

announcements

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pastor's column cont'd...

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Masthead information

news from around the church

Agency wants church to focus on Social Principles

By putting a four-year emphasis on the United Methodist Social Principles, a church agency is aiming to make the document a household term with denomination members around the world.

The church's Social Creed will turn 100 in 2008, and the Board of Church and Society wants to remind members that the creed and its successor, the Social Principles, have often played a prophetic role in social issues, such as in advocating the abolition of child labor. The board in Washington also wants to support the church's members throughout the world – including young people – in adapting the document to their own situations.

The board will ask the denomination's General Conference to approve \$2 million in funding for the 2005-2008 effort, which will include distributing and promoting the study of the Social Principles. General Conference, the church's top lawmaking body, will meet in 2004.

Campaign will address needs of Africa's schoolchildren

A coalition of church-related organizations is beginning to shape a continent-wide campaign to turn schools in Africa into protected space for children.

The campaign will rely upon partnerships with governments, nongovernmental organizations and multinational corporations doing business in Africa. New York-based Church World Service, the relief and development agency of the National Council of Churches, planned to present a formal proposal for the Africa project when its directors met Oct. 22-23.

The Rev. John McCullough, a United Methodist pastor and CWS chief executive, said the leaders

agreed “there are issues that cut across that entire region” that the group could address collectively. Overarching issues are conflict and reconciliation; protection of women and children; access to nutritious food and clean water; and access to education. The goal is to make each school a protected space with a healing, wholesome environment, not just from warfare but from abuse of any kind.

where your money goes Human Relations Day

Extend hospitality to strangers

“Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.”
~Romans 12:13, NRSV



Because of your offering on **Human Relations Day:**

- More than 30 church-based community developers work in racial- and ethnic-minority communities in the United States and Puerto Rico.
- A multiracial network of grass-roots social justice organizations related to United Methodist Voluntary Service provides vital outreach.
- Local church Youth Offender Rehabilitation projects match United Methodist mentors with first-time, nonviolent young offenders.

God calls us to reflect Christian hospitality in our churches and communities. Please give generously on **Human Relations Day**, the Sunday before the birthday observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Your gift makes a world of difference!

www.umcsgiving.org

