



The United Methodist Church

FLORIDA AREA

TIMOTHY W. WHITAKER
Resident Bishop

Lent, 2012

JOANNA K. PROFERES
Administrative Assistant

Dear sisters and brothers of the Florida Conference,

I am pleased to announce that a grand offering will be collected at the "Being United in Christ" 2012 Florida Annual Conference Event, June 14-16. I invite you to be part of this special opportunity.

This offering highlights the mission of The United Methodist Church in its local and global connections. **Seventy percent** of the offering will strengthen the ministries of the **East Angola Conference** and the partnership between East Angola and Florida, and **thirty percent** will be given to **Alfalit**, which serves in the United States and 21 other countries eliminating the human suffering caused by illiteracy.

For many years Florida United Methodists have given generously in the annual conference offering for the work of our partnership with the East Angola Conference. Much constructive ministry has occurred because of this generosity. Presently we are excited about missionaries from the Methodist Church in Cuba who are serving with our support in East Angola. It is wonderful to create this missional connection among the Methodist Church in Cuba, the Florida Conference, and the East Angola Conference! There are also young persons attending Africa University and other Higher Education institutions with auxiliary support from our conference. This year our offering will provide for the orphanage feeding program, higher education for the most talented graduates of the Quessua High School, support for our two missionaries in Quessua, as well as scholarships for Florida mission teams. It has been our steadiness of purpose for approximately eight years which has enabled us to make a significant contribution to the East Angola Conference and to witness it emerge from the devastation of civil war to increasing maturity.

Alfalit is an international literacy action agency and an Advance Special of the United Methodist Church. This year Alfalit celebrates its 50th anniversary. Over 7 million people in 24 countries in the Americas, Africa and Europe have learned to read and write through their ministry. The Rev. Roberto Perez of our conference has been its advocate for many years. Last October President Barack Obama personally recognized Rev. Perez for his outstanding service by awarding him the Citizens Medal. At present they have extended their services to include Basic Education, Preschool, Health (HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria, and cholera prevention), Nutrition, Micro-Credit and Community Development in Latin America, the Caribbean, Africa, Portugal, and the United States.

Thank for your generous contributions to the 2012 annual conference offering. As our Lord Jesus said, "Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you." Luke 6:38 (NIV).

In Christ's Love,

Timothy W. Whitaker

450 MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. AVENUE, LAKELAND, FL 33815-1522

TELEPHONE: 863-688-4427

TOLL FREE: 800-282-8011, EXT. 154

FACSIMILE: 863-687-0568

WEBSITE: www.flumc.org