



## January-February 2021 UMGAC Newsletter

### Volume 7, Issue 1

#### Word from Bishop Trimble, UMGAC Chair



Back in 2003, the Kaiser Family Foundation posted an article titled "Martin Luther King Jr. Would Have Championed HIV/AIDS Fight, Opinion Piece Says." This article stated that "Although HIV/AIDS was not known during his lifetime, 'no single problem would demand more' of Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s attention than the HIV/AIDS epidemic if he were alive today, Rev.

Raphael Warnock, pastor of the Douglas Memorial Community Church and co-chair of the Baltimore affiliate of the [National Black Leadership Commission on AIDS](#), writes in a [Baltimore Sun](#) opinion piece." Amazingly, the author of that statement, Rev. Warnock, was recently elected as one of two Democratic US Senators from the state of Georgia.

What he stated in 2003 rings true with us today. Warnock continued by writing that HIV & AIDS is "a human plague that does not respect race, gender, class, age, sexual orientation or any of the boundaries that divide the human family," and King knew that "no individual or nation can stand out boasting of being independent" because "we are interdependent." Jesus commands that we love one another - a statement that affirms how our actions impact others and vice versa. Warnock was correct, I believe. May each of us, this day, state without reservation that we pledge to love with zeal and compassion knowing that that act alone can save the world. Be encouraged!

"We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny."  
 ~ Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



*Save The Date...*

FEBRUARY 1, 2021 - 2 PM ET  
 UNITED METHODIST GLOBAL AIDS  
 ZOOM WEBINAR  
**TOPIC: *Racial Disparities, HIV & AIDS***  
 featuring

			
Linda Bales Todd Moderator	Dr. Ulysses Burley, III	William Booth	Kimberlin Dennis

WEBINAR MAY BE VIEWED ONLINE AT  
[FACEBOOK.COM/UMCGLOBALAIDSFUND](https://www.facebook.com/UMCGLOBALAIDSFUND) and [WWW.UMGAF2014.WORDPRESS.COM](http://WWW.UMGAF2014.WORDPRESS.COM)

**UMGAC Webinar ~ Tuesday, February 1, 2021 ~ 2 p.m. ET ~ "Racial Disparities, HIV & AIDS" ~ Please join us!**

This webinar will build on the UMC effort "The Dismantling Racism: Pressing on to Freedom" initiative which is a multi-level effort to initiate a sustained and coordinated effort to dismantle racism and promote collective action to work toward racial justice. We know racial disparities exist for People Living with HIV or AIDS (PLWHA) in health care, education, housing and societal-levied stigma. Panelists Ulysses Burley, III, William Booth and Kimbelin Dennis will share their personal experiences as well as suggestions on how the UMC can help reduce or eliminate the existing disparities which cause so much harm to PLWHA. Click [here](#) to access the event on February 1st. Check out the [Press Release](#) for additional information on webinar speakers. Hope you can be with us!



## Thoughts on Biden/Harris Administration and HIV & AIDS

With every new US administration, there are usually policy changes and/or shifts given the commitment and perspective of the incoming leadership. As we witnessed in 2003, for example, George W. Bush launched a landmark global AIDS initiative called the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief ([PEPFAR](#)) which still exists to this day. For your reading, here are two articles that include recommendations for the Biden/Harris team as it develops its policy on HIV & AIDS:

[Blog post](#) from the Kaiser Family Foundation on how the US might end HIV, advance reproductive health and rights globally.

Article in the Lancet titled "[HIV in the USA: priorities for the new administration](#)". This article examines the realities that have been at play during the Trump administration especially during COVID and also projects possible approaches that may be implemented by President Biden's based on his past support for major AIDS initiatives.

**New [Resource on HIV & AIDS From World Health Organization](#)** (WHO) ~ WHO has published a Face Sheet loaded with up-to-date information on HIV & AIDS usable in any setting. It also includes a link to the "[Global health sector strategy on HIV, 2016-2021](#)".

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## Upcoming Events and HIV/AIDS Observance Days

**February 1** - UMGAC Webinar on "Racial Disparities and HIV & AIDS" (see above)

**February 7** - [National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness & Information Day](#)

**March 10** - [National Women & Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day](#)

**March 21** - [National Native HIV/AIDS Awareness Day](#)

**April 1** - UMGAC Webinar - "PrEP, HIV and AIDS"

"The Gospel shows us that Jesus can read our hearts. Christ is the light that illumines every person. He is not only the One who gives each of us light, who lights our path, but He helps us to know and to do what is right, what is just, what is loving. Jesus is able to see all of our potential. We can never give up on people, because Christ never gives up on us," ~ Bishop Tracy Smith Malone

**How to Serve as an AIDS Ambassador!** UMGAC invites you to become an AIDS Ambassador by taking action on the issues of HIV & AIDS. Click [here](#) to discover ways you can make a difference! Thank you!

*The United Methodist Global AIDS Committee was organized in 2004 as an interagency initiative of The United Methodist Church. It provides education and advocacy on the issues of HIV & AIDS. Members of the Committee represent the following United Methodist agencies: Council of Bishops, General Board of Global Ministries, General Board of Church & Society, United Methodist Women, United Methodist Communication and Discipleship Ministries.*

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