



Upper New York Area of The United Methodist Church



Resident Bishop: Bishop Mark J. Webb

To live the Gospel of Jesus Christ and be God's love with our neighbors in all places.

Sisters and brothers in Christ,

The United Methodist Church is bringing hope to individuals and families affected by Ebola. As you are probably aware the largest Ebola outbreak in recorded history has ravaged the region of West Africa and has impacted lives across the globe. As of October 15, 2014, the CDC has reported 8997 cases of Ebola and 4493 deaths, with the count increasing every day. Over 300 United Methodist hospitals, clinics and health outposts are engaged in the response effort. Hospital clinics have been re-purposed as Ebola holding centers. Doctors and nurses have continued to treat patients even when good protective gear has not been available.

Bishop John Yambasu of Sierra Leone recently said, "One person who dies of Ebola is one too many. God calls us to bring healing and hope."

Since June 2014, the [General Board of Global Ministries' United Methodist Committee on Relief \(UMCOR\)](#) and [Global Health](#) unit have been working in collaboration on a global scale to coordinate an integrated approach in response to the Ebola crisis in West Africa. To date, [UMCOR](#) and [Global Health](#) have worked together to ensure that grants totaling \$400,000 for educational programs, protective equipment and other Ebola-related supplies have been provided primarily to United Methodist health boards in Sierra Leone, Liberia and Côte d'Ivoire.

United Methodists in Upper New York have a remarkable history of responding to the needs of our neighbors. I am asking you to do so again.

First of all, please pray fervently. Pray for the people of West Africa, for the families of those who have died and for the health professionals who are caring for people impacted by this disease. Pray for Bishops John Yambasu, John Innis and Benjamin Boni. Pray for the United Methodist congregations of West Africa who are offering the presence of Jesus in the midst of this crisis. Pray for those around the world, including here in the US who have been impacted by Ebola.

I also invite you to consider as individuals and congregations to give financially to assist with the needs brought on by the Ebola crisis. UMCOR has designated its International Disaster Relief Advance # 982450 for the Ebola emergency response team. You can give directly to this advance or send your gifts to the Upper New York Annual Conference noting they are for Advance # 982450. You can also visit <http://www.umc.org/ebola> for ways to give online and much more information.

We are a people who serve a God of healing and hope. We are a people called to be the hands and feet of Christ to the world. May we live out our faith, our call, and our purpose as we respond to this vital need in the midst of our world.

In hope,

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