

BOARD OF GLOBAL MINISTRIES

Introductory Comments

1. Accountability

The Conference Board of Global Ministries has the responsibility for the oversight and the coordination of the mission work of the Annual Conference. The Board, in establishing its membership policy, seeks to reflect the diversity of the Annual Conference. Members are selected from each of the districts. There are also at-large members elected by the Annual Conference and by the Board itself. The Board meets three times annually (two face-to-face meetings and one phone conference). All Board members are encouraged to participate in one of the Board's committees.

2. Philosophy and Priorities

The Conference Board of Global Ministries is responsible for maintaining the connectional relationship between the General Board of Global Ministries and the Annual Conference. The Conference Board sees as one of its priorities the importance of making the mission of the General Church real by inspiring, educating, recruiting, training, informing and deploying persons and congregations for mission and ministry on the local, national and international levels.

3. Information

The Board of Global Ministries establishes mission priorities and funding procedures, recommends ministries to be funded through Conference apportionment dollars and designated funds, evaluates the impact and effectiveness of those ministries, challenges local churches to be in mission, educates districts and local churches about opportunities and channels for mission and giving, and provides avenues for hands-on mission efforts. The Board also has oversight responsibilities for segregated funds from gifts and bequests designated to be used for mission.

Highlights and Accomplishments of the Last Year (2006-2007)

1. **Health and Welfare Ministries Committee** (David Green, Chair) is the connecting link between the Conference and the following 13 health and welfare ministries in Wisconsin related to the United Methodist Church.

- Bellin Health System
- Cedar Crest
- Christian Community Home
- Evergreen Retirement Community
- Harbor House Crisis Shelter
- Morrow Memorial Home
- Northcott Neighborhood House
- Parish Nurse Ministries
- Schmitt Woodland Hills
- Sheboygan Senior Community
- United Methodist Children's Services
- United Methodist Hospitals Ministry
- Village at Manor Park

The committee is the channel through which the Conference provides financial support to the Ministries in two ways – 1) from apportionments and 2) Golden Cross offerings. The primary recipients of apportionment funds, which are part of the Board of Global Ministries budget, are four Ministries that serve persons with great needs and few resources.

- Harbor House Crisis Shelter

- Northcott Neighborhood House
- United Methodist Children's Services
- United Methodist Hospital Ministry

All churches are encouraged to annually collect a Golden Cross offering which is distributed by the Health and Welfare Ministries Committee to all of the Ministries that have a current Affiliation Agreement with the Conference. The Golden Cross contributions are shared equally among the ministries and used to support their benevolent programs. In 2006, Golden Cross offerings provided over \$20,000 in support.

The Committee is responsible for working with each Ministry to have a current Covenant of Affiliation with the Conference. Currently, 11 Ministries have such covenants. An objective for 2007 is to develop a covenant with the Village at Manor Park. A covenant with the Parish Nurse Ministries is not appropriate since these are ministries of individual churches that collectively relate to the H&WMC.

A project begun in 2006 is to strengthen the relationship between the governing bodies of the Ministries and the leadership of the Conference. In November 2006, Bishop Linda Lee and the Committee held an invitational event for the governing bodies to explore the purpose and nature of the relationship and develop it in the most appropriate and beneficial manner for both the ministries and the Annual Conference. The Bishop and her Cabinet are utilizing the information gathered through the event to determine the next steps in this endeavor.

Another responsibility of the Committee is to increase awareness within the local churches about what they need to and can do to assist and support persons with disabilities through facilities, programs, and services.

The Committee membership is the CEO and/or designee and a liaison from the governing board of each Ministry, a liaison from the United Methodist Association of Health and Welfare Ministries, the Committee chair, and the Mission Coordinator of the Conference who provides part-time staff support.

2. **Mission Motivation Committee** (Linda Pliska, Chair), in coordination with the Conference Secretary of Global Ministries (Robert Odum) and District Mission Secretaries, educates, encourages, and stimulates mission work in the Conference. The District Mission Secretaries attended a very informative training at GBGM in New York in August, to assist them in their task of facilitating mission education in our churches.

We have a lot to celebrate! We have divided into three work areas for focus: Communications, Global Mission Partners, and Advance Specials (People Touching People). We celebrate the news that Wisconsin UMs recognized the importance of Mission Giving in 2006. We received:

- Over \$1 million for Advance Special projects and all other benevolences
- More than \$102,000 to support missionaries around the world.
- More than \$206,000 for Special Sunday Offerings (a record amount).

We have a lot of work to do. With our Board of Global Ministries we are working on establishing a communications committee, after identifying this as a major need. Our own committee goals for this Quadrennium continue to be to:

- (a) Increase Missional Giving in Local Congregations and The Annual Conference so that missional giving is a daily habit and a way of life;
- (b) Foster regular communication about Wisconsin's Advance Specials, Missionaries, and Mission Involvement Opportunities;
- (c) Strengthen our support of mission sites and missionaries;

- (d) Increase our Level of Advance Special Giving and the number of churches participating;
- (e) Strengthen relationships with our Partnership Conferences.

The Hunger Task Force and **Refugee Task Force** are subcommittees of **Mission Motivation** and continue to work with districts and local churches to extend the mission work of the Conference. The Refugee Task Force has assumed the additional role of dealing with immigration issues.

You can visit the Wisconsin Conference Board of Global Ministries web site, developed under the auspices of Mission Motivation, at www.wisconsinumc.org/missions.

3. **Reconciling Ministries** (Rosalind Driver Scott, Chair) provides funding assistance for eight ecumenical partnerships around the state. These programs reach out to persons in stressed urban areas, persons involved in migrant work, prison populations, and other conditions of need. This committee also supports the Community of Shalom, Shalom Zone, Inc. linked to Solomon Community Temple in Milwaukee. Members of the committee continue to maintain contact with each of the programs funded by this agency.
4. **Conference Partnership** is organized into two sub-committees: one to focus on our partner relationship with the Methodist Church of Cuba (Donna Veatch, Chair), the other to focus on our relationship with the Rio Grande Conference (Rosie Mayorga, Chair). The Cuba Partnership sent a group of people to Cuba in April, 2006. The Rio Grande Partnership works with our National Volunteers in Mission committee to organize workcamps there. Our Board will be reviewing our Partner Relationships in the coming year and will make recommendations to the 2008 annual conference for future relationships.
5. **Volunteers in Mission** develops policy, selects work sites, and recruits leadership for short-term mission projects at Conference, Jurisdictional, national, and international sites. VIM has established National VIM (Wendell Williams, Chair) and International VIM (Don Heeringa, Chair) divisions within the committee. VIM projects are largely self-funded and continue to grow in size and scope. In 2006 a total of 456 work campers provided over 214,000 hours of volunteer labor for mission projects. VIM also continues to train leaders for future work camps.
6. The **Wisconsin Conference Disaster Response Team** (David Sharpe, Chair), has completed response work for the Viola and Stoughton tornados. UMCOR provided \$112,500 in relief funds, along with an additional \$56,312 contributed by Wisconsin UMs. \$132,132.67 was given in direct aid to survivors to assist them in their recovery.

Two Cluster training events were held last year at Tomah and Milton, resulting in the addition of more people to the response teams and increased awareness for preparedness in the event of a disaster.

Wisconsin hosted a regional UMCOR training at Byron Center last November. Six members of the committee were trained. In December Dave Sharpe taught a Case Management course at the inaugural Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters (VOAD) conference at Ft. McCoy.

The committee approved a revision and update of their Disaster Response Manual.

An Advance has been approved for a Disaster Response Fund. The number is 7775. Funds contributed stay in Wisconsin for training, support and relief.

We sent one person to the Sager-Brown UMCOR training center in November for UMCOR training in all modules of a disaster response.

Plans for the Coming Year (2007-2008)

1. The **Health and Welfare Ministries Committee** will:
 - a. continue to collaborate with the Bishop and her cabinet to strengthen the linkage between the Conference and the governing bodies of the Ministries,
 - b. increase the number of churches participating in the annual Golden Cross offering and the amount of support provided by each congregation,
 - c. increase knowledge of the Ministries among the members of the churches and the importance of apportionment payments to the four Ministries receiving those funds
 - d. inform churches about how they can respond to persons with disabilities.
2. The **Conference Partnership Committee** will begin the process to identify new Partner Conference relationships for the next quadrennium and will bring those recommendations to the 2008 session of the annual conference.
3. **Volunteers in Mission** will continue to develop work-camp opportunities at state, national, and international sites, and encourage participation in those camps.
4. **Mission Motivation** is focusing on these areas to enhance our conference's involvement in Mission work:
 - a. Create a Circuit Advocate for Missions program, in which each circuit will be invited to name a contact person for missions information and activities.
 - b. Develop the new People Touching People Manual for 2008 Quadrennium, asking each agency and program approved for Advance Specials to renew its application and inviting and approving new ones.
 - c. Establish a Global Mission Partnership program, inviting churches to respond to certain criteria to be recognized as being committed to Mission awareness and giving.
 - d. We are looking at ways to focus on our youth and young people, both pastors and laity, with the intent of getting them involved at an earlier age in mission activity.
 - e. Through our new Conference Mission Secretary, Robert Odum, and the District Mission Secretaries we will continue to invite local churches to host our own Mission Interpreters and itinerating missionaries as they spend time in Wisconsin during the year. We continue to challenge each local church in our conference to participate in at least one Advance Special this year.
5. **Reconciling Ministries** will continue to strengthen its connection with and evaluation of the various ecumenical ministries receiving support from the committee. They will explore innovative ways to support those missions through connections with the Circuit Teams in those areas. An emphasis in 2006 will be to visit each of the projects that receives funding through Reconciling Ministries. This committee welcomed Rosalind Driver Scott as their new chair.
6. **Disaster Response** will continue to work with the School for Christian Mission to train workers with children in a disaster. If not actively engaged in an operation, we will do a readiness drill. We will continue to participate in the Voluntary Organizations Assisting Disasters (VOADs) at the state and county levels. We are committed to a higher level of training and readiness so that we can be equal and dependable partners in the relief and recovery phases of a disaster.