



The United Methodist Church

Florida + Episcopal Area

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April 2017

Dear Sisters and Brothers of the Florida Conference,

The Annual Conference Offerings in 2017 will be a celebration of partnerships with our neighbors in Cuba and Haiti. We have been blessed, in the state of Florida and in the Florida Conference, by relationships with persons from these nations, and by their strong faith and dedication to the church. One-half of the Annual Conference Offering will be directed to each initiative.

Cuban Pastor Pension Initiative

In collaboration with the leadership of the Methodist Church of Cuba, we will work to develop a pension fund for Cuban pastors, based on their years of service there and related to their economic scale. This would be an initiative of Mission and Justice, Methodists United in Prayer and the Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits. The UMC's General Board of Pension and Health Benefits is also supportive and will help us to design and administer the plan. This will be a several year grassroots initiative, in the spirit of shared partnership with the church in Cuba and a shared history with them. Bishop Ricardo Pereira of the Methodist Church of Cuba and the Mission and Justice Committee of the Florida Conference have endorsed this, and a matching gift of \$50,000 is in place!

Abundant Health for Haiti

One of the four areas of focus for the United Methodist Church in 2016-2020 is the development of Abundant Health Initiatives across our planet. Meds and Food for Kids (mfkhaiti.org) has been fighting malnutrition in Haiti since 2003, having treated over 250,000 children with life-saving medika mamba (medical peanut butter), partnering with over 2,500 Haitian peanut farmers to produce this life saving product, and employing 65 Haitians at their state of the art factory in Cap Haitien, Haiti. MFKHaiti partners with UNICEF, the World Food Programme, USAid, and other agencies, identifying children through clinics and school settings who desperately need treatment. A gift to mfkhaiti.org feeds desperately hungry children. This initiative will be developed through our Haiti Partnership, and will be a primary expression of our mission with the people of Haiti.

The Peace of the Lord,

Kenneth H. Carter, Jr.
Florida Area Resident Bishop