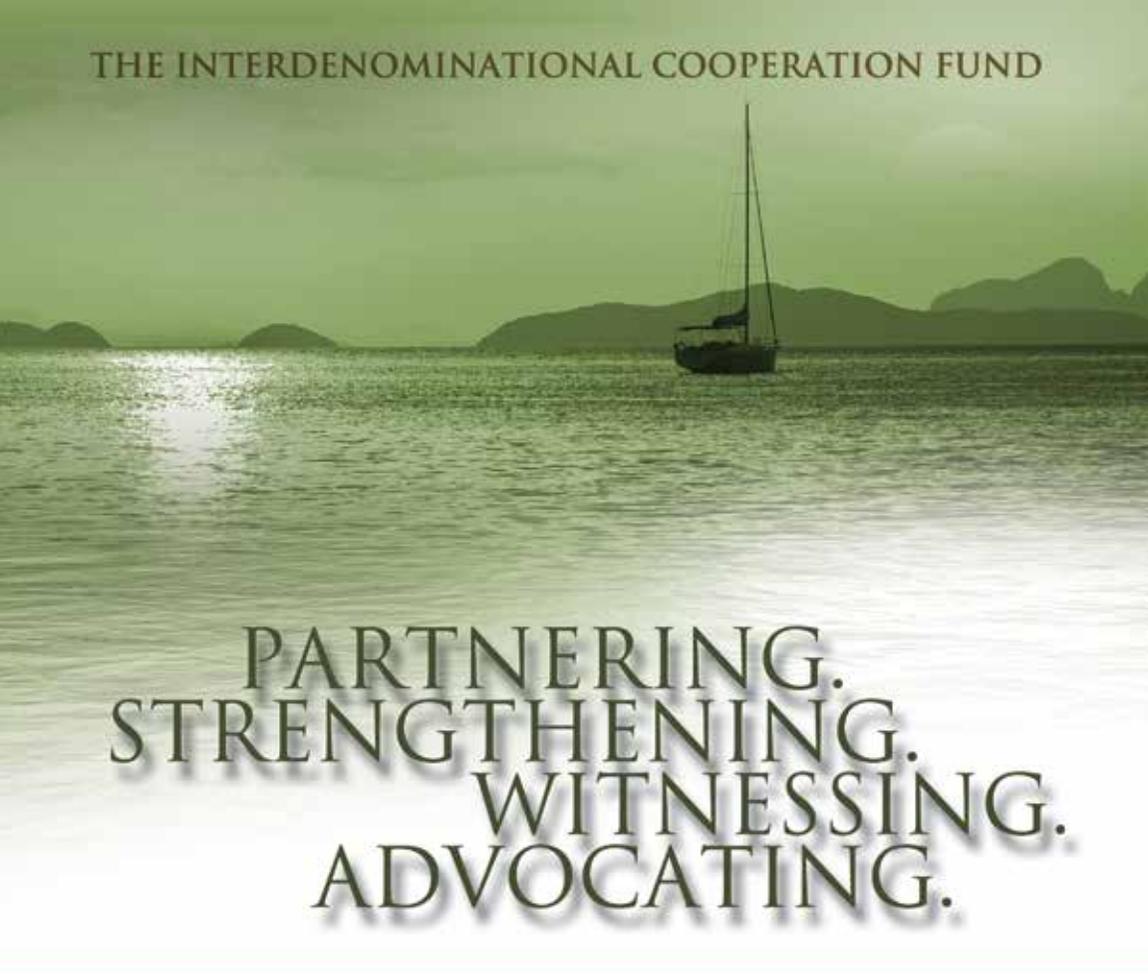


THE INTERDENOMINATIONAL COOPERATION FUND



PARTNERING.
STRENGTHENING.
WITNESSING.
ADVOCATING.



"I ASK NOT ONLY ON BEHALF OF THESE, BUT ALSO ON BEHALF OF THOSE WHO WILL BELIEVE IN ME THROUGH THEIR WORD, THAT THEY MAY ALL BE ONE. AS YOU, FATHER, ARE IN ME AND I AM IN YOU, MAY THEY ALSO BE (ONE) IN US, SO THAT THE WORLD MAY BELIEVE THAT YOU HAVE SENT ME."

- JOHN 17:20-21, NRSV

“BE OF THE SAME MIND, HAVING THE SAME LOVE,
BEING IN FULL ACCORD AND OF ONE MIND.”

–*Philippians 2:2b, NRSV*



WITNESSING

**WE'RE NOT CARBON COPIES OF EACH OTHER,
BUT WE CAN WORK TOGETHER.**

Our relationships with ecumenical partners, made possible by the Interdenominational Cooperation Fund, enable us to witness together while respecting our unique traditions and distinctions. We also unite in creative responses to concerns that fall within The United Methodist Church's Four Areas of Focus, such as widespread poverty, economic injustice, HIV/AIDS, substance abuse and violence, and racism.

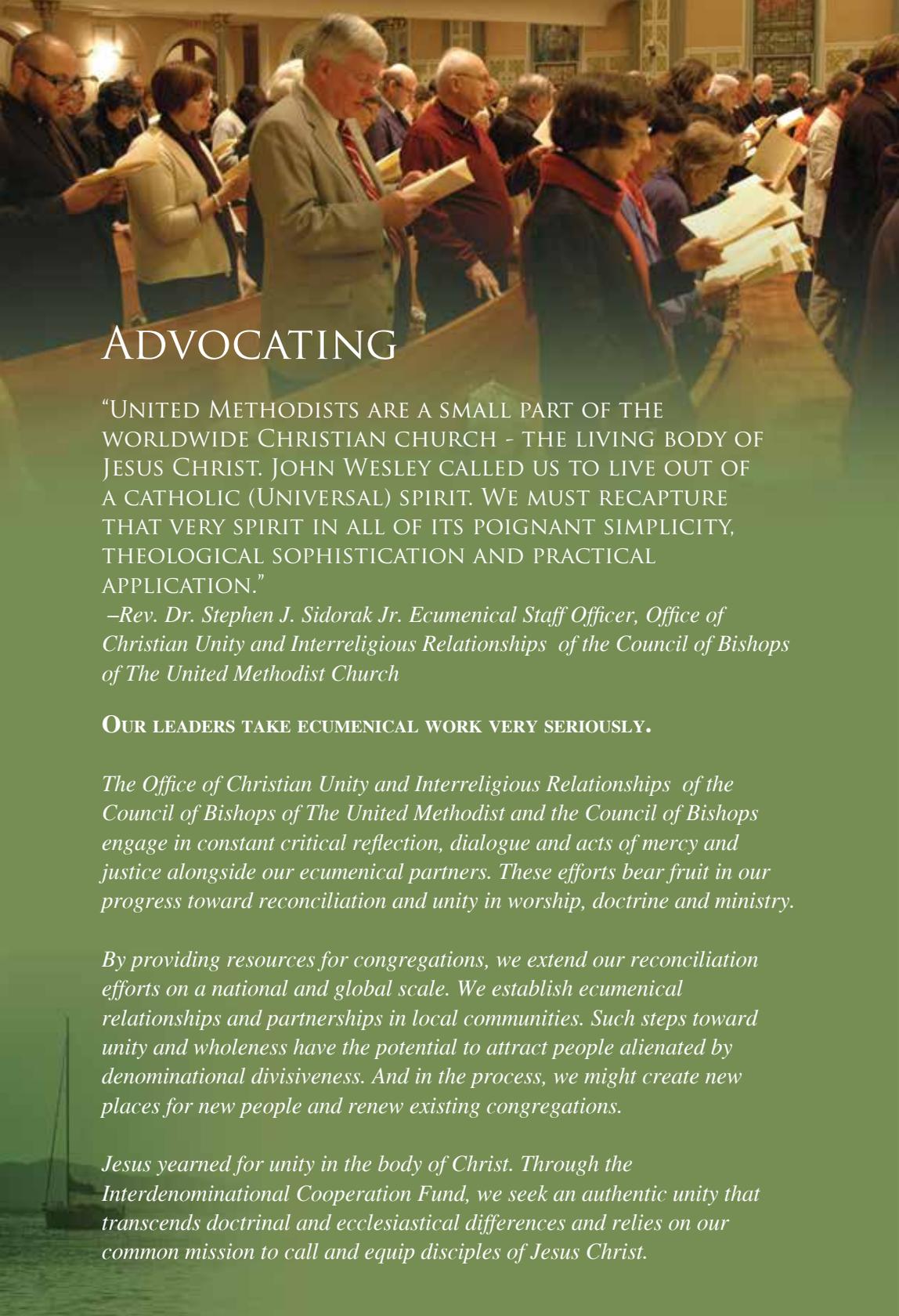
Additional examples abound. Here are a few:

- ECUMENICAL HIV AND AIDS INITIATIVE IN AFRICA, COORDINATED BY THE WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES;
- JUST REBUILDING OF THE GULF COAST HURRICANE RECOVERY INITIATIVE, RELATED TO THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CHURCHES;
- WORK AGAINST SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND VIOLENCE, SPEARHEADED BY THE PAN-METHODIST COMMISSION

Through United Methodist gifts to the Interdenominational Cooperation Fund, such ecumenical endeavors foster justice, mercy and peace in God's world.

The fund also develops principled Christian leaders for the church and the world through the Young Ecumenist Program, the United Methodist Ecumenical and Interreligious Training network and the National Council of Churches' Young Adult Stewards Program. These initiatives teach leaders about ecumenical theology and practice through study, worship and fellowship.



A photograph of a group of people, likely in a church, standing in a line and reading from books or papers. The scene is dimly lit, with warm light from the background. The people are dressed in formal or semi-formal attire. The text is overlaid on the bottom half of the image.

ADVOCATING

“UNITED METHODISTS ARE A SMALL PART OF THE WORLDWIDE CHRISTIAN CHURCH - THE LIVING BODY OF JESUS CHRIST. JOHN WESLEY CALLED US TO LIVE OUT OF A CATHOLIC (UNIVERSAL) SPIRIT. WE MUST RECAPTURE THAT VERY SPIRIT IN ALL OF ITS POIGNANT SIMPLICITY, THEOLOGICAL SOPHISTICATION AND PRACTICAL APPLICATION.”

—Rev. Dr. Stephen J. Sidorak Jr. Ecumenical Staff Officer, Office of Christian Unity and Interreligious Relationships of the Council of Bishops of The United Methodist Church

OUR LEADERS TAKE ECUMENICAL WORK VERY SERIOUSLY.

The Office of Christian Unity and Interreligious Relationships of the Council of Bishops of The United Methodist and the Council of Bishops engage in constant critical reflection, dialogue and acts of mercy and justice alongside our ecumenical partners. These efforts bear fruit in our progress toward reconciliation and unity in worship, doctrine and ministry.

By providing resources for congregations, we extend our reconciliation efforts on a national and global scale. We establish ecumenical relationships and partnerships in local communities. Such steps toward unity and wholeness have the potential to attract people alienated by denominational divisiveness. And in the process, we might create new places for new people and renew existing congregations.

Jesus yearned for unity in the body of Christ. Through the Interdenominational Cooperation Fund, we seek an authentic unity that transcends doctrinal and ecclesiastical differences and relies on our common mission to call and equip disciples of Jesus Christ.

A photograph of Bishop Mary Ann Swenson, a woman with short brown hair, wearing a purple clerical robe with a white collar and a colorful, patterned stole. She is standing at a podium with a microphone, her mouth open as if speaking, and her hands raised in a gesture of praise or prayer. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

Bishop Mary Ann Swenson,
Ecumenical Officer,
United Methodist Council of Bishops

PARTNERSHIPS

“ECUMENISM IS A PART OF LIVING OUT OUR FAITH IN THIS CURRENT TIME IN HISTORY. IT ALSO IS THE WAY FOR US TO MOVE FORWARD INTO A NEW TIME IN HISTORY AND FOR US TO HAVE A POSITIVE INFLUENCE ON THE WORLDS TO COME. AND I THINK FOR UNITED METHODIST PEOPLE WORKING TOGETHER WITH OTHERS IN THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY WILL EXPAND THEIR OWN UNDERSTANDING OF THEMSELVES AND HELP THEM GROW AND SERVE IN WONDERFUL WAYS.”

-- Bishop Mary Ann Swenson, Ecumenical Officer, United Methodist Council of Bishops

OUR MINISTRIES WITH OTHER DENOMINATIONS ENRICH THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH.

Thanks to the Interdenominational Cooperation Fund and the work of our Office of Christian Unity and Interreligious Relationships of the Council of Bishops of The United Methodist Church, we support an array of important ministries operating through various ecumenical bodies:

- PAN-METHODIST COMMISSION
- WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES
- NATIONAL COUNCIL OF THE CHURCHES OF CHRIST IN THE USA
- WORLD METHODIST COUNCIL
- CHRISTIAN CHURCHES TOGETHER

United Methodists strengthen the work of these partnership bodies through our shared financial support and our full participation in meetings, events and ministries. Thanks to your church’s gifts through the Interdenominational Cooperation Fund, United Methodists foster unity in the body of Christ. As we march in the light of God, we work and witness with other Christians. Together, we strive for justice, reconciliation and peace.

“THERE IS ONE BODY AND ONE SPIRIT, JUST AS YOU
WERE CALLED TO THE ONE HOPE OF YOUR CALLING.”

—*Ephesians 4:4, NRSV*



TOGETHER, WE ...

SHARE THE LOVE OF JESUS CHRIST.

UNITED METHODISTS GIVE TO THE
INTERDENOMINATIONAL COOPERATION FUND (ICF) TO
ADVANCE THE WORK AND WITNESS OF CHRIST'S BODY
THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.

OUR SHARED MINISTRY GIFTS STRENGTHEN OUR BONDS
AS A FAMILY OF FAITH. THEY ENABLE US TO COOPERATE
NATIONALLY AND GLOBALLY WITH OTHER CHRISTIANS IN
SHARING THE TRANSFORMING LOVE AND GOSPEL OF JESUS
CHRIST AS ONE PEOPLE - THAT THE WORLD MAY BELIEVE.



Thank you for your 100 percent support of the
Interdenominational Cooperation Fund.

Learn more at
www.umcgiving.org/icf and www.ocuir.org
Order this brochure (#540110) at www.umcgiving.org or call 888-346-3862.



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