

NCC UMVIM ANNUAL REPORT 2023

SHOWING CHRISTIAN LOVE IN ACTION



A MESSAGE FROM THE CONFERENCE COORDINATOR



2023 marks another significant year as we continue picking up the pace in which we travel. It has also been a year in which we have faced more hurt and division as we continue grappling with disaffiliation processes.

I am filled with deep appreciation for the collective acts of mercy and piety which define us as United Methodists. Our shared commitment to making a positive missional impacts and partnerships has resonated far and wide, and it is with immense gratitude I present this 2023 annual report.

Within the following pages, not only will you see numbers and data, but also stories behind these numbers; stories of the Christian Love in Action taking place by United Methodists from Eastern North Carolina as they engage in mission and ministry in their local communities and across the globe.

As we reflect upon our ministry which has taken place in 2023, we look forward to continuing this holy work in 2024 and the years to come. As you continue to engage your communities in showing Christian love in action, The North Carolina Conference United Methodist Volunteers in Mission Office continues to exist, promoting, encouraging, and enabling you for your vital ministry in the world.

We continue aiming to achieve the Great Commission through providing short-term missional exchange opportunities for everyday Christians. It is my prayer that we will continue this work in the days and months ahead. As you go forth engaging in missional service in God's world, the NCC UMVIM Office remains ready to resource and equip you to be God's hands and feet in the world.

In the Spirit of Acts 1:8,

Miles Baker Hunt
Conference UMVIM Coordinator

THE FIGURES

45

UMVIM TEAMS

708

SHORT-TERM MISSIONARIES

19

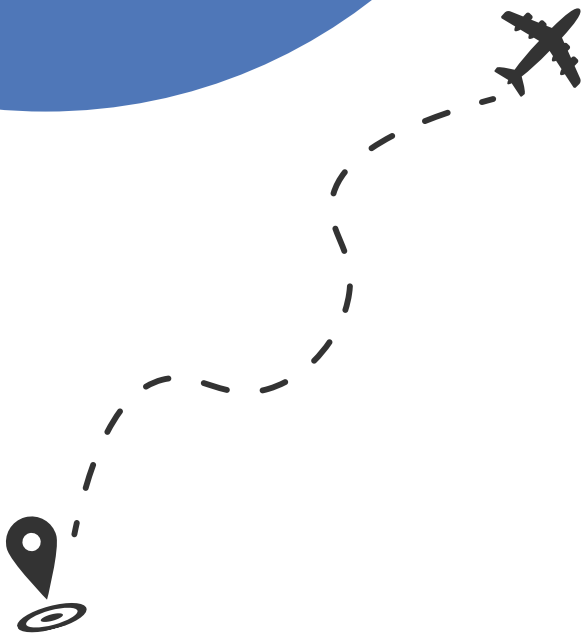
NEW TEAM LEADERS TRAINED

10

MISSIONAL EXCHANGE GRANTS AWARDED

03


INDIVIDUAL GRANTS AWARDED



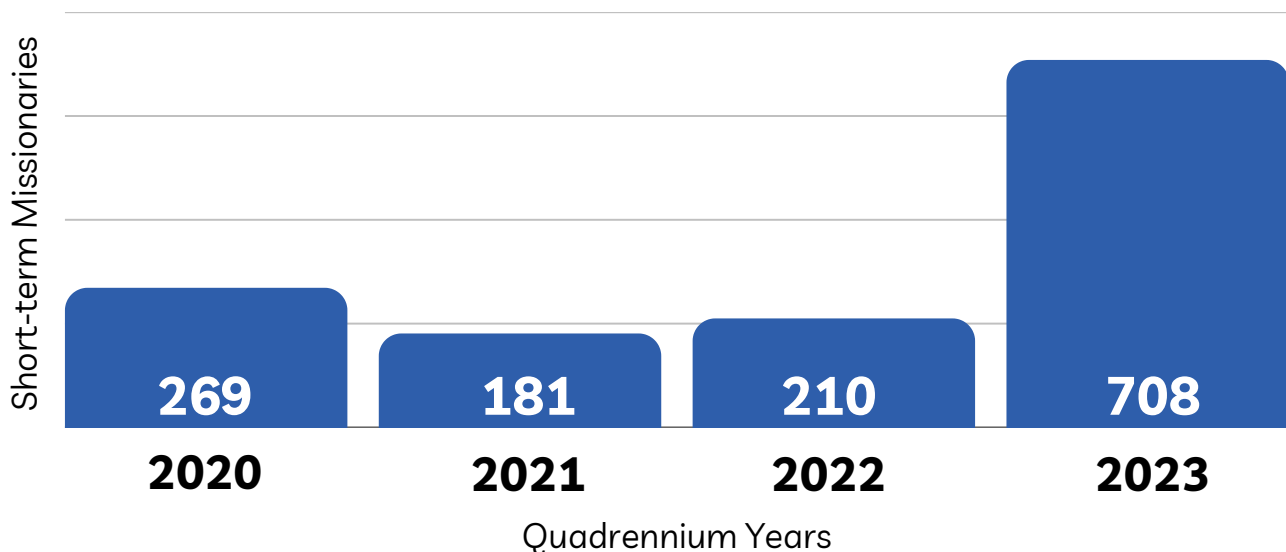
ANALYSIS

In 2023, 498 more individuals from across the North Carolina Conference were reported to engage in short-term missional service than the 210 individuals reported in 2022. This represents a 237% increase. This is exciting news as we once again continue reaching out following the decrease in UMVIM teams and short-term missionaries during the COVID-19 pandemic.

237%
increase in short-term missionaries from 2022 to 2023



North Carolina Conference Short-Term Missionaries
2020 Quadrennium



The 2023 short-term missionary service data was collected from UMVIM, SEJ, who receives data reports from teams who register with the Jurisdictional Office, as well as from missional partners across the globe. The 708 individuals reported here composed 45 UMVIM teams. This represents three (3) more teams than in 2022, or just over a 7% increase. While we celebrate this increase in missional service from 2022, missional service in the 2020 quadrennium was still lower than during the 2016 quadrennium. This is to be expected, giving the COVID-19 pandemic beginning in 2020 and its lasting effects on travel. Regardless, this positive increase from 2022 to 2023 is welcome news as we bolster our efforts to continue showing Christian love in action across God's world!

MISSIONAL EXCHANGE GRANT AWARDEES

MAY 2023 | NC CONFERENCE MISSION TEAM TO LIBERIA

In her itineration in August 2022, the Revd. Priscilla Jaiah Legay-Gilayeneh, missionary in charge of the Ganta United Methodist Mission, shared to various churches across the NC Conference that she had a dream of building an abattoir on the Mission Farm so local pig farmers who receive their piglets from the Mission Farm can have a viable market. A part of that abattoir will be a cool room which will be constructed by the mission team. The pig farmers are purchasing materials to build the walls needed out of concrete block. The Liberians are completely in charge of the process from start to finish as they had the vision for the abattoir and are incorporating their cultural techniques throughout the building.

AUGUST 2023 | NC CONFERENCE MISSION TEAM TO LIBERIA

A secondary grant was made to a Conference mission team for their return missional journey to Liberia in August of 2023 to follow up on the work which was first started in May 2023. The team remained in close contact with the Revd. Priscilla Jaiah Legay-Gilayeneh and a co-op group of local pig farmers. While much work had taken place since the team left in May, the team returned to offer more training to create a more sanitary place for the animals to be slaughtered and for the meat to be subsequently sold to the local community.



The Revd. Priscilla Legay Jaiah-Gilayeneh, director of the Ganta Mission Station in Liberia's Nimba County, displays a pig farming T-shirt during the dedication ceremony of a new butchery plant in Ganta City.

Photo by E Julu Swen, UM News.

Spotlight on Mission: Liberia

"I am not an agriculturalist, but my passion is agriculture," said Bishop Samuel J. Quire Jr. "I think the only way that this church can be empowered financially is through agriculture."

In May, Quire, the episcopal leader of the Liberia Area, dedicated a butchery plant for pig farmers in Ganta City, Nimba County. He noted that the butchery plant would empower United Methodist pig farmers in the county, as well as the entire central area of Liberia. "This butchery plant is for all Liberians in this part of our country," Quire said.

The initiative between two annual conferences — North Carolina in the United States and Liberia — allows the church in Liberia to contribute to the Liberian government's infrastructural development plans."

"While partnering with our brothers and sisters across the globe," Quire said, "empowering Liberians who are members of The United Methodist Church is the best way we can enhance the government's self-sustainability programs for its people."

Quire asserted that the church needs to use its land to empower its members financially through agriculture. He thanked the North Carolina Conference for contributing to his agricultural dream for the Liberia Episcopal Area.

"One of the things that will keep us together as United Methodists," he said, "is mission." He added that the debate about disaffiliation is not helpful for the church's growth and development.

The Rev. Bill Haddock, leader of the North Carolina Conference mission team to Liberia, expressed hope that the butchery plant would be a viable place where pig farmers bring their products for good business transactions.

The Revd. Bill Haddock and members of the North Carolina Conference mission team to Liberia join in a moment of prayer during the dedication ceremony for a new butchery plant in Ganta City. The conference helped fund the butchery plant as part of an initiative with the Liberia Conference. "We want them to make money that will enable them to feed their family, send their children to school and be generous givers to the work of the church in Liberia," Haddock said.

Photo by E Julu Swen, UM News.



"We want them to make money that will enable them to feed their family, send their children to school and be generous givers to the work of the church in Liberia," he said. He indicated that the butchery plant construction helped to fulfill his annual conference's desire to empower Liberians through pig farming.

"The North Carolina Conference," Haddock said, "wants to give United Methodists in Liberia a hand that will pull them out of poverty, not a handout that will keep them in a position of poverty." He said the butchery plant has cost \$20,000 so far and more money is needed to get it to a perfectly functioning and operating stage. He thanked United Methodists who contributed and are still expected to support the project.

Priscilla Legay Jaiah-Gilayeneh, director of the Ganta Mission Station, said the butchery plant was a dream come true for both United Methodists and the people of Nimba County. She said the mission station is involved with other agriculture initiatives, based on Quire's rallying call for agriculture in 2017.

The mission station, Jaiah-Gilayeneh said, is now funding operational activities from resources generated from agricultural products. She named beekeeping, as well as palm, rubber and cattle farming, as activities from which the Ganta Mission Station and United Methodists in that part of Liberia are benefiting.

This article was written by E Julu Swen and published by UM News on June 14, 2023. Used by permission from UM News.

E Julu Swen is editor and publisher of West African Writers, an online publication about United Methodist happenings in West Africa.



The Republic of Liberia

MISSIONAL EXCHANGE GRANT AWARDEES

JULY 2023 | FAIRMONT UMC TO PROJECT CROSSROADS

Fairmont UMC (Raleigh) took a team of 18 missionaries to Project Crossroads in Marion, Virginia. Project Crossroads serves low-income, elderly, and handicap families through their Home Rehab ministry. In 2022, Fairmont UMC participated at Project Crossroads to assist in building a deck for a family with a teenage daughter in the early stages of Multiple Sclerosis. Fairmont continued in this ministry at Project Crossroads by making repairs to ensure local homes are safe, healthy, secure, and accessible. Such rehabilitation ministries ranged from minor repairs to exterior or interior to major repairs on the home. This can be replacing a porch, roof or bathroom; or may be the building of a handicap ramp or rehabbing a bathroom for accessibility.

MAY 2023 | RALEIGH WESLEY FOUNDATION TO CENTRAL APPALACHIAN MISSIONARY CONFERENCE

The Raleigh Wesley Foundation took a team of 8 missionaries to serve with Red Bird Mission in the Central Appalachian Missionary Conference in Beverly, Kentucky. The team was able to form relationships with the family they were serving as well as a Presbyterian work team from Virginia. In addition to relationship building, the team was tasked with re-shingling a portion of a roof belonging to a local family. They completed the project early and spent the remainder of their time making repairs at the Red Bird campus by staining a deck and repairing a staircase.

JULY 2023 | PLEASANT GREEN UMC TO EL SALVADOR

Pleasant Green UMC took a team of 5 missionaries to Ahuachapán, El Salvador, continuing in their 15+ year partnership with Salvadoran Mission Projects (SMP). During their time serving in El Salvador, Pleasant Green served alongside local Salvadorans on various construction projects on behalf of the Evangelical Methodist Church of El Salvador. In addition to their construction outreach, Pleasant Green was able to take food parcels to families identified by the Methodist Church in the communities in which they served.

JULY 2023 | PINEHURST UMC TO EL SALVADOR

In a similar missional scope to Pleasant Green UMC, Pinehurst UMC took a team of 10 missionaries, five of whom were youth, to Ahuachapán, El Salvador, strengthening their partnership with Salvadoran Mission Projects (SMP). During their time serving in El Salvador, Pinehurst served alongside local Salvadorans on various construction projects on behalf of the Evangelical Methodist Church of El Salvador. In addition to their construction outreach, Pinehurst was able to take food parcels to families identified by the Methodist Church in the communities in which they served.

MISSIONAL EXCHANGE GRANT AWARDEES

APRIL 2023 | WRIGHTSVILLE UMC TO EL SALVADOR

In April 2023, Wrightsville UMC took their first mission team to El Salvador. The team consisted of 11 missionaries, four of whom were youth. During this missional journey, the Wrightsville UMC team served by assisting in the painting of the El Shaddai Church exterior, constructing a water drain system for the roof of the church, and distributed food parcels within the local community. Not only did Wrightsville UMC serve with their gifts and talents, but also by forging relationships by visiting with other local Methodist churches and building relationships with Salvadoran Methodists.

JULY 2023 | WRIGHTSVILLE UMC TO EL SALVADOR

July 2023 brought about the second mission team to El Salvador from Wrightsville UMC. This team was the High School Mission Team, composed of 11 missionaries, nine of whom were youth. This is the High school Summer Mission Team from Wrightsville UMC. Over the course of their time in El Salvador, the team served in three different project areas, including the construction and expansion of the Methodist School, relationship formation with the students at the Methodist School both in the classroom and in areas of recreation, and in the distribution of food parcels to families in need within the local community as identified by the Methodist Church.



SPOTLIGHT ON MISSION: EL SALVADOR

The Revd. David Haley, Associate Pastor for Visitation at Wrightsville United Methodist Church, has led 43 teams to El Salvador. What follows are several excerpts from his missional report he submitted to NCC UMVIM upon his return.

I will never forget the looks on the faces of some of our students when, during a pre-trip meeting, I let them know they would have to be at the airport no later than 3:45 AM on the morning of our departure. The good news is that flying out at 5:00 AM meant that we would be in El Salvador by midday... To their credit they all made it on time...The students ranged in age from 14-17. Our flight leaves on time, connects through Charlotte and Miami, and arrives midday in El Salvador.

Bishop Juan de Dios Peña (right) and the Reverend David Haley plant a tree as part of a coalition of churches and organizations embarking on a campaign to respond to the threat of deforestation.

Photo by the Revd. David Haley

Thursday, July 13

Thursday morning, I left with Bishop Juan de Dios early. We drove to the city of Metapan where the event was taking place. It turns out that a coalition of churches and organizations is embarking on a campaign to respond to the threat of deforestation by planting 400,000 trees. A couple of hundred people had gathered for the event and Vice President Felix Félix Ulloa was the honored guest at the kickoff ceremony. Following the ceremony, we met the Vice President. Then about 100 of us went out on a hillside with him and planted the first trees. I also met and had very nice conversations with the Mayor of Metapan and the Ambassador from the Dominican Republic to El Salvador.

Friday, July 14

Following breakfast, our team devotionals were led by [two of the youth]. Then we headed off to the worksite. This morning the 4 guys will go with me to deliver food while the girls will work on the worksite. We go to the La Gloria community at the bottom of a steep hill. At the La Gloria Methodist Church, Pastor Gloria and Steven, the translator, are waiting for us.

Several youth from the Wrightsville UMC 2023 team to El Salvador assist in digging the foundational pit for next phase of expansion of the Methodist School. This multi-story building is in the process of expanding to accommodate students through high school. The school is one of many ministries directed by the Iglesia Evangélica Metodista en El Salvador under the leadership of Bishop Juan de Dios Pena.

Photo by the Revd. David Haley



Before going out to deliver the food, Pastor Gloria shares with us about how the community was a forgotten community with no paved road access, no water, and no electricity. As the church ministry grew, more attention was given by the town to the community. And today there is paved road access, water and electricity. The little shack where the church began was replaced about 5 years ago with the nice present church building which I and a previous mission team actually helped to build.

Monday, July 17

Our last full day in El Salvador begins with breakfast and team devotions. God has called us to be on this team and has blessed us to be a blessing to others. Instead of going to the worksite this morning or going to deliver food, the team heads over to the Methodist School. Bishop Juan de Dios met with us and shared how the school was developed from an after-school program to deter kids from gang involvement. Today it is a school of approximately 550 students. He also shared the plans for future expansion.

We have been working on the foundation for the next building. He also shared the dream of starting a Methodist University on the site as well. Next, we went to the main courtyard where our students enjoyed playing games with some Salvadoran 3rd graders during their recess. The kids loved having the American teens playing with them!

The team had a variety of experiences and adventures. We certainly learned a lot about the history and culture of El Salvador. Through team devotions, a church service, and sharing Holy Communion we were challenged to grow spiritually. Through our food project we ministered to human need. Through our interaction with the school kids the team was building bridges of understanding that crossed cultural barriers. Through the construction project the team helped the Methodist Church of El Salvador build for the future.

The Republic
of El Salvador



MISSIONAL EXCHANGE GRANT AWARDEES

NOVEMBER 2023 | UMVIM, SEJ

The North Carolina Conference UMVIM Office, along with other conferences within our Jurisdiction, relate to the Southeastern Jurisdictional UMVIM Office (UMVIM, SEJ). The Jurisdictional Office provides numerous resources to the local church and Annual Conferences as they work to be God's hands and feet in the world. Additionally, the Jurisdictional Office provides insurance to local teams as they engage in mission, both domestically and internationally. UMVIM, SEJ does all this work without any guaranteed funding from the denomination or other agencies. As such, they rely heavily on individual, local church, and Annual Conference donations.

NOVEMBER 2023 | VIETNAM MISSION INITIATIVE

Another initiative with whom the North Carolina Annual Conference partners is the Vietnam Mission Initiative. This initiative serves in preparing Vietnamese individuals for ordination, training pastors and laity including youth and women, developing teaching materials in Vietnamese language, and renovating of places of worship. Through the Advance project, Vietnam Mission Initiative addresses the following goals: 1) Provide leadership training for pastors and lay leaders 2) plant new faith communities 3) support community development 4) support one annual meeting per year.

AREAS OF MISSIONAL SERVICE

Perhaps the most common area of service which comes to mind when someone thinks of UMVIM is service on short-term mission teams. While a vital area of ministry, the Mission Volunteers Office of the General Board of Global Ministries (the office in which UMVIM is housed) offers other areas for missionary service for those seeking to make the world their parish. Some of those opportunities are listed below.

GLOBAL MISSION FELLOWS

Global Mission Fellows are young adults, ages 20–30, who are committed to serve in social justice ministries for two years. They enter into new communities, understanding their challenges and assets through relationships and with the long-term goal to overcome systemic oppression. Fellows partner with community organizations to address a variety of issues, including migration/immigration, education, public health and poverty.

Global Mission Fellow - International Track

Fellows serving in the International Track are assigned to a placement outside their home country. Fellows may indicate areas of interest in their application, but the final determination on where a fellow is placed is based on the needs of the placement site and how these needs match the skills of a fellow. Fellows are invited to serve in placements with our partnering organizations in Central and South America, Europe, Africa and Asia. Fellows have specialized job descriptions based on the needs of their host community and placement site. Fellows seek to combat systematic injustice by working with partners who address issues such as: Migration, Food sustainability/agriculture, Education, Worker's rights, Health access, Housing security, and Children/youth engagement

Global Mission Fellow - US-2 Track

Fellows in this track are called to serve in the United States. They work at partner organizations who serve as the local hosts for the fellows, providing contextual accompaniment and a support system beyond the day-to-day job description. Fellows have specialized job descriptions based on the needs of their host community and placement site. Placement could include opportunities such as case management, campus ministry, immigration rights, or youth and young adult ministries.





MISSION VOLUNTEERS

Mission Volunteers are individuals or couples (ages 18 and up) who seek long-term partnerships with communities around the world and fund themselves. Mission Volunteer opportunities are diverse and range from working with refugees, children and youth to serving as a teacher, pastor, camp director, or health care professional. The length of service ranges from two months to more than two years. Applications to the Mission Volunteer program can be submitted at any point during the year. Applications are reviewed by a panel and chosen applicants attend a virtual interview. Selected volunteers must commit to a three-day training before leaving for their placement site. Applications are due two months before trainings commence.

An Example Placement:

Czech Republic | Horní Počernice UMC | Position: Asst. English Teacher and Gardener

Duration: 2 to 3 months **Estimated monthly living expenses:** \$750, including private accommodations, meals and ground transportation. **Work description:** Small church located on the outskirts of Prague. The Mission Volunteer will lead English-conversation classes for church and community members of all ages; help to clear and renovate the churchyard; assist with gardening work, including fence repair and tree removal; and attend Sunday service.

Ready to Serve?

Plan to attend a Mission Volunteer Training:

- July 25-28, 2024 Lutheran Center, Chicago, IL
- Nov. 11-14, 2024 Sager Brown, Baldwin, LA



To learn more about the training events, email mv@umcmision.org



The NC Conference United Methodist Volunteers in Mission (NCC UMVIM) exists to promote, encourage and enable Christians to exemplify “Christian Love in Action.” Our aim is to achieve the Great Commission through providing short-term missional exchange opportunities for everyday Christians.

UMVIM provides opportunities for service by developing and nurturing relationships with domestic and international leaders. We continually nurture our contacts with these leaders to respond to the needs of local communities and to provide comprehensive project information. Our office strives to connect volunteers’ talents to suitable projects for effective service.

If you would like someone to visit your church or group to speak to you about United Methodist Volunteers In Mission, we would be happy to do so! Also, if you are interested in sharing your missional exchange stories with others, let us know! Email us at umvim@nccumc.org, and we will be in contact with you soon.

***North Carolina Conference
United Methodist Volunteers in Mission***

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