

Becoming A Global Mission Partner: Is Your Church Ready?

Since 1974 United Methodist congregations have had an opportunity to step outside the borders of their cities and towns and connect with mission personnel in other parts of the world. These congregations become “Global Mission Partners,” part of a network of churches around the country and the world that, through the UM General Board of Global Ministries, support mission personnel with their giving, their prayers and their love.

“As United Methodists we are all in global mission together,” says the Rev. Becky Goodwin, Conference Secretary for Global Ministries. “But a congregation deserves a personal connection with global ministries, too. In a covenant relationship they can choose a country or missionary that fits their unique interest or experience.”

Loomis UMC recently established a covenant with Larry Kies and his family. Kies works as an agriculture farm director for Africa University in Zimbabwe. His wife Jane teaches English as a second language.

When Larry Kies was home this past summer, he spent time with the congregation, sharing stories of his work at Africa University. Congregations that have covenant relationships with mission personnel can expect to hear from them at least three times a year, by e-mail or newsletter.

The Global Mission Partnership is a step beyond a church’s regular apportionment giving. A congregation establishes a covenant when it agrees to make an annual contribution of \$3, \$4 or \$5 per member, or \$2,500 per congregation for churches with more than 500 members. The cost is based on the size of the congregation, so that even the smallest congregation can participate. Montague UMC in Shasta District has 34 members in its congregation and a thriving covenant relationship, Goodwin said.

“They chose to pay at the \$5 amount per member, so their total is \$170 a year.”

For more information about how your church can join the growing number of Global Mission Partners in Cal-Nevada, contact Becky Goodwin at (916) 635-4242; e-mail begood@avantac.com