



## FLORIDA CONFERENCE THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Resident Bishop

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Dear Florida Conference Leaders,

On June 10-12, 2010, we will come together for our Florida Annual Conference Event in Lakeland under the banner of "Transforming the World by Eradicating Extreme Poverty." I invite you and your local church once again to engage in extravagant generosity as we receive an annual conference offering. This year, our special offering will go towards relief efforts for The Methodist Church in Haiti, and The Florida Partnership to End Childhood Hunger as organized by Florida Impact.

Last year's offering of over \$108,000 was used to support the Rev. Dr. Armando Rodriguez, serving as professor in the East Angola Conference at the Quessua theology school, and Icel Rodriguez, coordinating Florida Conference mission trips there. The donations also made scholarships available to students wishing to study at the theology and high schools, and provided grants to teams from Florida United Methodist churches traveling to Angola. (For more information, visit the Rodriguez's blog at [http://www.flumc2.org/angola\\_blog.asp](http://www.flumc2.org/angola_blog.asp).)

Eighty percent of this year's offering will go to The Methodist Church in Haiti. As we all know, Haiti is suffering from a devastating earthquake that took place in January. This tragedy is on top of four hurricanes striking this, the poorest country in the western hemisphere, in 2009. The connectionalism of The United Methodist Church allowed members to donate to UMCOR immediately, knowing that all of their donations would go directly to those in need. In addition, we would like to offer help to The Methodist Church in Haiti with whom the Florida Conference has a covenant as they seek to rebuild lives and churches through Advance #100190.

(For more information, visit <http://www.flumc2.org/page.asp?PKValue=1677>.)

Twenty percent of the offering will go towards Florida Impact for the Partnership to End Childhood Hunger, a multi-year, strategic Ten-Point Plan to end childhood hunger in Florida. The Florida Partnership to End Childhood Hunger serves as an anchor around which more than 50 organizations-- including The Florida Conference as one of the partners and members of the Core Advisory Group --that are committed to working collaboratively to make Florida the first state in the nation to end childhood hunger.

(For more information, visit <http://flimimpact.org/partnership/documents/2008/2008-TenPointPlan-Full.pdf>.)

I encourage every congregation to participate in the offering by receiving a church-wide special offering in the days leading up to the Florida Annual Conference Event. The lay member or pastor of each congregation will then bring the offering (in the form of one check, made payable to the Florida Annual Conference) with them to the 2010 Annual Conference Event.

Let us join together to be the hands and feet of Christ in helping eradicate extreme poverty in Haiti and Florida through our 2010 Annual Conference offering.

Sincerely,

Tim W. Whitaker