

The National Plan for Ethnic/Racial Ministries



MOVING FORWARD INTO THE FUTURE

Developing New Congregations

Developing New Leadership

Partnering With the Poor

Developing Health Initiatives



The United Methodist Church



ASIAN AMERICAN LANGUAGE MINISTRY

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Goals for 2009–2012

Development of New Congregations

- Work cooperatively to develop new congregations in consultation with annual conferences and districts.

Recruitment and Training of Pastoral and Lay Leadership

- Develop language friendly and culturally appropriate lay leadership training programs.
- Provide local pastor licensing courses in specific Asian languages to equip pastors for ministry with their language groups.
- Equip and encourage Next generation leadership by helping to deal with current realities—discrimination, generational conflicts, the need for cultural understandings, and living in a multicultural, multiracial society.

Development of Community Ministries

- Develop programs and services to better serve immigrants within their communities—legal services, immigration/citizenship education, English as a second language, social services, ministries to the poor (housing, employment, social services)—and through faith-based community centers.

Development of Language Resources and Materials

- Develop relevant and culturally sensitive written materials, as well as audiovisual resources, in the areas of evangelism, Christian education, leadership development, stewardship, and worship.

**World Service Funds requested:
\$1,638,000**

A SUCCESS STORY

First Chinese United Methodist Church in the Greater Atlanta Area

As the only Chinese United Methodist congregation in the greater Atlanta area, First Chinese United Methodist Church has been very active in providing a place of worship and community services for the Chinese American community. In the past few years there has been a rapid growth of Chinese population in this area, and the trend is expected to continue.

Under the leadership of the Rev. Jiade Wu, who is also a network engineer, the ministry has experienced rapid growth in the past two years, increasing its attendance threefold. The target goal for adult attendance in worship by the end of the 2007 is 100. In addition to the spiritual growth opportunities of worship, Bible study, and fellowship, the church also offers Chinese language and Chinese art classes to minister to families in the area. This outreach effort has been very well received with participation of more than 40 children on any given Sunday afternoon.

This congregational development project was made possible through a joint partnership with the North Georgia Annual Conference, the Norcross United Methodist Church, and the General Board of Global Ministries/Asian American Language Ministries. The North Georgia Annual Conference leadership was intentional in identifying this as a critical ministry of the church and provided the needed resources to get this ministry off the ground. The Norcross United Methodist Church generously provided the use of the facility and office supplies and considers this congregation to be a part of the “same family.” With all of these entities pooling their resources together to breathe new life into this ministry, the result has been to invite and nurture many Chinese Americans—both new and old Christians—into the family of God. It is truly amazing to see how the Spirit of God is working through Rev. Wu and the leadership of this congregation to reach out to the growing population of Chinese Americans in the greater Atlanta area.

This is just one of many examples of how the Asian American Language Ministry Plan is making disciples of Jesus Christ among Asian Americans.



NATIONAL PLAN FOR HISPANIC/LATINO MINISTRIES

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Goals for 2009–2012

Congregational Development

- Charter 75 new Hispanic/Latino churches.
- Form 500 new faith communities.
- Accompany 100 congregations in the Congregational Mobilization Process to revitalize their ministries.

Immigration Ministry and Other Critical Social Issues

- Develop new models of centers dealing with immigration and advocacy for many other critical social issues.
- Strengthen our collaboration with Justice for Our Neighbors project.
- Create and nurture national, regional, and local partnerships and networks between local congregations and community-organizing grassroots groups.

Annual Conference and Local Church Strategy

- Identify and train new lay and clergy leaders.
- Enhance and develop Module III workshops and materials on new congregational development with emphasis on values, cultural needs, and socioeconomic realities.
- Assist annual conferences in developing strategic plans focused on congregational and leadership development, immigration, and social justice and accompany these conferences on plan implementation and evaluation.

Leadership Formation Goals

- Develop, implement, and evaluate at least one alternative model to the traditional seminary education for Hispanic/Latino pastors on the pathway to ordination.
- Continue to equip lay missionaries and pastor-mentor teams, facilitators, consultants, commissioned missionaries, and other leaders, and to assist them in forming a network for mutual strengthening, updating, and cross-fertilization of ideas and models.

- Identify, train, and deploy at least 50 commissioned missionaries to provide leadership with special focus on congregational development, conference accompaniment, and local church mobilization, including immigration and other critical social issues.
- Train and equip conference committees on Hispanic/Latino ministries, conference staff, and other lay and clergy leaders according to priorities of the National Plan.

A SUCCESS STORY

First United Methodist Church Ypsilanti, Michigan

First United Methodist Church in Ypsilanti, Michigan, began reaching Latinos in its community through English and Spanish as a Second Language (ESL) classes, translation and transportation services, undocumented persons, referral services and mentoring programs. The church also collaborated with University of Michigan Law School students to establish a workers center. In partnership with community-based organizations, the church also provided a variety of services and cultural events and provided building space and secretarial support for a Latino theatre group.

The church not only used community ministries to attract Latinos, but also, through the work of a Latina lay missionary, formed a faith community. The Latina lay missionary coordinates all the church's ministries as a team with the senior pastor, a non-Hispanic/Latino person. The lay missionary has participated in Modules I and II of the Lay Missioner and Pastor-Mentor Team Training Program. Since 2004, the faith community has enabled the church to hold a worship service in Spanish every Sunday. The church has been revitalized and integrated its outreach program to Latinos as part of the local church's mission and ministry. Pastoral leadership that is bilingual in both English and Spanish is now required.

**World Service Funds requested:
\$3,800,000**



NATIVE AMERICAN COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

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Mission Statement:

The Native American Comprehensive Plan shall serve as the United Methodist entity that resources, strengthens, and advocates for the local church in Native American communities/contexts for all generations.

Goals for 2009–2012

Develop and Support New and Existing Native American Churches and Faith Communities

- Assist annual conferences in establishing new churches.
- Offer a resource and support services to new and existing churches.
- Provide training and consultation to annual conference committees on Native American Ministries (CONAM).

Resource Development

- Develop curriculum specific to Native communities.
- Identify, empower, and deploy Native American writers and resource persons, and utilize their work.
- Produce a new worship resource, Voices II.
- Develop a directory of resource persons for local churches.
- Develop a “virtual listening post” for Native youth.

Developing Leadership

- Undertake a study on evangelism in the Native community and produce a written resource.
- Consult with clergy persons (both Native and non-Native) serving Native ministries and communities.
- Conduct a lay speaking school, with special emphasis on youth.
- Hold a Native American Women in Ministry Conference.

Offer the Gifts of the Native American Community to All Levels of The United Methodist Church

- Provide speakers, teachers, and facilitators for the general church.
- Provide scholarships to attend United Methodist events, such as Focus and Exploration, with special emphasis on youth events.

Advocate for inclusion of Native American United Methodists to serve at all levels of the church.

Through the work of the Native American Comprehensive Plan Task Force, which addresses these priorities and objectives, Native American persons, families, churches, and communities may be served through The United Methodist Church. In so doing, the gospel of Jesus Christ and the gifts and graces of Native Americans may be conjoined—producing new disciples, forming existing disciples, and celebrating the great diversity of God’s created peoples.

A SUCCESS STORY

One of the gifts offered by the Native American Comprehensive Plan to Native United Methodist Christians is a holy place for intertribal gatherings. The Native American lay speaking school is such a gathering and it was held for the third time in the fall of 2006 in Nashville, Tennessee. Both teachers and students represent a broad cross section of US tribes from every jurisdiction. All come together for the opportunity not only to learn from lay speaking curriculum, but also to commune, pray, worship, and sing within a Native American context. Encouragement and mutual support is given and received, and many of the participants are inspired to enter the ministry. Sponsoring this event each quadrennium provides over fifty lay speakers who go forth to serve Christ’s church across the US.

The positive impact of these lay speakers radiates throughout their annual conferences and local churches. One example is Hazel Battice, from the Choctaw Nation in Oklahoma. After completing the lay speaking school, she faithfully served within her local congregation and was then asked by her district superintendent to become lay missionary to a local church without a pastor.

**World Service Funds requested:
\$1,208,400**



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Strengthening the Black Church for the 21st Century Mission (SBC-21)

The mission of SBC-21 is to offer The United Methodist Church the gift of a transformational learning model that enables one congregation (Congregation Resource Center) to share its gift of vitality with other churches (Partner Churches) that are seeking ministry growth, spiritual vitality, and life transformation.

Goals for 2009–2012

Strengthen existing programs and enable new program developments through the expansion of:

- Training of clergy and laity teams through the congregation (Congregation resource center) to congregation (Partner church) model of ministry;
- Faith Partners Model of Ministry (identification and recruitment of isolated Black churches);
- Relationships with the Central Conferences and African congregations of African descent in Latin America, the Caribbean, and North America;
- Models of strengthening youth and young adult ministries;
- Collaborations and partnerships supporting the development of African-American congregations as a part of the new faith communities emphasis.

**World Service Funds requested:
\$2,045,728**

SUCCESS STORIES

By the end of the 2005-2008 quadrennium it is estimated that 360 local congregations in rural, urban, and suburban areas and over 1,100 people (clergy and lay teams) will have participated in innovative training models at Congregation Resource Centers, designed to renew and develop strong, vital, effective congregations.

There are now Partner Churches from 42 of the 63 annual conferences within the bounds of the US: North Central (9 annual conferences), Northeast (9 annual conferences), South Central (9 annual conferences), Southeast (12 annual conferences), and Western (3 annual conferences). The training for Partner Churches focused on: a) vibrant and varied worship; b) leadership development; c) faith formation; d) mission and outreach; and, e) planning and administration.

As a result of SBC-21 Training, Partner Churches have:

- Revised core values and mission statements.
- Expanded health and welfare ministries and age level ministries.
- Enhanced worship and music ministries. In some cases, higher worship attendance and increased attendance were the result.
- Revitalized finance ministry (stewardship).
- Enhanced leadership and spiritual development.
- Established 501(c) 3 corporations (community ministries).
- Established a follow-up component capturing the progress of Partner Churches as they move along in their goal setting, planning, implementation, and transformation.

The SBC-21 publication, *God Delivers Me: A Model from Strengthening the Black Church for the 21st Century*, shares testimonies of how Partner Churches become vital congregations through these training strategies. The text also shares the history, theory, organization, and implementation of Strengthening the Black Church for the 21st Century. A video was produced to complement the publication.