



United Methodist leaders are inviting 30,000 congregations and their pastors worldwide into a God-led, Holy Spirit-empowered six-week emphasis, **Love Boldly, Serve Joyfully, and Lead Courageously**. This emphasis will equip congregations through a worship and small group series to extend the vision of the church and receive a special offering to help support **500 students annually** to prepare for pastoral ministry across **Africa, Europe, and the Philippines**.

August 30 – October 11, 2026
Culminating in a Virginia Miracle Sunday

Virginia Edition v7

Congregational Coordinator Manual

*A Step-by-Step Guide to Successfully Deepen the
Congregation's Faith and Extend Its Mission*



A permanent endowment of The United Methodist Church
to fund theological education outside the United States.

A Message from Our Co-Chairs

Dear United Methodists around the world,

In December 2024, when three United Methodists were killed in Munga Dosa, Nigeria, Bishop Ande Emmanuel and Rev. Eli Sule Yakku, together with other local leaders, stepped forward to comfort grieving families and steady their community. Their calm, courageous leadership kept the church united in a moment of deep pain.

Both leaders were formed at the United Methodist Banyam Theological Seminary in Bambur, Nigeria, where rigorous theological study is paired with practical leadership training. Their preparation made a profound difference when their community needed them most.

Our Shared Vision

Through this initiative, we have the opportunity to extend the vision of the United Methodist Church: *To form disciples of Jesus Christ who, empowered by the Holy Spirit, love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously in the community and the world.*

The Opportunity Before Us

From August 30 – October 11, Virginia Methodists will join in a six-week journey of prayer, learning, and generosity—inviting our whole connection to love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously.¹

On **Miracle Sunday, October 11**, we are honored to serve as co-chairs of a worldwide offering that will help raise up a new generation of outstanding clergy leaders outside the United States. This work is urgent: fewer than 5% of pastors outside the U.S. hold a master's degree in theology, compared to more than 71% within the U.S.

The Miracle We Seek

Our shared goal is bold: to endow 500 scholarships in perpetuity, ensuring that courageous, well-prepared leaders can serve in some of the most challenging missional communities around the world. Achieving this on a single Sunday will require prayer, faith, and a miracle. Yet we trust the Holy Spirit to multiply our gifts beyond what we can imagine.

A New Generation of Leaders

In Ukraine, United Methodist pastors continue to offer worship, sacraments, and pastoral care amid war. Around the world, our seminaries prepare leaders who stand firm in hardship and hope. This appeal will equip up to more than 500 such leaders every year, women and men ready to serve where the need is greatest.

Join Us in the Miracle

We invite you and your congregation to join us:

- Pray for God's miracle to be fulfilled in and through our church.
- Use Miracle Sunday resources to guide worship, learning, and giving.

Together, God is ready to work a miracle through us.

With you in prayer and service toward the miracle,
Bishop Eben Nhiwatiwa and Barbara Boigegrain
Co-Chairpersons

¹ Throughout the denomination and depending on annual conference, the Endowment Campaign is being held in the Spring & Fall, 2026.

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To find the following resources for the Love Boldly, Serve Joyfully, Lead Courageously and Miracle Sunday may be found here – www.vaumc.org/miraclesunday

- Initiative Website
- Initiative FAQ's (Frequently Asked Questions)
- Congregation Coordinator Manual (be aware that the website edition at <https://www.endowftecc.org> is prepared for a spring campaign and Virginia Campaign is in the fall.)

Context Matters

Across our worldwide connection, contexts vary. Congregations are encouraged to adapt materials—especially language and cultural examples—to resonate locally. Yet the core principles of this initiative transcend every setting. As we join 30,000 congregations around the globe, we invite every church to embrace these three guiding principles.

Three Key Principles

1. Unite in the Love Boldly and Miracle Sunday Initiative

All congregations are encouraged to begin the Love Boldly Initiative immediately after Easter, culminating in Miracle Sunday during week six. If local calendars require, Miracle Sunday may be observed one week earlier. Participating together across the connection strengthens our unity and shared mission.

2. Model Generosity

Generosity grows when leaders lead the way. Drawing on the example of 1 Chronicles 29, we anticipate bishops, conference leaders, pastors, and lay leaders will give first—setting the tone and inspiring their congregations to follow.

3. Educate on the Vision and the Need for Theological Education

Help your congregation grasp the vision of The United Methodist Church and the urgent need to support theological training worldwide. Use the worship and small-group series, printed resources, and videos to teach, inspire, and engage your community in this transformative work.

Welcome from the Regional Directors

Call, Purpose, Challenge, Why an Endowment

Welcome, and thank you for joining a worldwide movement to raise up new generations of United Methodist leaders in Africa, Europe and the Philippines. Your engagement—alongside hundreds of thousands of United Methodists participating in the Miracle Sunday initiative—will help unleash God’s miracle across our global connection. Across continents and cultures, we are each doing our part to deepen faith, strengthen generosity, and prepare leaders for the future of the church.

Support and Guidance

This manual is designed to help you and your congregation offer your very best to this unfolding miracle. You are not alone. Your District Coordinator is committed to supporting you at every step. District and Conference Coordinators will work closely with Regional Directors to ensure your questions are answered and your needs are met promptly and clearly.

Purpose and Call

United Methodist leaders are inviting 30,000 congregations and their pastors worldwide into a God-led, Holy Spirit-empowered six-week emphasis: **Love Boldly, Serve Joyfully, and Lead Courageously**. Through worship, small-group resources, and shared learning, congregations will extend the vision of the church and receive a special offering to support **500 students annually** preparing for pastoral ministry across Africa, Europe, and the Philippines.

The Challenge

Our church has weathered a global pandemic, navigated disaffiliation, and responded with compassion amid conflict, war, and disaster. Now we are called to embrace a renewed vision and invest in preparing 500 new pastoral leaders each year.

A significant leadership gap persists. In the United States, 71% of clergy hold a master’s degree in theology. Outside the U.S., fewer than 5% do. U.S. seminaries benefit from stronger denominational funding and substantial endowments, while more than 20 theological schools in Africa, Europe, and the Philippines operate with limited support and little or no endowment.

We can and must do better. By strengthening **The Endowment for Theological Education in Africa, Europe and the Philippines**, we will equip 500 additional graduates each year to Love Boldly, Serve Joyfully, and Lead Courageously.

The Endowment for Theological Education in Africa, Europe, and the Philippines

An endowment is like planting a tree: its roots grow deep, its branches spread wide, and future generations benefit from its shade and fruit. This endowment not only supports students today, but it also ensures that pastors will be prepared for generations to come.

In 2014, the Council of Bishops recognized the urgent need to strengthen theological education beyond the United States and launched this endowment to address disparities across the connection.

The Endowment for Theological Education outside the United States is a permanently invested fund. The principal remains untouched, while investment returns provide ongoing support for theological education for generations of students.

Why Endowments Matter

- **Sustainable:** Provides long-term funding that continues beyond any single campaign.
- **Reliable:** Offers consistent support year after year.
- **Impactful:** Creates a lasting legacy for all who participate in the Miracle Sunday offering.

In Christ,
The Regional Directors

Europe: Bishop Patrick Streiff

Eastern Africa: Bishop Emmanuel Sinzohagera

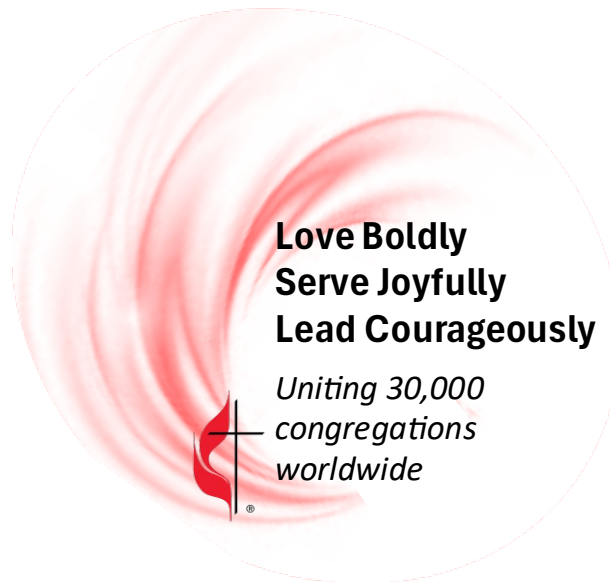
Mid Africa: Bishop Marie-Jeanne Mujinga Kashala

Southern Africa: Bishop Gift Machinga

West Africa: Bishop Ande Emmanuel

Philippines: Bishop Israel Paitit

United States: Bishop Bruce Ough



Congregation Coordinator Role in Virginia

Love Boldly, Serve Joyfully, and Lead Courageously

Congregation Coordinator Role

As a Congregation Coordinator, you hold one of the most vital roles in the Miracle Initiative. Through your leadership, God will inspire your congregation to participate in something truly transformative. This is far more than a fundraising effort; it is a spiritual movement.

What the Miracle Initiative Is About

1. Worldwide Unity in Faith and Mission

United Methodists across the globe will join together in worship, prayer, and action. Across languages, cultures, and time zones, we will reflect on the same scriptures, pray similar prayers, and work toward a shared purpose—raising up courageous leaders for the future of the church.

2. A Shared Vision for Leadership

Together, we will support the development of leaders who love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously in their communities and beyond.

3. Addressing a Global Challenge

A significant gap exists in theological education. While 71% of U.S. clergy hold a master's degree in theology, fewer than 5% of clergy outside the U.S. have similar preparation. The Miracle Initiative will help close this gap by strengthening theological education worldwide.

Your Role as Coordinator

You are the difference-maker. Your leadership includes:

1. Pray Faithfully

Lift up your congregation and United Methodist churches around the world. Your prayers strengthen ministries of witness, mercy, and justice.

2. Facilitate and Communicate

Partner with your pastor to guide the initiative. You will receive videos, print resources, scripts, and other tools to help you organize, communicate, and inspire.

3. Organize and Enlist Support

Build a small team to help lead the initiative:

- **Small Group Leadership:** Recruit and support small-group leaders.
- **Communications:** Manage social media, newsletters, bulletins, and email outreach.
- **Leadership Commitments:** Host a gathering to encourage and collect leadership commitments to be shared with the congregation on **October 11, 2026**.
- **Visibility:** Create a display table or bulletin board to keep the initiative in front of your congregation.

4. Lead Faithfully

Follow the initiative manual, modeled after 1 Chronicles 29, where David led the people in generosity and shared purpose. These resources will guide your congregation toward a meaningful and spiritually rich experience.

Need Help?

You have direct access to support:

- Contact your **District Coordinator** or **Conference Coordinator** (RobVaughn@vaumc.org) A list of District Coordinators can be found at the end of this document.
- Email the denominational coordinator: miraclesunday@endowftecc.org

Miracle Sunday

Congregation initiative Timeline and Checklist

*Equipping Leaders and Congregations to
Love Boldly, Serve Joyfully, and Lead Courageously*

The following checklist is provided to assist you in leading a God-led, Holy Spirit-inspired Miracle initiative. Please review and check off each item as it is completed.

By July 1, 2026

___ Congregational Coordinators Recruited

District Coordinators recruit and register Congregational Coordinators.

Responsible: District Coordinators using their manual.

By July 1, 2026

___ Congregation Coordinators Register with their district coordinators.

A list of District Coordinators can be found at the end of this document.

By July 22, 2026

___ Congregational Coordinator Orientation

District Coordinators orient Congregation Coordinators to prepare them for leading their congregations.

Responsible: District Coordinators with follow-up from Annual Conference Coordinators

By July 29, 2026

___ Congregation Coordinator meets with the pastor and church leaders to:

- Introduce the Miracle Sunday Initiative.
- Review the congregation manual and timeline.
- Discuss how to use Initiative materials effectively.
- Encourage prayer support from the pastor, staff, and leadership.
- Provide access to church leaders to the manual.
- Prepare by reading the manual and visiting the FAQ on the website.
- Use the talking points.

By July 31, 2026

___ District Coordinator follows up with Congregation Coordinators to:

- Review meetings with church leaders.
- Identify successes, concerns, and questions.
- Review FAQ questions and submit any questions that are not included to assist you and other Coordinators across the globe.

By August 2, 2026

___ Recruit small group leaders for the six-week series beginning August 30.

- Small group leader recruitment resources may be found in this Congregation Coordinator Manual.

August 9, 2026 *(first week of announcing the upcoming worship & small group series and Campaign)*

___ Announce the upcoming worship and small group series titled:

*Equipping Leaders and Congregations to
Love Boldly, Serve Joyfully, and Lead Courageously*

- Announcements, scripts and materials available below.

August 16, 2026 *(second week of announcing the upcoming worship & small group series and Campaign)*

___ Announce the upcoming worship and small group series titled:

*Equipping Leaders and Congregations to
Love Boldly, Serve Joyfully, and Lead Courageously*

- Announcements, scripts and materials available below.

August 23, 2026 *(third week of announcing the upcoming worship & small group series and Campaign)*

___ Announce the upcoming worship and small group series titled:

*Equipping Leaders and Congregations to
Love Boldly, Serve Joyfully, and Lead Courageously*

- Announcements, scripts and materials available below.

Initiative Launch, September 6, 2026 *(week 1)*

___ Coordinator announces initiative to the congregation and supports the announcement through bulletin, newsletter and other media. Play a video or read a story about a United Methodist clergy leader from Africa, Europe or the Philippines. As not all congregations can play a video in worship, transcripts are provided.

- Materials, scripts and video for this Sunday are available below. Scripted stories will be available on the website and below.

Sunday, September 13, 2026 *(week 2)*

___ Coordinator announces initiative to the congregation and supports the announcement through bulletin, newsletter and other media. Play a video or read a story about a United Methodist clergy leader from Africa, Europe or the Philippines

- Materials, scripts and video for this Sunday are available below.

Sunday, September 20, 2026 *(week 3)*

___ Coordinator announces the initiative to the congregation and supports the announcement through bulletin, newsletter and other media. Play a video or read a story about a United Methodist clergy leader from Africa, Europe or the Philippines.

- Materials, scripts and video for this Sunday are available below.

Sunday, September 27, 2026 *(week 4)*

___ Coordinator announces the initiative to the congregation and supports the announcement through bulletin, newsletter and other media. Play a video or read a story about a United Methodist clergy leader from Africa, Europe or the Philippines

- Materials, scripts and video for this Sunday are available below.

Sunday, October 4, 2026 *(week 5) (also World Communion Sunday)*

___ Coordinator announces the initiative to the congregation and supports the announcement through bulletin, newsletter and other media. Play a video or read a story about a United Methodist clergy leader from Africa, Europe or the Philippines

- Materials, scripts and video for this Sunday are available below.

Sunday, October 11, 2026 – Miracle Sunday (week 6)

- Coordinator shares the gifts and commitments that may have been made by congregation leaders.
- Show the sixth video and tell how these gifts will support future generations of clergy in some of the most challenging mission fields of The United Methodist Church.
- Invite the congregation to pray about their own gifts and commitments.
- The Pastor and Congregation Coordinator lead an important moment in the service, inviting worshippers to join in God’s worldwide Miracle Sunday through their generosity.
- Materials, scripts and video for this Sunday are available below.

Monday, October 12, 2026

___ Congregation Coordinator reports gifts and commitments online to Conference office

Sunday October 18, 2026

- ___ Pastor and Congregation Coordinator share the worldwide results of Miracle Sunday with the congregation.
- ___ Celebrate what God has done through The United Methodist Church.
- ___ Reaffirm the church’s shared vision to educate and develop faithful, courageous leaders who love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously.
- ___ Be sure to include the results of the earlier offering from other conferences.

Monday, October 19, 2026

- ___ Congregation Treasurer sends Miracle Sunday funds to the Annual Conference Treasurer.
- Mark contributions clearly as “Miracle Sunday initiative.”

As gifts are received, the totals will be posted on the Miracle Sunday page of the vaumc.org website.

Thank You

Thank you for participating in Miracle Sunday and being part of a worldwide United Methodist mission and unity initiative. Your leadership and generosity are helping to shape the future of ministry across the globe.

In Christ,
The Council of Bishops
The Endowment for Theological Education Board of Trustees
And the Future Clergy Leaders Around the World

Coordinator Meeting with Pastor and Church Leaders

*Equipping Leaders and Congregations to
Love Boldly, Serve Joyfully, and Lead Courageously*

Meeting held by July 24:

The coordinator's meeting with the pastor and key church leaders is a vital first step in launching a God-led, Holy Spirit-inspired Miracle initiative. This meeting sets the foundation for:

- **Embracing and sharing the renewed vision of The United Methodist Church**—to be a church that forms disciples of Jesus Christ who, empowered by the Holy Spirit to love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously in the community and the world.
- **Deepening faith and fostering spiritual growth** within the congregation.
- **Exploring the urgent need to develop clergy outside the United States**, equipping them to lead congregations in some of the most challenging mission fields.
- **Supporting theological education** in Africa, Europe, and the Philippines, ensuring a strong and faithful future for the global church.

While the coordinator may be able to carry out the entire plan for the initiative, as needed, the coordinator **may form** a team depending on the size of the congregation with each individual overseeing an aspect of the initiative. For instance, a team **may** include:

- Publicity and announcements coordinator – makes announcements during worship, provides written announcements for printing in newsletters, bulletins, message boards, and social media.
- Small group coordinator – works with existing small group leaders, Bible study leaders and Sunday school teaches to incorporate the small group Bible studies into the six weeks and/or recruit and start short term small groups to involve more people.
- Worship and liturgy coordinator – works with the pastor to incorporate prayers, announcements and videos/written testimonies into the six worship services
- Giving coordinator – prepares the materials and coordinates the giving on **Miracle Sunday, October 11, 2026**, and follow up reporting.

Congregation Coordinator meets with the pastor and church leaders to:

- Introduce the Miracle Sunday initiative – *love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously*.
- Review the congregation manual and timeline.
- Discuss how to use initiative materials effectively.
- Encourage prayer support from the pastor, staff, and leadership.
- Provide access to the manual (printed or online at www.endowftecc.org).
- Prepare by reading the manual.

Suggested Talking Points for the Meeting:

- We are joining over 30,000 congregations worldwide to raise up clergy leaders in challenging mission areas.
- Our bishops have endorsed a one-time worldwide offering to support theological education outside the U.S.
- There is a significant disparity in theological education funding:
 - U.S.: Denomination budgets \$54 million annually, 71% of clergy have master's degrees.
 - Outside U.S.: Denomination budgets \$5 million annually, less than 5% of clergy have master's degrees.

- The offering will help further a permanent endowment to perpetually form hundreds of clergy annually serving in the most challenging mission contexts outside the United States.
- The initiative includes a six-week worship and small group discovery series.

September 6: Disciples Formed by Jesus Christ -
 September 13: Disciples Empowered by the Holy Spirit -
 September 20: Disciples Love Boldly
 September 27: Disciples Serve Joyfully
 October 4: Disciples Lead Courageously
 October 11: **Miracle Sunday** - Disciples Transform the World

- This is an initiative of faith, guided by:
 - 1 Chronicles 29 – Biblical model of generosity David used to build the Temple.
 - Luke 21:1–4 – Equal sacrifice, not equal gifts. The story of the widow’s mite.
 - Luke 18:27 – God makes the impossible possible.
 - Matthew 19:26 - All things are possible with God’s help.
 - Ephesians 3:20 – Faith beyond expectations.
- We are asked to do our best, no gift is too small or too large. Equal sacrifice, not equal gifts.
- The initiative will bless our congregation and help us grow in faith.
- Offer to form an initiative team and pray and work together.
- Conclude by thanking the pastor and offering ongoing support.

Worship and Small Group Series Resources

*Equipping Leaders and Congregations to
Love Boldly • Serve Joyfully • Lead Courageously*

A Global Invitation

This Worship and Small Group Series invite congregations across the world into a deeper, shared journey of faith, one that nurtures hearts, shapes lives, and calls communities to faithful action.

Rooted in The United Methodist vision to **Love Boldly, Serve Joyfully, and Lead Courageously**, this six-week experience weaves worship, Scripture, small-group conversation, and lived practice into a common spiritual rhythm. Together, congregations will reflect on what it means to follow Jesus Christ in today's world and respond with renewed commitment and hope.

Thoughtfully produced videos bring this vision to life through vivid, real-world stories of faith in action and illuminate the transformative power of theological education in **Africa, Europe, and the Philippines**, forming courageous leaders and strengthening congregations for generations to come.

Why Hold the Worship Series throughout the spring/fall 2026?

There is power in unity. When United Methodists around the world pray the same prayers, reflect on the same Scriptures, and seek the same miracle together, a holy momentum is created, one that deepens faith, strengthens our witness, and renews our shared mission.

This common spiritual journey unites our worldwide church, and bears witness to the world that United Methodists are committed to forming disciples of Jesus Christ who **love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously** for the transformation of communities and the world.

Using Resources

These worship and small-group resources may be thoughtfully adapted to fit your local context. As you do so, we invite you to honor the spirit and intent of the materials.

Each resource is designed to:

- Equip congregations to live into the renewed vision of The United Methodist Church
- Strengthen discipleship and leadership at every level!
- Prepare hearts and hands for a meaningful and fruitful **Miracle Sunday**

Scriptures for the Six-Week Vision Series

Love Boldly • Serve Joyfully • Lead Courageously

September 6 – Disciples Formed by Jesus Christ

- **Psalm 119:1–8** – A prayer of blessing for those who walk in God's ways.
- **Ephesians 4:11–16** – The body of Christ growing into maturity, shaped by Christ the head.
- **Luke 5:1–11** – Jesus calls the first disciples, forming lives for mission
(Optional supporting texts: *Psalm 16; John 10:10; Colossians 2:6–10*)

September 13 – Disciples Empowered by the Holy Spirit

- **Psalm 16** – “In your presence there is fullness of joy.”
- **Colossians 2:6–10** – Rooted, built up, and filled with the fullness of God.
- **John 10:10** – Abundant life received and shared for the sake of the world.

September 20 – Love Boldly

- **Leviticus 19:9–18** – Love expressed through justice, compassion, and neighborly care.
- **John 13:34–35** – Loving as Christ has loved—bold, visible, and sacrificial.
- **Mark 12:28–34** – Loving God and neighbor as the heart of faithful living

September 27 – Serve Joyfully

- **Psalms 100** – Serving the Lord with gladness and song.
- **1 Peter 4:8–11** – Serving one another with God-given gifts.
- **Mark 10:42–45 (optional)** – Jesus models joyful servanthood

October 4 – Lead Courageously

- **Joshua 1:5–9** – “Be strong and courageous... for I am with you.”
- **Psalms 27:1–3, 14** – Courage rooted in trust in God.
- **Ephesians 6:10–18** – Strength and resilience for faithful leadership
- **Isaiah 58:6–10** – Courageous leadership that confronts injustice and brings transformation.

October 11 – Disciples Transform the World

Miracle Sunday Offering

- **Psalms 96** – Declaring God’s glory among the nations.

Additional worship resources, prayers, and reflections on the scriptural passages are available at www.vaumc.org/miraclesunday

Small Group Ministry

*Equipping Leaders and Congregations to
Love Boldly • Serve Joyfully • Lead Courageously*

Preparing for Small Groups (By August 30, 2026)

Congregations do **not** need to start new small groups. Existing Bible studies, Sunday school classes, and ministry groups may journey through this series together.

If launching a new six-week season of small groups, or supplementing existing groups, use the framework below to invite participation and build momentum.

Recruiting Small Group Leaders

Small groups may meet in:

- Homes
- Church spaces
- Online (Zoom, WhatsApp, or similar platforms)
- Restaurants or community spaces

Qualities of a Small Group Leader

Leaders need not possess every quality but lead from a Christ-centered heart:

- Relational and approachable
- Empathetic and encouraging
- Motivates and celebrates others.
- Committed to personal and shared spiritual growth.
- Supports the church’s vision and mission.
- Listens well and facilitates healthy discussion.
- Creates a safe, welcoming space.
- Following through with responsibilities

A Prayerful, Relational Approach to Recruitment

1. **Pray and Discern**
Ask God to reveal those called to lead and nurture faith.
2. **Identify Potential Leaders**
Look for individuals who embody the values listed above.
3. **Extend Personal Invitations**
Share why you see God's gifts in them and how this ministry matters.
4. **Provide Clarity and Support**
Explain expectations and assure leaders that resources and guidance are provided.

Sample Invitation Script

Hi [Name],

Our congregation is joining United Methodists around the world in a six-week journey called *Love Boldly, Serve Joyfully, and Lead Courageously*. From September 6 to October 11, we'll grow in faith and connect globally.

I believe God has gifted you to lead a small group because of your [specific qualities]. You'll have a clear guide and strong support, and your leadership will bless others and strengthen our shared mission.

I'd love to share more with you and answer any questions.

Small Group Leader Guide

Thank you for your commitment to strengthening faith, fostering connection, and participating in a worldwide initiative to form courageous disciples and leaders through theological education beyond the United States.

Weekly Group Flow

Prepare Spiritually

- Pray regularly!
- Spend time in Scripture!
- Seeking wisdom and humility

Understand Your Role

- Facilitate, not dominate
- Encourage participation
- Create safe space

Gathering Structure (60–75 minutes)

Opening (10–15 minutes)

- Welcome and introductions
- Share joys from the week
- Pray using the provided global prayer

Weekly Small Group Discussion Guide

1. **Opening Reflection**
What word, phrase, or image stayed with you this week?
2. **Scripture & Faith**
What does this Scripture reveal about God and discipleship?
3. **Personal Discipleship**
Where is the Spirit inviting growth or change?
4. **Life & Community**
Where is this calling visible, or needed, around us?

5. **World-wide Mission**

How are we connected to United Methodists worldwide?

6. **Faith into Action**

What is one next step we are called to take this week?

7. **Prayer & Sending**

Gratitude, concerns, and commitments for the coming week.

Caring for Your Group

- Follow up during the week
- Celebrate milestones
- Offer prayer and support

Small Group Leader Decisions

The group will meet:

- In my home
- In a participant's home
- At the church
- Online
- Other: _____

Meeting day and time: _____

Participant recruitment:

- I will recruit participants
- I would like the church to assist me to identify participants. Speak with your pastor or small group ministry leader.

Additional small group resources are available that will provide prayers and insights into the scripture passages at www.endowftecc.org/congregation-resources-manual

Worship, Small Group, and Miracle Sunday Announcements

Love Boldly • Serve Joyfully • Lead Courageously

August 16, 2026 – Spoken Announcement

Hello, church family! I'm excited to invite you into a six-week, global journey of faith called **Transform the World Like Jesus: Congregations Who Love Boldly, Serve Joyfully, and Lead Courageously**. From September 6 – October 11, we will join more than **30,000 United Methodist congregations** around the world in worship, learning, and mission.

- During these six weeks, we will:
Experience a powerful worship series each Sunday.
- Go deeper in small groups that build on the weekly messages.
- Participating in a shared global mission effort

Through this journey, we will:

- Learn how pastors in Africa, Europe, and the Philippines serve faithfully in some of the most challenging contexts.
- Share in a worship and small-group experience embraced across continents and cultures.
- Help raise funds to train more global clergy, especially where fewer than 5 percent currently have access to theological education.

Here's how you can begin now:

1. Save the dates: **September 6 – October 11**
2. Sign up for a small group at [insert instructions]
3. Begin praying—for our church, for pastors around the world, and for what God will do through us.

August 23, 2026 -Spoken Announcement

As we remember Jesus' bold entry into Jerusalem, we look ahead to our own call to follow Christ with courage, compassion, and hope. Throughout 2026, we will join tens of thousands of United Methodist congregations worldwide in **Love Boldly, Serve Joyfully, and Lead Courageously**.

Together we will:

- Reflect on God's Word through a focused worship series.
- Engage in small groups that deepen faith and connection.
- Serve and give as part of a global mission movement.

We'll hear powerful stories from pastors serving refugees, leading congregations in remote villages, and nurturing faith in dynamic urban communities—all while helping make theological education possible for more leaders worldwide.

We invite you to start your involvement today:

1. Plan to join us each Sunday, September 6 to October 11
2. Sign up for a small group after worship or online at [insert instructions]
3. Pray that God will shape us to love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously.

August 30, 2026 - Spoken Announcement

Because Christ lives, love is stronger than fear, hope is stronger than despair, and new life is possible. Beginning next Sunday, September 6, we will join with **30,000 United Methodist congregations worldwide** to learn how we can transform the world like Jesus.

Together we will experience:

- Six weeks of inspiring worship
- Small groups that nurture deeper faith and belonging
- A global mission initiative that changes lives

As part of this journey, we will help fund theological education in Africa, Europe, and the Philippines, empowering pastors to serve congregations and communities with courage for generations to come.

Be part of this movement:

1. Worship with us each Sunday, September 6 – October 11
2. Sign up for a small group at *[insert instructions]*
3. Pray that God will move boldly through our church and around the world.

September 6, 2026 Announcement – Launch Sunday – Week 1

Today we begin something truly special. Alongside United Methodist congregations in Tanzania, the Philippines, Hungary, the United States, and more than **30,000 churches around the world**, we are launching **Transform the World Like Jesus: Love Boldly, Serve Joyfully, and Lead Courageously**.

Over the next six weeks, we will:

- Worship together around a shared global theme.
- Meet in small groups to reflect and grow.
- Participate in a mission effort supporting theological education worldwide.

Our bishops have called the church to unite in this moment. We will hear stories from pastors and students in Africa, Europe, and the Philippines who are answering God's calling in challenging places.

I invite you to:

1. Worship with us each Sunday.
2. Sign up today for a small group at *[insert instructions]*
3. Pray that God will guide and shape us in this journey.

Today we hear Gabriella's testimony—a student at United Seminary in Harare who discovered joy, meaning, and purpose when life felt like it was falling apart. Her education was made possible through the generosity of United Methodists around the world.

Play video by [clicking here](#)

The videos are suggested for each Worship week and are open captioned. There is a full list of videos at the end of the manual that may be used if they better connect with your congregation.

Transcript for Gabriella Kundiona

I had a falling out with my father, and he told me to go and find Jesus. And I ended up here at United Theological College. My name is Gabriela Kundwana, and this is my journey.

I'm an artist who does soul, jazz, and I write. And I've had the opportunity of being around these lovely, lovely people. People who are enriched in God's word, and who know everything about him.

And for someone like me, who was coming from a world that had entertainment, a lot of fun. I mean, it was very uncomfortable for me to be here at first, but I've started to see the importance of Jesus in my life. And I feel like Samuel in the Temple of Eli.

And United Theological College is going to provide me with the calling and the understanding of the calling that God has for me. And I can't wait to find out what it is, because everything I'm learning here is so, so good. And I'm thankful for everybody who's supported me in this journey.

Thank you very much.

Following the video:

God is doing a powerful work through us. In the coming weeks, we will share how we can help raise up many more students like Gabriella to serve communities in some of the most challenging places. Let us continue to love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously.

Sunday, September 13 Announcement – Week 2

All churches in the United States are encouraged to receive an offering for Native American ministry. You might say, “Today we receive a special offering for Native American Ministries. We invite you to give generously.”

This morning, we continue our six-week journey, joining thousands of United Methodist congregations around the world in learning how to **Transform the World Like Jesus**.

Last week we heard Gabriella’s story from Zimbabwe, a reminder that when we invest in leaders, we invest in hope. Today we turn our hearts toward the countless pastors who serve in places where resources are scarce, but faith is abundant.

During this initiative, we are:

- Growing together through worship and small groups
- Learning how God is moving across continents.
- Supporting theological education for future pastors

Today we will hear another powerful testimony from a leader whose ministry is transforming lives through evangelism in extraordinary circumstances. As you listen to Princes Knuckles Jalia, **Liberia**. I invite you to pray:

Lord, how are you calling me to love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously this week?

Play video by [clicking here](#).

Transcript for Princes Knuckles Jalia

I am not ashamed of the gospel of Jesus Christ, for it is the power of God unto salvation. And this quote is based on Romans chapter 1. My name is Reverend Princess Knuckles Jaller. I serve currently as the Director of the Department of Evangelism and Missions of the Liberia Annual Conference, the United Methodist Church.

I am where I am today because I was a beneficiary of theological education. Somebody sponsored me to be where I am today. I remember way down the line when I needed to go to seminary because I felt the call of God upon my life at a young age, but I didn't have the means to go to college to acquire a theological degree.

And through the process of time, God connected my church with a local church in the United States through one, Reverend Richard Oliver, and through his instrumentality in his church as well, I was able to get a scholarship to go and get my first degree in theology. And right after that, I also was opportune through the instrumentality of Bishop John G. Ennis to acquire my master's degree in theology. And I didn't just stop there.

Having realized that it was as a result of the goodwill of others that I was able to acquire a theological education, I also helped to reach out to empower many other young people in our conference to help get an educational idol by just helping them to pay their registration fee, helping to connect them to scholarships, and so forth. So theological education is very much important. But what makes it much more important and effective is that there is need for somebody out there to be able to give.

So I want to use this medium to encourage all of you who are watching that God touches your heart so that you'll be able to give the theological education. There are many of our brothers and sisters in Africa, many young people who have the passion for ministry, who would like to serve God in ministry, yet they don't have the means of acquiring a theological degree. And so whatever little you give is going to make a difference in empowering the life of a young man, a young woman, to get an education, to be able to serve in the local church, especially in times like these where the church is going through a storm, all right, and many of our pastors left because they said the United Methodist Church is no longer okay.

So please give and help to empower because we need more pastors. We need female clergy people like myself. We need young people who are out there who want to go into ministry but don't have the means.

Otherwise, give your little and that is going to count a lot. Thank you so much. God bless you.

Let us continue walking this journey together with open minds, expectant faith and generous hearts.

Sunday, September 20 Announcement – Week 3

Church family, what a blessing it is to be part of a global movement of faith. Each week we join more than **30,000 congregations** who are worshiping, learning, and serving with us through the Love Boldly, Serve Joyfully, Lead Courageously initiative.

We have already heard inspiring stories from leaders who are studying and serving the church because of support for theological education. Their courage reminds us that the Holy Spirit is at work in every corner of the world.

Today we hear another testimony from Rares (pronounced Rare – sh) from Romania whose ministry is shaping also lives of refugees who have fled war torn Ukraine refugees.

Play video by [clicking here](#)

Transcript for Rares Calugar

When I started my ministry 20 years ago, I didn't think that I would end up here, because I started going from village to village with a horse and wagon. I didn't know nothing about John Wesley. I had the desire to go and spread the gospel on the fields and stay with the people.

So, after a time, I came up in touch with the United Methodist Church, and we were thinking that we want to create a movement in Romania, and we want to journey with this Orthodox, because we are in Romania where 90% of the people are Orthodox. I'm Radeş Kalugar, and I'm the first ordained elder in the history of Romania in the United Methodist Church. What a journey for me.

I have stories to tell my kids. And it was in 2011 when we joined the United Methodist Church. I planned the church in the second largest city in Romania with the desire to spread more this Wesleyanism all over Romania.

So, we are now in a place where we have different community centers, and all our desires and everything that what we do here is linked with serving the community and journeying with the Orthodox in their spiritual journey until their spiritual eyes are open. So in order to go further and spread more this news and plant more churches, we are in a place where we want to empower more people. I was empowered, and I empowered others sending to the seminaries, sending to be trained as pastors, but now we are in a place where we need to see more people training.

So, what the United Methodist Church did for me and offering me this experience in Tallinn, in Estonia, I would love to see that develop in Romania. We want to plant more churches in Romania, and we need desperately more pastors in training. So, your contribution is something so much needed in our desire to spread the good news in this country.

So, I know that we are the people of the United Methodist Church that give generously, and I encourage you also to be part of this movement all over the world.

After video –

As we continue this journey, I encourage you to:

- Stay engaged in your small group.
- Pray for pastors and students around the world.
- Ask God how our congregation can be part of raising up the next generation of leaders.

Together, we are learning how we can make a difference around the world through our giving.

Sunday, September 27 Announcement – Week 4

Good morning, church! We are now more than halfway through our global journey of **Love Boldly, Serve Joyfully, and Lead Courageously**, and God is moving among us.

Across Africa, Europe, and the Philippines, pastors are serving in places where hope is fragile and resources are limited. Yet their faith is strong, their commitment deep, and their impact profound. Through this initiative, we are helping ensure that more of these leaders receive the theological education they need to serve with wisdom and strength.

Today we will hear another story of Philip Micah Dopah from Nigeria whose ministry is touching lives in powerful ways.

As we listen, let us remember:

- Our prayers matter
- Our participation matters
- Our generosity matters

Play video by [clicking here](#).

Transcript for Philip Micah Dopah

I want to talk to the United Methodists around the world. I am Rev. Dr. Philip Mike Dopa, a clergy with Nigeria Episcopal Area serving as a Director of Connectional Ministries of the Episcopal Area. I am making passionate call to good people of United Methodist Church to invest in the next generation leaders, to empower minds and transform lives, to support the training of men and women called to serve to partner with us in promoting hope and transformation.

Theological education forms the basis of important ministry in the life of every church. I am a product of theological education and as a result of that theological education helped me to transform my life, mold my character and God is using me in so many ways to transform life in our conference and Nigeria at large. And by the special grace of God, through theological education, there are two drop out seminarians which God used me to mold their life.

I transformed their lives because of their financial, because of their poor financial background. To the glory of God, they managed to study and now they are serving the church in a very great way, making great impact in the life of the church and the society. I want to thank the United Methodist Church for taking a bold and generational step by raising funds, by calling on our people to raise funds in order to train 500 pastors in Africa, Philippines and Europe annually.

This is a right step in a right direction, and I am appealing to all the United Methodist Church around the globe to support cheerfully, to support generously and to give lovingly in the fear of God. Your gift can transform life, your gift can transform communities, and your gift can transform nations. Thank you. God bless.

In two weeks, on **October 11**, we join thousands of congregations for **Miracle Sunday**, a day of sacrificial giving to permanently endow theological education for pastors around the world. Let us continue to open our hearts as God shapes us to love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously.

Sunday, October 4, 2026 Announcement – Week 5

(Also World Communion Sunday)

Good morning, church! This morning, we continue our six-week journey of Love Boldly, Serve Joyfully, and Lead Courageously, joining thousands of United Methodist congregations around the world who are walking this path with us.

Over the past several weeks, we have heard powerful stories from leaders serving in Zimbabwe, Liberia, Romania, and Nigeria. Their witness reminds us that courageous leadership often grows in places where challenges are great, but God's faithfulness is greater.

Today we will hear another testimony from Pastor Simon Peter Koroma from Sierra Leone whose ministry is shaping lives in remarkable ways.

Play video by [clicking here](#)

Video Transcript for Pastor Simon Peter Koroma

The rise of Christianity in Africa calls for well-grounded African theologians who can safeguard the Church from misleading and destructive theology. I'm Rev. Simon Peter Samkuwoma from the United Methodist University, Sierra Leone, Bishop Vena School of Theology. Theological institutions have played a vital role in nation-building, promoting peace and religious tolerance.

Despite the impact of our institutions, we still struggle with funding, infrastructure, and access to technology. Most of our institutions are not locally funded. They heavily depend on the support of external partners.

That's the reason why this campaign means a lot to me. During my time in the university, we struggled a lot as students who were living on campus, but we were supported by missionaries who were using their salaries to take care of us in the university. That was really a good thing for us because we learned a lot of things in university.

During our stay, we learned about in our wounded world where human dignity is often marginalized, we learned to see people from the lens of God. That despite of your race, despite of your color, despite of your ethnicity, we are all created in the image of God. Theological education is really, really, really useful for our generation today, and it is good that you support theological education.

This campaign means a lot to us because it helps to sustain the very institutions that form leaders of faith, leaders of character, and leaders of peace. Your support to theological education is very, very needed in this part of the world because it will help to motivate young leaders who can take care of the church in the future. Thank you for joining us in this campaign of loving boldly, serving joyfully, and lead with courage.

God bless you as you continue to support our theological institutions around the world.

As we continue this journey, I invite you to reflect and pray:

- Where is God calling me to lead with courage?
- How can my life point others toward Christ's love?
- What step of faith is God inviting me to take this week?

Next Sunday, October 11, we will join thousands of congregations for **Miracle Sunday**, a day of sacrificial giving to permanently endow theological education for pastors around the world. Let us keep walking together with open hearts, trusting that God is forming us into people who love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously.

Sunday, October 11, 2026 – Week 6 / Miracle Sunday

Good morning, church! Today we reach the final week of our global journey of Love Boldly, Serve Joyfully, and Lead Courageously. For six weeks we have joined more than 30,000 United Methodist congregations in worship, learning, and prayer. Together we have listened to stories from leaders serving in places where hope is fragile, resources are scarce, and faith is strong.

This morning, we *celebrate boldly*, giving thanks for the movement of the Holy Spirit across Africa, Europe, the Philippines, and right here in our own congregation. God is raising up leaders whose ministries are transforming lives in extraordinary ways.

Today is also **Miracle Sunday**, a day when United Methodists around the world join in sacrificial giving to permanently endow theological education for pastors outside the United States. Through this offering, we help prepare 500 students each year for ministry, strengthening the church for generations to come.

As you listen to today's testimony, of Caleb, a pastor from Liberia who ministers to people who live in a graveyard, I invite you to hold this prayer in your heart:

Lord, use our gifts, our prayers, and our lives to transform the world like Jesus.

Play video by [clicking here](#)

Transcript of Video:

In seminary, I learned that John Wesley said, "The world is my parish." Welcome to my parish. Here is my pulpit among the tombs and the graves.

We come here to minister to the deceased in France's charge, those that society has outcast, those that have nowhere to go, the addicts, the sex workers, and everyone. Today, we have come to tell you that this ministry is purposeful because Jesus taught us to go to the byways and highways of life and reach out to the sinners and bring them on, that they will be transformed for his purpose and for his glory. My name is Caleb Doma.

I am the pastor, the lead pastor for Metro Harvest, the Church Without Walls, the church that ministers on the bad ways and highways of life, that goes to the depth to reach to those that society has outcast, that society has disenfranchised, that society has left out as we do this. It is because of the passion that I have, the useful passion that seminary theological education transforms so that we can be pointing in this direction. My thing to you today is support theological seminary, theological education in the central conferences so that there can be more of Caleb who looks out of the reach and goes to the people who are in need of salvation.

Today, I tell you, we need you. We need you to support theological education because your funding to theological education doesn't only support academics. It supports people who get on fire for the Lord to know the truth and the depth of the gospel, to know that Jesus came for all, to know that without him we are all lost.

I want you to support theological education. Your support takes people and transforms them into the firing bush that they need to be. Thank you for your support and we look forward to you supporting theological education in the central conferences.

Thank you for being part of this global movement of faith. May God continue to shape us into people who love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously.

In just one moment, our ushers will receive a special offering. You may complete the giving card (*the card is below and may be printed for your congregation*) that was passed out this morning (*churches are encouraged to pass out the card as people come to worship or may be left at people's seats*).

As you can, we invite you to join one of the giving levels. As a congregation we want to be a compassionate and giving church. Your gift will make a difference. We invite the ushers to receive the offering.

(after the video completes)

Thank you for being part of this global movement of faith. May God continue to shape us into people who love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously.

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As you can, we invite you to join one of the giving levels. As a congregation we want to be a compassionate and giving church. Your gift will make a difference. We invite the ushers to receive the offering.

Miracle Sunday Giving Resources

Individuals and Families, Make Your Gift Special!

You may want to print the material in your bulletin or include in your newsletter a week prior to the offering and the day of the offering.

Let your generosity flow from faith, grace, joy, hope, love, bold, miracle.



Or make it even more special.

Individuals and Families may also name and designate gifts.

- A gift of \$50,000 or more allows an individual to name a fund in their honor or in memory of a loved one.
- A gift of \$100,000 or more grants the donor the ability to name a fund and designate the country or episcopal area it will support.

The following is a giving card that is to be use on **Miracle Sunday, October 11, 2026** to assist the congregation to make their gift toward the emerging miracle and to allow the church treasurer to acknowledge and record the gift for the individual's tax purposes.

	The Endowment for Theological Education <i>Africa – Europe – The Philippines</i> Complete the following giving card to receive credit from your congregation.	If you've checked any of the items, or would like more information, or wish to be listed in a Giving Circle, simply detach this section, take it home, and visit vaumc.org/miraclesunday. A team member will reach out to you soon!
Name: _____ Address: _____ Email Address: _____ Name of Church _____ Phone: _____ Amount: \$ _____ If you would like to explore with The Endowment a naming gift or a larger multi-year gift or a gift of stock, please reach out to Courtney Howell at the Virginia United Methodist Foundation (email: CourtneyHowell@vaumc.org 804-521-1159)		

Congregations, Make Your Gift Count in a Special Way!

Congregations are invited to join this initiative with gifts that can carry a lasting impact:

- **\$150,000 or more** – your congregation may establish a named fund.
- **\$250,000 or more** – your congregation may both name a fund and designate the country or episcopal area it will support.
- **Circle Recognition** – your congregation can also be recognized as a *Faith, Grace, Peace, Joy, Hope, or Love Circle* when the *average gift per worshiper* meets or exceeds the amount for one of these Circles.

Example: If your congregation gives a total of **\$8,250** and **29 members** participate, the average gift is **\$284 per giver**. This places your church in the **Hope Circle**, since the average is greater than \$250.

Conferences and Episcopal Areas Make the Giving in Your Area Special

Conferences and Episcopal Areas may also name and designate gifts.

- With a \$500,000 gift, an Episcopal Area or Conference may partner with another Episcopal Area/Conference—one from the United States and one from outside the United States—to establish a fund named in their honor. The Endowment will assist in pairing Episcopal Areas/Conferences.
- Smaller Episcopal Areas/Conferences may opt to add a third partner to their collaboration.

Your generosity establishes a lasting legacy, empowering theological leaders worldwide. To explore partnership opportunities or for assistance in connecting with another annual conference or episcopal area, send an email to MiracleSunday@endowftecc.org. and indicate you would like assistance to partner with another conference or episcopal area.

Follow Up to the Initiative!

*Equipping Leaders and Congregations to
Love Boldly, Serve Joyfully, and Lead Courageously*

Monday, October 12, 2026

Action:

- Congregation Coordinator reports gifts and commitments to conference office.

Sunday, October 18

Action:

- A **worldwide report of gifts and commitments** from earlier annual conferences will be published and updated on the conference Miracle Sunday webpage. Please include them as you share your congregation's response to the campaign.
- **Pastor and Congregation Coordinator share the worldwide results** of Miracle Sunday with the congregation.
- Celebrate what God has done through The United Methodist Church.
- Reaffirm the church's shared vision to **educate faithful, courageous leaders** who love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously.
- The worldwide report is available at www.endowftecc.org

Thursday, October 22, 2026

Action:

- **Congregation Treasurer sends Miracle Sunday funds** to the Annual Conference Treasurer.
- Mark contributions clearly as **"Miracle Sunday initiative."**
- Any additional gifts received after this time should be sent to the Annual Conference Treasurer.

Video Resources for Small Groups & Worship

NAME	ORIGIN	Language	
Week 1 Gabriella Kundiona (student)	Zimbabwe	English	Open Captioned video click here Or closed captioned at https://vimeo.com/1139802748/c075d83177 
Week 2 Princess Knuckles Jallah	Liberia	English	Open Captioned video click here Or closed captioned at https://vimeo.com/1153409450 
Week 3 Rares Calugar	Cluj, Romania	English	Open Captioned click here Or closed captioned at https://vimeo.com/1153774198 
Week 4 Phillip Micah Dopah	Nigeria	English	Open Captioned video click here Or closed captioned at https://vimeo.com/1153388500/75fbd1708 
Week 5 Simon Peter Sam Koroma	Sierra Leon	English	Open Captioned video click here Or closed captioned at https://vimeo.com/1153700998 
Week 6 Caleb Dormah	Metro Harvest Liberia	English	Open Captioned video click here Or closed captioned at https://vimeo.com/1139482432/4c92767f13 

Introduction to The Endowment for Theological Education in Africa, Europe and the Philippines by Bishop Peter Streiff

Open Captioned video [click here](#)
OR available on the home page of the Endowment at
<https://www.endowftecc.org/>

Other videos that might be useful for Worship & Small Groups

Bishop Ande Emmanuel	Nigeria	English	Click here or Scan the QR code 
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Transcript for Ande Emmanuel -

20 years ago, I received a call to Ordained Ministry, which I almost lost as a result of lack of funding. But thank God to the United Methodist Church in Nukai, my home local church, that provided the opportunity for me to be able to go to Bunyam Theological Seminary, a United Methodist related seminary for my theological education. My name is Bishop Andy Emmanuel.

I am the resident bishop of the United Methodist Church in Nigeria, in Senegal and in Cameroon. I stand before you today as a proud graduate of Bunyam Theological Seminary, a United

Methodist institution in Nigeria that offers theological education for leaders that are making greater impact in our church. When I went to a seminary, the United Methodist Church in Nigeria had only 400 churches.

But after graduating and the work, the impact that we have made, graduates from Bunyam Theological Seminary like me have made, today the United Methodist Church in Nigeria is proud of over 1,000 congregations. This is due to the impact, the funding and the support that theological education can make in among us. So, I stand before you here today as a proud graduate of Bunyam Theological Seminary to solicit for your support for this theological endowment, as we put our heads together to raise funding that will support young seminarians.

Throughout Africa, Philippines and Europe, there are pastors, pastors are candidates for ministries who hope for theological education is being lost at daily basis because of lack of funding. So, this can give them an opportunity to get theological education in order to come and make impact within our church. So, I'm calling on our brothers and sisters all over the connection to give generously as we provide support for the future of theological education in central conferences. God bless you as you do that. Thank you.

Bertin KYUNGU WA NGOY		English	https://vimeo.com/1152637089
	Congo	French with English Captions	https://vimeo.com/1152625093/21e804f460

Transcript for Bertin Kyungu Wa Ngoy (DRC)

I was raised in the audacious culture of love in my family. From this audacious culture of love, I went to the formation at the seminary of theology. I was greatly inspired by the leadership of Jesus, who was the center of love by audacity through his ministry.

My name is Bertin Kyungu Wangoy. I am a clergyman in Kamina, where I serve as a pastor. From there, I went to the ministry for several years.

From there, I exercised this function with love by audacity, with leadership, as a humble servant who provides solutions to the marginalized, to the orphans, and supports those in need who have no considerable social basis, no income. In the formation of the orphans, there are those who have finished in theology who have another support. For example, Pastor Kabila Elize serves the Church.

The Church is growing; the number of members is increasing. So, we also ask for your support, that you are also generous so that we have many pastors trained for the work of God with your bold love. Thank you.

Claude Ntakarutimana	Burundi	English	https://vimeo.com/1152057456/7cc241b003
	Burundi	French	https://vimeo.com/1153022944/d70c50d2a3

Transcript for Claude Ntakarutimana

How grateful it is to follow the example of Jesus Christ, who carried the people when they came to him in bad situations. I am Reverend Claude from Burundi. When I was in the theology seminar, I was trained how to serve with joy, with love and sacrifice.

And after that training, I had attended in the church with orphans, with widows, hopeless persons. And as Elijah, when he was with a widow, when he cried for help, he said, I had nothing in my house except a flask of olive oil, and Elijah, he gave him, gave her support.

Don't be afraid. Your house will remain with food during the famine. And God used me and I mobilized money, clothes, and school supplies.

I give them hope and joy. God bless those who give generously to support theological seminary worldwide. Give generously. Thank you.

Bishop Eben Nhiwatiwa

Zimbabwe

English

<https://vimeo.com/1153027734/f4b7305900>

Transcript for Eben Kanukay Nhiwatiwa

I have first-hand information about how important theological education is for the church. My name is Iben Kanukai Niwatiwa. I am now a retired bishop in the Zimbabwe Episcopal area.

I served in the church for a number of years, then became a professor at Africa University training theological students. I know very well how crucial it is for the church to have trained leaders. If you have people coming to Christ, they need shepherds, they need leadership, they need guidance.

I know from the very early days of the United Methodist Church here in Zimbabwe, the early bishops who were serving at that time in the early years, they picked up the necessity of theological education as very critical. I know Bishop Noel Snowbooth in 1956. He talked about the necessity of giving in order to have money to train pastors for the church.

It is very important. I hope the church will take this move very seriously. Thank you.

Eric Saye Gbolo

Guinea

English

<https://vimeo.com/1153401358/886cd8a256>

Transcript for Eric Saye Gbolo

I am the First District Superintendent of the United Methodist Church in Guinea, established in Dicke. I would not have the position if I were not a theology colleague in CLAM. I benefited from a theological education in Nigeria.

I went to school in 2006 and I came out in 2011 and I am serving as a First District Superintendent of the Guinea Circuit. Very happy, I can remember a scripture that I always have courage with, Romans 8, 28, that says, everything that goes around, God is in it for the betterment of the Christian. So, I want to advise that even though I did my theological education during the Civil War, but today it is benefiting a lot of people that have turned their lives to Christ.

So we have more than 20 pastors where we are that does not have the theological education yet. So, we are asking our brothers, the good way people, to really help to finance the theological education in order for the people, for us to get manpower on the field. According to the scripture, they say the rain is red, but the harvesters are less.

So, that is it. We are asking our brothers, the United Methodist, to give generally so that the education, the theological knowledge will be expanded for our church to grow in Guinea.

Eunice Marima

Zimbabwe
(second
video)

<https://vimeo.com/1152709178/91cfeee8c9>

Transcript for Eunice Marima

Training to be a pastor as a theologian is very important in life. I am Reverend Eunice Marimah, who was trained as a theologian at United Theological College in Zimbabwe. I enjoyed it because when I had a calling from God to be a pastor, I didn't have skills to do pastoral care.

I didn't have skills to visit people, to conduct services, even to preach, to prepare myself for a sermon. I couldn't. And I didn't have confidence to stand in front of people.

So theological training shaped me to be what I am today. I can preach, I can do visitation, I can prepare sermons, I can provide spiritual guidance to students and to everyone in the community. So, for me, training and to have more pastors trained in theology, it helps to make sure that we convey God's grace theologically, because some would hear empty sermons because one is not trained theologically.

So, it's important to train more pastors so that they preach the gospel to the satisfaction of the people which are theologically sound. At this moment, I appreciate the training of theologians, but we need to do more. If we could extend our resources towards this project of training more pastors, it helps the community to hear the word of God, to understand what God is saying, to be part of God's grace.

Indeed, people need God in their lives. Theologians can do it once trained. I thank you.

Helene Djamba Kombe	Congo	French with English open captions	https://vimeo.com/1152312695/1eddf65e8

Transcript for Helene Djamba Kombe - Spoken French with English Captions

I am a pastoral student at the Faculty of Theology of Wembo Nyama. Currently, I am a pastor in Kindo. There, in Kindo, the director of the women's training center invited me to teach in the Mama Lynn Center.

There, they gave me the course, The Women of the Bible. In this course, what impressed me was the Shunammite woman. She is the woman who welcomed in her house the prophet Elijah into her home. And this woman asked her husband to build a room for the prophet.

In the same way, I am calling on you, according to your means, to support theological training, the training of pastors. Because the Bible says, the harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. With your support, we will form pastors who will serve throughout the world. Because the church is moving forward.

There is the multiplication of churches, the multiplication of Christians, but there are few pastors. So, I appeal to all the mothers who are listening to me to do like the Shunammite woman who mobilized resources together with her husband and her family, and we must carry this message together so we can mobilize for the advancement of the Church. So, I thank you.

Jean-Marie Nkonge	Congo	English	https://vimeo.com/1151949345/93d75abf5e
		French	https://vimeo.com/1151735499/94e932b35c

Transcript for Jean-Marie Nkonge spoken French with English open captions.

When I was at the Faculty of Theology in Mulungushi, in the Democratic Republic of Congo, people often called me the child of joy. The child of joy, why? Because even when I grew up, I always smiled. My name is Jean-Marie Nkonge.

My joy has become complete, especially with the formation in theology. At the moment, I am really busy combining my role as a pastor and also as a professor in theology to train other pastors. At this time, the Church is growing enormously, and that is why we need resources and we need volunteers so that we can train other pastors to do this work of God.

And I would like you to be part of this team of people who will be involved in the formation of other pastors. And I thank you very much for giving with joy. Thank you very much.

Joel Gould

Liberia

English

<https://vimeo.com/1153241424/77e855d807>

Transcript for Joel Gould

Hello, great people of God, United Methodists throughout the world. Thank you and let me have just a piece of your attention for a while. I'm a living witness to what theological education has done in my life, and in the life of several others who will help in this little church to bring to ministry.

Let me Hine, for example, he's not here, but he's greatly being parted by what we do together with the church for him. One day, Hine and I met. He walked up to the church together with us.

He wanted to be, he wanted to go to theological school, but he didn't have any finances. And the church, through our former pastor, was able to recommend him, like he did recommend me. And today, Hine became a beneficiary of the theological education.

He's now a great pastor, doing great ministry. He's heading one of our ministries as well. There are several others in the community who are wishing to benefit as well.

And I ask you, Methodist people, all God-loving people, people of good heart, to support theological education so that these thousands of others who really want to do theology can have the benefit of finding ways to attend theological education. God bless you.

Joseph Bonga

Zimbabwe

English

<https://vimeo.com/1152651350/06035eb05f>

Transcript for Joseph Bonga

Like Moses who experienced the burning bush in the Bible, this is my burning bush, United Theological College, where I was trained as a pastor. It is at this institution which transformed me from a young rural pastor to be what I am today, theological training. My name is Joseph Bonga.

I'm a pastor in the Zimbabwe East Annual Conference, and I also teach here at United Theological College, where we train, we mold pastors who would go out and preach the Word of God. There are some inspiring young pastors who I have tutored at this institution, like Brian Maeka, like Makoni. They are doing extremely well, and their churches are growing.

And more people are coming to Christ, and hence the need to raise funds to train more pastors who would go and man these new churches. It is in this regard that we come to you for your support, that you join the United Methodist Church to raise funds for theological training in Africa, in the Philippines, and in Europe. With your support, we can do great things.

With your support, nothing is impossible. We look forward to your generous support. May God bless you and continue to bless you as you support this great work that the Church has embarked to do.

Thank you.

Rares Calugar

English

Second video on ministry after Ukraine war began

	Cluj, Romania		https://vimeo.com/1153778785/c022b35d39
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Transcript for Rares Ralugar - street

In 2022, we didn't expect what will come, because we are in Romania, a few hours from the Ukraine country. So, when the war started, we were just having our community center ready, thinking that we will serve the people. And this is what we did.

Because in February, when the war started, more than 250 Ukrainians came in our community center to find a safe place. I still remember the time when Oksana, a woman from Mariupol, came with Diana, her daughter, fleeing from that place and coming to our community center, because some of their friends were already here with us. And they say, come here, because we find Christians, we find good people that take care of us.

I'm Radeş Colugă, I'm the superintendent of the United Methodist Church, and our heart is so much to serve the community around us. That's why we built community centers in Romania, and having this in mind, what Wesley has in mind, you know, to be where the people are. So, this is one of the reasons that we want to be where the people are and serve the community.

So, in these places where we are, we build safe places where people can come and have support groups and journey with us, because we are also in an Orthodox environment where people know about God, but they need to journey with God. So, when I started the movement in 2011 in Romania, I didn't know that I would end up in a Wesleyan place. So, I went and I studied in the seminary, and that experience was great for me, because that experience added something to already what I did in a way that served the community.

So we continue to do this in the same way, and all this year, having the Ukrainian refugees around us give us so much to think about, that what God really wants to do through us in these people that sometimes they are desperate, and they don't have where to go. And thinking about Oksana and her daughter, and the experience that they have, because her husband being captain and being on the sea, he was desperate, thinking, where is how my wife and how my daughter it is. But now they are reunited, they have a home, they have a place, and they are so much appreciated the time when they will be with us, and they also in this time, they found God.

So, all these things help us and empower us to believe that God is at work in our connection globally, and that's why we believe that with your support, we can empower more people to do more things for the Lord, preparing them for ministry. God bless you.

Samuel Emanuel Teflio Hodges	Dean, School Theology, Liberia	English	https://vimeo.com/1153417233/5d9e064b20
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Samuel Imadwe Teflio Hodges

I am Samuel Imadwe Teofil Hodges. I am a pastor of the Library of Congress United Methodist Church in Liberia. I went to the seminary and graduated and now doing my master's degree program at the Graduate School of the United Methodist University.

But there is a challenge in doing the study. The challenge is this, the fees of the scholarship that we have cannot cover all the entire courses that we are doing. So, we have limited courses and then we have more time to stay at the seminary to do our study.

So therefore, I pray that I'm begging all United Methodist, all Christian brothers and sisters around the world to please assist all and to be able to go through the process of learning and

theologically to be able to bring people to Christ. Like for example, I'm a beneficiary to that process. I benefited and the brother in Christ, Amadou Zouana, Amadou is a beneficiary of it.

He came for another faith and now he has come up to become a pastor. He went to clerical school and study and become a pastor today. And he has brought in a family, a family for another faith and joined Christianity.

So, I would continue to train people to be able to get more members in the church. I pray that you help us in the process and your families. It's very important to help the church to do ministry in the terms of Christian education.

I pray that God bless you and be able to do the best to help us as a Christian family in the whole world. Thank you. God bless you.

Samuel Goia	Cluj, Romania	English	https://vimeo.com/1154028975/4fc50f5b87
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Transcript for Samuel Goia

I used to paint cars, and actually I really like to paint the red cars, but then God had a different plan for me and for my life. Hello, I'm Pastor Samuel Goya from Romania. I pastor a church in the village around city Cluj, the main city, and really God intervened in my life.

I had a different plan, but then God spoke to me that I have to become a pastor. So, then I started the theological school, and then during this education, being at university, I started, I planted a church where we have a lot of kids, and I see their need also for education. So, we started different programs, different programs with education, but also, we want to give them Jesus and education, and alongside with this kid, their family are coming to the church, and we invest in the kids during the week.

We stay with them, we help them with their homework, and then every Sunday we have worship service and the people are coming, and right now also the men are starting to come, because until now only women come, and I really see that some of these kids, if we are helping them with their education, and then God can place, like He did with my life, He can place a call on their life to do something greater than they even see right now. Because for me, personally, the education enlarged my vision, and I can see different now, I can see larger, I can see that I can go further, that I could go without this education, and without someone investing in me, and I really am thankful for everyone that invested in me, I'm thankful for people who gave money for my education, because I didn't have enough to pay for everything, and that's why I really like to ask of you, and any of you who got placed on your heart, to give generously for education programs, because this is how lives are changed, this is how God can really use these people, and educated people, to go and speak to people, to different people, educated and uneducated, but they can help, and we can enlarge the Kingdom of God, and I really pray that hearing this, God can put something on your heart, and you know, if we obey God, this is the best place where we can be, and give generously so that other people can have education.

Bishop Samuel J Quire Jr	Bishop Liberia	English	https://vimeo.com/1153696159
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Transcript for Samuel J Quire Jr

I wouldn't have been standing here today without theological education. My name is Bishop Samuel Jerome Quire Jr., resident bishop of the Liberia Episcopal area. I started my theological education in 1984.

I was able to get a scholarship that took me to school in 1984. But before that, I had a hiccup. When I went to Mangas School of Theology in 1984, the then bishop said to me that there was not enough money for me to enter the seminary.

And so, I just went in the dormitory in my room, and I knelt to God and I said, well God, you called me and now there is no money for me to continue my education here. So, I'm going back. I'm going home and please do not disturb my life because you have not provided the opportunity for me.

And just as I got through praying, one of my colleagues came to my room and said, guess what? I said, what? He said to me, "You have been awarded a full scholarship. I said, praise the Lord. Now God, I know you want me to do theological education.

And so theological education is so much, is so important for us. In fact, in my whole ministry, I have just begun to understand why God had brought me at this time to be the bishop of the United Methodist Church. And theological education has broadened my mind.

It has widened my intellect. And so, I put faith and wisdom together. And today I am the bishop of the United Methodist Church.

And this is the reason why God has made me a bishop for such a time as this. And so I want to appeal to you, my brothers and sisters throughout the world, in the United Methodist Church, out of the United Methodist Church, to please support theological education so that we can train 500 plus students who have the desire to go to seminary but do not have the resources. So, I want to appeal to you and help us to make this dream possible.

Thank you. God bless you.

Samuel K Karyeah

Liberia

English

<https://vimeo.com/1153683981/1000e36ace>

Transcript for Samuel K Karyeah

I'm grateful to God today to be a part of this enterprise. I want to begin by saying thanks to God for the United Methodist Church, for the Liberia Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church. Had it not been for the church, for theological education that I received from the church, I wouldn't be standing here today.

I wouldn't be where I am today. I wouldn't go to places that I've been. I wouldn't do what I'm doing now.

To God be the glory for great things he has done and greater things he will do. I wouldn't be standing here today speaking to you as dean of the Bishop George E. Ennis Graduate School of Theology in the Republic of Liberia, the United Methodist Church. If the United Methodist Church had not given me sound theological education, I wouldn't be standing here today.

So I'm grateful to the United Methodist Church, especially Bishop Samuel Jerome Quiet Jr. Now, currently we have 30 students that are enrolled in our theological institution. And we've got about 50 more students who are awaiting to enroll. But because of the lack of funding, those students cannot come.

Personally, there is a pastor in Bunga, Bunga County, one of the Episcopal areas, who is very desirous to come and obtain his master's degree. When I called him, he told me that he didn't

even have the registration fees, a minimum of \$160 to come and register. So because of that, he was not able to enter.

So I want to sound this appeal to you and those listening to me, that there is a serious need to raise more funding to help our people, our pastors, theological education

Eunice Marima

Zimbabwe

English

<https://vimeo.com/1152700927/ff3441265f>

Transcript for Eunice Marima

Life at the university, it means God must be felt by individuals. I'm Reverend Eunice Marima, who is the senior chaplain at the University of Zimbabwe, where I provide spiritual services, counselling, I visit people, students and staff. So, during my experience, some people would come to my office.

So, one day, a lady came to my office, and this lady was crying. And why she was crying, I didn't know at first. Then later on, when we were talking, she talked about her children who were not listening to her, who didn't want to go to school, who didn't want to go to church.

So, we had time, and later on, I supported her, and as a result, the children were now going to school. And she had a smile on her face, on a daily basis. And the children really appreciated it, because peer pressure contributed to their life, by not wanting to go to school.

Now, she's happy, the family is happy, as well as the community is happy. It means a theological training did help the situation. As far as I'm concerned, I would like to thank the United Methodist, which trained me to be a pastor, to be a theologian, so that I could support and assist and work together with the community.

Because this happens in life, where people face some challenges. The only person whom they have to trust in is a pastor. So, I'm appealing to all of us to make sure that we have more pastors trained in theology, so that we help people in their lives for the Kingdom of God.

So, I'm appealing, I'm thankful for this program, which is there to support theological training for the benefit of the Kingdom of God, where God's creation is.

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