are living with the virus and infections continue to be alarming particularly for those living in less developed parts of the world. You will find in this newsletter several ways to help out.

Thank you for whatever support or action you can offer. On behalf of the entire UMC Global AIDS Committee, I wish you and your family a Happy Thanksgiving and a Christmas filled with joy and possibility! See you in 2021 as we hang on to hope and pray for peace. Be encouraged!



World AIDS Day Events

United Methodist Global AIDS Committee Virtual World AIDS Day Worship Service - *December 1, 2020 at 1 p.m. CST*

The worship service will be free and available to all online at [Facebook.com/UMCglobalaidsfund](https://www.facebook.com/UMCglobalaidsfund) and www.umc.org/en/content/world-aids-day-2020-worship. The theme of the service will revolve around the theme of this year's World AIDS Day – *Global Solidarity, Shared Responsibility* – and will feature a message from [Bishop Julius Trimble](#) of the Indiana Episcopal Area, chair of the Global AIDS Committee, music by [Jorge Lockward](#) of the United Methodist Church of the Village (New York, NY) and a testimony by [William Brawner](#), founder / executive director of the Haven Youth Center, who is living with HIV.

The worship service was conceived and designed by the Rev. Dr. Youngsook Charlene Kang (Vice-Chair of the UMGAC) with video production by United Methodist Communications.

National Minority AIDS Council (MNAC) Hill Champion Awards for Minority Health Ceremony - *December 1, 4 p.m. Eastern Time.*

This virtual event will honor U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Congresswoman Barbara Lee. This is a free event. For more information, go to: www.nmac.org.

Resources for Local Churches for World AIDS Day

- [Sample Worship Service for Local Churches](#)
- Global HIV & AIDS statistics — [2020 fact sheet](#) (Source: UNAIDS)

Giving Tuesday - December 1st



Donate to United Methodist Global AIDS Committee ~ Click [here](#).

The United Methodist Global AIDS Committee (UMGAC) has been operating as the HIV & AIDS entity in the UMC since 2004 with the hope of creating a more just and healthy world for all God's people. We have done so through education and advocacy including, most recently, educational webinars examining how HIV & AIDS intersects with other societal issues/concerns such as COVID-19, racism and discrimination. Happily, infections are decreasing in the developing world, but not so much in those countries plagued with poverty and distress.

Today, 38 million people are living with HIV or AIDS. Women and people of color are most impacted. Taking seriously Jesus' mandate to care for the sick, the interagency committee guiding UMGAC needs support to sustain our capacity to address this global pandemic - one which took the lives of 670,000 in 2019 with approximately 7.1 million unaware they are living with HIV. **Thank you!**

Upcoming 2021 UMGAC Events

February 1, 2021 – 1 p.m. Central Time - "Racial Disparities, HIV & AIDS"

Theme: The Black Lives Matter movement has become global, but particularly has focused on overcoming institutional white racism in the United States. The racial disparities are abundantly evident regarding HIV and AIDS and health care, HIV education, housing and populations most impacted by AIDS in the United States.

Moderator Host: Bishop Julius Trimble

April 1, 2021 - 1 p.m. Central Time - "PrEP, HIV & AIDS"

Theme: Church leaders generally have been silent, or negative, about promoting PrEP (*pre exposure prophylaxis*) in combatting HIV. This forum would not only provide details about the medication globally but provide a theological basis for Christians to encourage its usage.

Moderator Host: Linda Bales Todd

June 1, 2021 – 1 p.m. Central Time - "Organizing HIV & AIDS Retreats/Camps"

Theme: Panelists will share their experiences organizing and attending retreats for people living with HIV or AIDS and their caregivers. These events can bring spiritual, emotional, social and psychological support to those living with the virus as well as joy and affirmation.

August 28, 2021 - "Breaking Barriers: Tackling Stigma Conference" ~ Minneapolis, MN - Bishop Karen Oliveto, Preacher. Sponsored by the UMC Global AIDS Committee. More Information forthcoming.



"Blessed are the peacemakers..." ~ Jesus

The United Methodist Global AIDS Committee is an interagency initiative comprised of representatives from the General Board of Church & Society, General Board of Global Ministries, Discipleship Ministries, Council of Bishops, UMCom and United Methodist Women. UMGAC is housed at the General Board of Church & Society. To subscribe to this newsletter, go to: www.umcjustice.org and click on "Join Us".

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