



OUR BISHOPS: LEADING. RESPONDING. NURTURING.

TOGETHER WE ENABLE OUR BISHOPS TO LEAD AND NURTURE GOD'S CHILDREN AROUND THE WORLD.

When the apostle Paul wrote to his friend and associate Titus, he outlined the qualifications and expected behavior of bishops:

"It's important that a church leader, responsible for the affairs in God's house, be looked up to . . . [Bishops] must welcome people, be helpful, wise, fair, reverent, . . . and have a good grip on the Message, knowing how to use the truth to either spur people on in knowledge or stop them in their tracks if they oppose it." --Titus 1:7-9, The Message

Indeed, bishops are an integral part of the spiritual and administrative leadership of The United Methodist Church. We elect bishops to speak to—and from—the church.

The Episcopal Fund, one of United Methodism's seven apportioned funds, pays our bishops' salaries, covers their office and travel expenses, and provides their pension and health-benefit coverage.

The 2008 General Conference approved Four Areas of Focus to guide the denomination's work. Already these areas are transforming the denomination and the world, and our bishops as global church spokespersons are leading by example.

The four areas—developing principled Christian leaders, creating new churches and renewing existing ones, engaging in ministries with the poor and stamping out killer diseases of poverty by improving global health—are moving the church into the urgent work that Jesus wants us to do," said Louisville Area Bishop Lindsey Davis. Such ministries "fill us with hope."

Pittsburgh Area Bishop Thomas Bickerton called them "the tie that binds all of us together, reconnects us to our Wesleyan DNA and once again opens us to God's will."

“FEED MY LAMBS.”

— JOHN 21:15C NRSV

“I love meeting people where they are and inviting them into a lifelong relationship with Jesus Christ. My prayer is that God will give us a hunger to reach those outside the church, enabling spiritual transformation and growth to occur in the church. My life in Christ is one awesome experience, and the best is yet to come.”

— Bishop W. Earl Bledsoe, Dallas Area

“As people of faith, we cannot and will not stand by in silence while young people die, families are separated, individual freedoms are ignored, and the immigrant community in the U.S. is treated unjustly and inhumanely. No more!”

— Bishop Minerva G. Carcaño, Phoenix Area

“As a bishop, I want whatever God wants for our pastors and our churches. I am learning to practice ministry in new ways, leaning on the collective wisdom of the body of Christ, even more so than when I was in the local church. [Being a bishop] is more about ministry than about meetings. It’s helping pastors lead so their lives can be filled with spiritual overflow.”

— Bishop Richard J. Wills Jr., Nashville Area

When your congregation pays the Episcopal Fund apportionment 100 percent, you help to ensure excellent leadership for The United Methodist Church as you accept the challenges of the Four Areas of Focus. Thank you!

To learn more, read additional stories and order resources, go to umcsgiving.org.



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