

Call to Action!

The global AIDS pandemic provides a nearly unparalleled opportunity for witness to the gospel through service, advocacy, and other healing ministries. United Methodist public health specialists, health workers, social workers, teachers, missionaries, clergy, and laity live and work in areas where the AIDS pandemic is spreading. United Methodist congregations, schools, health facilities, women's, men's, and youth groups can play a major role by providing awareness, support, education, and care to those affected by HIV/AIDS.¹

We all need to pledge to do at least one thing to eradicate this pandemic. Below are some action steps that can make a difference!

Hold HIV/AIDS educational workshops in your congregation.

Take an offering for the United Methodist Global AIDS Fund, Advance #982345.

Lobby for increased funding for services for HIV-positive individuals in your state.

Volunteer with an organization in your area that provides community education or direct services to HIV-positive individuals.

Join or create an AIDS task force at the congregational or conference level in your area.

Apply for a grant from the United Methodist Global AIDS Fund to carry out AIDS-related ministries by visiting www.umglobalaidsfund.org.

Know your HIV status and encourage others to be tested, as well.

Talk about AIDS to help end the stigma.

Participate in or sponsor a participant in an AIDS Walk.

Observe World AIDS Day, December 1.

Respect confidentiality of others' HIV status.

Pray.

The Rev. Donald E. Messer, author of *52 Ways to Create an AIDS-Free World* and chair for the United Methodist Global AIDS Fund

¹ "The Church and the Global HIV/AIDS Pandemic" Resolution #3243, UM Book of Resolutions.

