

news & announcements

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the church around

Africa University celebrates 10 years

MUTARE, Zimbabwe – People from around the world gathered at United Methodist-related Africa University Nov. 15-17 to celebrate the school's 10th anniversary, with special events that included the dedication of two new dormitories and a theology building. From its origins in a scrub field, where 40 students once met, the school has grown into a diverse community of 1,500 people from around Africa.

The Nov. 16 opening ceremony featured dignitaries from across the continent, as well as U.S. church leaders. Vice Chancellor Rukudzo Murapa got them in a celebratory mood by leading the Africa University Choir in singing "Happy Birthday" to the school.

Ad campaign increases awareness

NASHVILLE, Tenn. – The United Methodist Church's 2-year-old national advertising campaign has significantly increased the public's awareness of the denomination, according to Barna Research Group Inc.

The Rev. Steve Horswill-Johnston, head of the Igniting Ministry campaign at United Methodist Communications, said Barna's new research for the church shows awareness of the denomination has increased 15 percent among adults ages 25 to 54 since the campaign began, and 46 percent of those viewing the ads have expressed willingness to attend a United Methodist church.

Weekend event helps youth hear God's call

CHICAGO – The O'Hare Hyatt Regency Hotel was rocked by shouts of praise as 1,400 high school and college students considering ordained ministry met for Exploration 2002. The biennial event is a weekend of worship, study and small-group discussions designed to assist youth and young adults who might be considering ministry.

The denomination's Board of Higher Education and Ministry sponsored the Nov. 15-17 event.

God calls those who don't necessarily look, walk or act like a pastor, said Nick Harvey, Candler School of Theology professor. "Jesus was radical, and God needs radical individuals."

Bishops focus on children, peace

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico – In their first-ever meeting outside the continental United States, the bishops of the United Methodist Church recommitted themselves to caring for the world's children, addressing root causes and effects of poverty, and witnessing for peace. During their Nov. 3-9 sessions, 95 active and retired United Methodist bishops met with their counterparts from autonomous Methodist churches in Latin America and the Caribbean to discuss the needs of children and the poor in those countries.

"God is calling us to be transforming agencies for women, men and children," said Methodist Bishop Pedro Grandon of Chile.

61 United Methodists to serve in new Congress

WASHINGTON – With 61 United Methodists elected to serve in the 108th Congress, the denomination has maintained its third place ranking in overall membership – behind the Roman Catholics and the Baptists. The next Congress, which will be seated in January, will include 12 United Methodists in the Senate and 49 in the House of Representatives. Among the United Methodists in both houses, the Republicans will outnumber Democrats 38 to 23. Four races remain undecided following the Nov. 5 elections.

Free resource helps groups pray for farmers

MILES, Iowa – The Rev. Karl Goodfellow is offering a free, 60-day devotional guide to help groups pray for farm families in their areas. He

the world

...from United Methodist News Service

asks that each group order at least five copies and provide help with the cost of shipping – usually a couple of dollars. For more information, contact Goodfellow at Safety Net Prayer Ministries, P.O. Box 236, Miles, IA 52064; (563) 682-7824; or by e-mail at office@snprayer.org. Details are also available at www.snprayer.org online.

Russian church sees work bear fruit

DALLAS – For 10 years, United Methodists committed to the church's Russia Initiative have endured the Russian bureaucracy, language barriers and other difficulties. But almost 300 United Methodists who gathered recently for the church's 10th Russia Initiative Consultation affirmed that the struggle has been worth the costs. The church in the former Soviet Union has grown to about 5,000 members and preparatory members, almost 2,000 Sunday school students and a presence in five countries: Russia, Kazakhstan, Ukraine, Moldova and Belarus, according to Bishop Ruediger R. Minor.

Agency offers ethnic internships in Washington

WASHINGTON – Ten ethnic young adults will be selected for summer internships with the United Methodist Board of Church and Society. The eight-week program will offer opportunities to work in public policy and social justice organizations. The board is seeking applicants between 18 and 22 from specific racial-ethnic backgrounds. Application deadline is Feb. 1. For details, contact Ana Toledo at atoledo@umc-gbcs.org or (202) 488-5651.

Faith groups seek global investment clout

LONDON – A United Methodist agency is working with a variety of faith-based investors to put billions of dollars worth of global corporate wealth to work for good. The United Methodist Board of Pension and Health Benefits is helping form the International Interfaith Investment Group as a way to influence socially responsible corporate practices around the world.

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.umcgiving.org



