



Open hearts.
Open minds.
Open doors.

“Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.” is the promise we make as the people of The United Methodist Church in response to God’s love. When you join a United Methodist congregation, you become a part of an active, worldwide group of interconnected communities—a connection of people who believe we should spend our days making the love of Christ real in our actions. This connection encourages us to live gracefully, as one unified global community that does no harm, does good and stays in love with God.

This love inspires us to open doors that create opportunities to engage people who seek spiritual insight, yearn to connect with God and desire a supportive community to assist them on their journey. It’s about listening and reaching out, being relevant and authentic. It’s about relationships, for some don’t know the language of faith, and others are skeptical about the relevance of the church today.



Four Areas of Focus:

The United Methodist Church, in its mission to make disciples for the transformation of the world, has identified four areas of focus that link critical aspects of our ministry together as a church.

- Leadership development
- Ministry with the poor
- Church growth
- Global health

Support and engage in the Four Areas of Focus.

To learn more about the Four Areas of Focus, go to www.umc.org/fourareas

To learn more and to order additional copies of this resource, visit

www.umcgiving/store

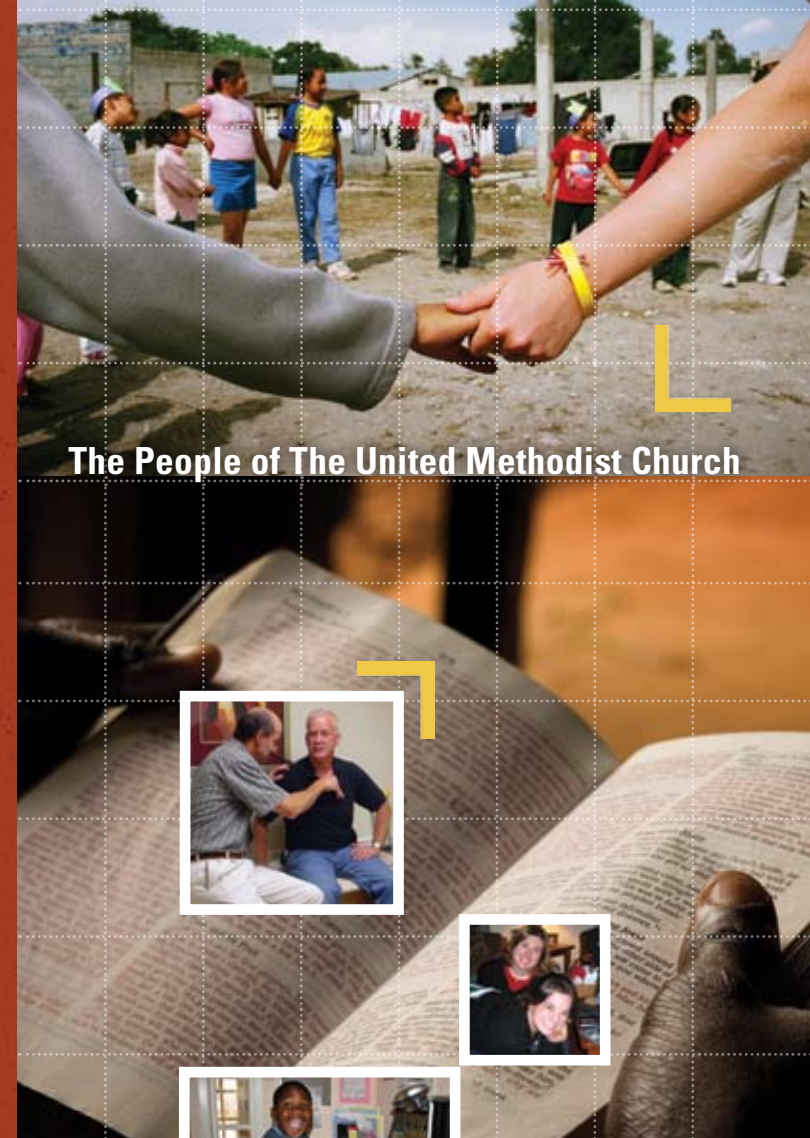
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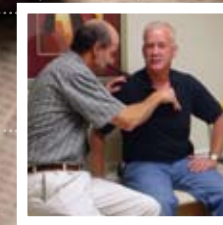
Photos:

Suzie Bell, Mike DuBose, Reed Galin, Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, Kathy Gilbert, John Gordon, Megan Goss, Stephanie Kovac, James Melchiorre, UMNS

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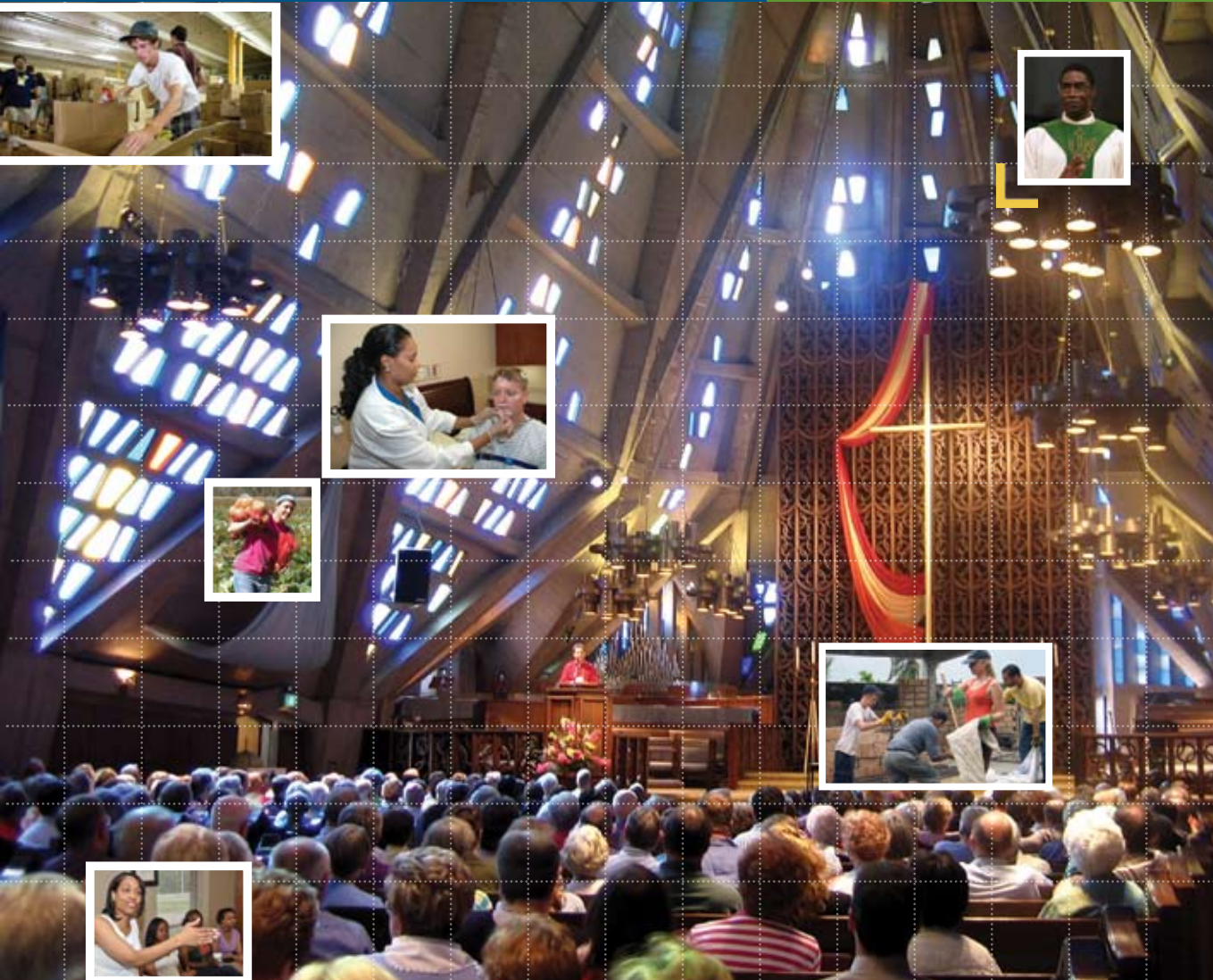
The People of The United Methodist Church



who we are



UNITED METHODISTS AROUND THE WORLD



UMC Membership by Central or Jurisdictional Conference*

Annual Conferences – 133

Professing Members – 11,221,781

Local Churches – 41,589

Clergy Members – 55,346

Hospitals, Clinics and Health Centers/Posts – 309

Episcopal Areas – 69

Church School Participants – 5,541,338



**Data reflected includes all information currently available*

A DIVERSE COMMUNITY

All persons are welcome in The United Methodist Church. Celebrating a diversity of peoples, age levels, ideas and cultures, we are enriched by our history. The United Methodist Church was formed with the union of the Methodist Church and the Evangelical United Brethren Church in 1968. United Methodists trace their spiritual heritage back to the 18th-century evangelical leaders John and Charles Wesley, Jacob Albright and Philip William Otterbein. As these men changed their world then, today the church seeks to rethink how to effect change in the world.

BIBLICAL IN FAITH

United Methodists trust free inquiry into matters of Christian doctrine. Our faith is guided by Scripture, tradition, experience and reason. Scripture is of paramount importance. For United Methodists, the Bible is the record of God's people living out God's promise.

EVANGELICAL, CONNECTIONAL

In the 21st century, The United Methodist Church seeks to expand its robust evangelical heritage. The church seeks to give a younger generation new ways to express their faith, translate that faith into actions and make a difference in the world. Wherever the church or unchurched turn, they will find congregations seeking to create opportunities to encounter Christ.

SHARING GOD'S GIFTS

United Methodists have believed from the beginning that each of us is called to participate in the outward-reaching ministry of Jesus Christ. John Wesley and others in our "cloud of witnesses" saw our work in the simplest, plainest terms: Do no harm. Do good. Stay in love with God.

United Methodists open many doors that create opportunities to make an enormous difference in the world. Our wonderfully diverse ministries are made possible by United Methodism's connectional giving system. We do more together than any one congregation can do alone.

LIVING AND GIVING GOD'S LOVE

We support worldwide ministry with other churches to spread the gospel, care for those seeking a connection with God and nurture communities of Christian disciples, following Jesus' model of love and generosity. We listen, reach beyond ourselves, and offer help, hope and healing to those who are rethinking how to have more meaning in their lives.

For more than 200 years, The United Methodist Church and our predecessors have addressed poverty and the disenfranchised. We are committed to growing congregations and developing Christian leaders with the skills and spiritual strength to cope with the demands of the world. We play a significant role in educating others about devastating diseases, especially those which disproportionately affect the poor. We discern ways to fight disease and to provide better health conditions for people around the world. Our church advocates for justice and equality, and offers a voice when the struggles of the helpless are unheard. We are connected, caring and concerned about ministry that challenges our passion for making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.