

Role of a United Methodist Church AIDS Ambassador

The responsibilities of an AIDS Ambassador are described below. As an AIDS Ambassador, you can play a pivotal role in the eradication of HIV/AIDS in the U.S. and globally. This ministry is a “faith-based call for such a time as this”.

Background: Each annual conference is charged by General Conference legislation (2004) to have some sort of AIDS Task Force or working group. And, each annual conference has a key contact person for HIV/AIDS. (Visit www.umc-gbcs.org/ and click on HIV/AIDS to find the survey with all the Annual Conference AIDS contact persons). Each person in an annual conference can be a powerful contributor and support to the Annual Conference AIDS task force or working group by serving as an AIDS Ambassador.

As an AIDS Ambassador, you can:

Inform the annual conference AIDS primary contact person of your willingness to address the issue of HIV/AIDS and explore ways you can support the work of the annual conference task force.

Promote the UMC Global AIDS Fund, Advance #982345 in your local church. Visit www.umglobalaidsfund.org for information on the fund.

Write articles on HIV/AIDS for your local church or annual conference newsletter to continue raising the issue before the congregation.

Find out what’s happening in your local community regarding AIDS services. Where are the gaps in services? How can you work with others to fill those gaps?

Pray for people living with or affected by AIDS. If you don’t know anyone with AIDS, become connected with a local AIDS serving effort. Meeting people living with AIDS will be transformational in your life.

Organize a World AIDS Day event in your local church and/or community. World AIDS Day is commemorated on December 1. Resources can be found at www.umc-gbcs.org or www.umcorhealth.org, by clicking on HIV/AIDS and viewing the World AIDS Day page.

Be a legislative **advocate** at your local, state and national level. Encourage people to become a part of the AIDS Network based at the General Board of Church and Society. To sign up, go to: www.umc-gbcs.org.

Explore how the twenty-five percent of contributions to the UMC Global AIDS Fund retained in your annual conference is being used for AIDS ministries.

Produced by the UMC Global AIDS Fund Committee. Questions? Contact Linda Bales, 202-488-5649 or lbales@umc-gbcs.org, or Dr. Donald E. Messer at dmesser@iliff.edu.

