

**RESOLUTION 2022 -
RESOLUTION to the 2022 ANNUAL CONFERENCE SESSION
Resolution relating to Advance Special Applications
Presented by Eastern Pennsylvania Conference Global Ministries Team**

WHEREAS, the Conference Advance Special is a program of ministry which can seek funds from a local church that keeps its financial commitments to the Conference and General Church in full in the previous year's budget and has a desire to extend its support of the mission of the church through designated giving; and

WHEREAS, a list of Conference Advance Specials would resource local churches, either in need of support for their programs and ministries, or local churches eager to extend their support of the mission of the church; and

WHEREAS, practicality indicates that a list of conference advance specials be available as soon as possible after they are approved;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the following programs and ministries of the annual conference having completed the appropriate applications, be designated as a list of Conference Advance Specials for the year July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023.

Person Responsible for Presenting Resolution: Barbara Drake, Conference Secretary of Global Ministries.

CASA del PUEBLO and AMIGOS COMMUNITY CENTER \$15,000

Applicant: Rev. Dr. Irving Cotto & Imelda Zuniga
300 York Road, Hatboro, PA 19040
Program Director: Imelda Zuniga
215-470-2234 (c)

jsuarez@aminoscommunitycenter.org

Casa del Pueblo is a Latino ministry started 14 years ago as a new church start at Lehman Memorial UMC in Hatboro and under the supervision and support of the Office of Congregational Development of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference. From its inception it was developed and led by Rev. Lilian L. Cotto (Luky), missionary of the General Board of Global Ministries. The ministry began with a home Bible study and expanded to include worship, Sunday School, cultural activities, leadership seminars, youth meetings, and extension into the Warrington area. Together with AMIGOS Community Center, we will continue to provide workshops on how to get out of poverty, and working with the Latinos from Bucks County leadership, we will hold workshops on how to seek justice, practice it, and get involved in issues of injustices. A strong connection with Gretna Glen Camp has fostered a culture of summer camp in Casa del Pueblo, where there are more than 60 members.

COKESBURY SUMMER READING AND LUNCH PROGRAM\$3,000

Applicant: Sandra M. Cislo
307 Market Street, Marcus Hook, PA 19061
610-416-5112. smcislo@yahoo.com

This is a ministry of Cokesbury UMC, which provides free lunch and educational support/educational resources for children who live in the high poverty areas of Marcus Hook, Trainer, and Lower Chichester. Research shows that while all students experience educational setbacks over the summer break, those setbacks are more challenging and have a more devastating, long-term impact for economically disadvantaged children. For many children in poverty, free school breakfast and lunch are their most secure and substantial meals during the school year. The summer months, without school meals, leave children who are food insecure, hungry. COVID has only intensified the educational and nutritional needs. Our program over the past two years has varied depending upon COVID protocols and what the school district was able to provide. In summer 2022, Cokesbury will provide either an in-person educational program with lunch provided or “grab-and-go breakfast and lunch bundles and educational resources for children to use at home.

HAZLETON ENLARGED MINISTRY..... \$10,000

Applicant: Graham Truscott, Chair of HEM Council
411 Main St. Conyngham, PA 18219
267-421-2606 wgtruscott@gmail.com

We seek to provide a safe environment for children to play, learn, and grow physically and in their faith. We believe that many children in poverty and low-income situations may not see positive role models, may not have a safe environment or access to nutritious food, and may not have the ability to grow in their faith because of the economic condition of their parents, who may work multiple jobs and are unable to pay for childcare. We seek to meet these needs through our 6 weeks of summer Day Camp that runs Monday to Friday from 8:30-3 for children aged 5-12 years. The charge to families is \$25 per week, and camperships are available for those unable to pay. The program includes games, crafts, nutritious meals, Bible lessons, as well as community professionals teaching important lessons. Outdoor worship is provided for families in the few weeks prior to and after the Day Camp. A clothing has been opened in downtown Hazleton to meet the needs of lower income families. The Hazleton Enlarged Ministry brings together the ministry of the various local United Methodist Churches of the greater Hazleton area. As there is no UMC in the city, Hazleton Enlarged Ministries is our missionary presence to the city of Hazleton.

KITCHEN MINISTRY of FIRST UMC, PHOENIXVILLE, PA..... \$10,000

Applicant: H. T. (Tom) Baker

865 South Main St., Phoenixville, PA 19460

215-990-6157 (c), htbaker@verizon.net

Contact information: Karen Bretzius, 610-948-9427, karenbretzius@gmail.com

The Kitchen Ministry of First United Methodist Church Phoenixville was first established in 2015 as part of a team of area congregations who provided satellite kitchens to support a dinner meal program hosted by St. Peter's Episcopal Church. Volunteers from FUMC would prepare a meal, transport and serve it and cleanup after the dinner served to individuals of the community desiring a meal at no charge. Because the ministry served the public, the Chester County Health Department became involved to ensure compliance with county food safety regulations. The church needed to renovate the kitchen to include a washable ceiling tile system, impervious counter tops, commercial grade refrigeration and dishwashing appliances, grease trap, stainless steel dishwashing stations, automated fire suppression system, and ventilated cooking surfaces at a cost of over \$100,000, funded by FUMC. The Kitchen Ministry is licensed annually with an onsite inspection. The Kitchen Ministry now has 40 volunteers who rotate monthly to prepare, package, and deliver meals to the Community Drive Through Program. A new program is to prepare 60 casseroles, each feeding 6 people, to distribute through the Phoenixville Area Community Services. A monthly luncheon for seniors in the FUMC Fellowship Hall is under consideration for September. An ongoing program produces casseroles and desserts to feed 90 persons monthly at a homeless shelter. A new kitchen renovation is now needed to improve the speed and productivity of the ovens by purchasing two commercial grade convection ovens. Also needed are a gas- powered tankless water heater, air conditioning to improve working conditions for the volunteers, and upgrades for the gas line and electrical circuit breaker box. Estimated cost is \$50,000.

LIBERIA EDUCATION PROJECT\$7,800

Applicant: Dennis L. Fisher, Board of Directors Chairperson

Liberia Education Project c/o Somerton United Methodist Church

13073 Bustleton Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19116

dkfisher@comcast.net, 215-673-2745 (o), 215-356-3193 (c), 215-860-5577 (H)

www.liberiaeducationproject.org

The Liberia Education Project (LEP) is a non-profit corporation bringing educational opportunities to the people of Liberia, West Africa. The Board of Directors is composed of members of Somerton UMC, primarily. LEP has been supported by other EPA congregations, including St. John's Ivyland, UMC of the Redeemer, Frankford Memorial UMC, and First UMC of Germantown. The volunteer Executive Director is Jacob Madehdou, from Liberia, who attends Somerton UMC. Activities since 2009 include building a school with 6 classrooms and a multipurpose building to educate 200 children from pre-K to 6th grade in the rural Kokoyah District of Bong County, installing a deep

water well to provide safe water, constructing a sanitary bathroom facility for boys and girls, providing books and school supplies, registering the Ghenwein Mission School with the government, upgrading our teachers' skill levels and keeping them fully certified to government standards, providing financial support for 5 teachers and 5 support staff, and promoting self-sufficiency through education, agriculture, and small business employment. When COVID allows, the goal is to participate in Mary's Meal, a feeding program aimed at keeping children in school by providing meals. In the US, LEP has brought awareness of the plight of people in Liberia at fund-raising events and has helped to dismantle racism, restore justice, and reduce poverty.

LIGHT OF MARNIE \$10,000

Applicants: Jennifer and John Lafferty
315 Municipal Drive, Thorndale, PA 19372
John: 610-470-1369 JohnL@lightofmarnie.org. CLM at Eddystone UMC
Jennifer: 610-766-0944 JenL@lightofmarnie.org South District Co-Lay Leader
SHALOCA Christian Academy is the perfect example of our Global Ministries "ABUNDANT HEALTH", Our Promise to Children, Initiative. It is an elementary school with classes from Preschool to 8th grade, in Lower Johnsonville, Liberia, West Africa. The school has provided education for children for over 13 years, and presently has 205 students, who receive elementary Christian education. Building expansion and bathrooms are completed. Clean water continues to be a challenge. The meeting room is now being used for Sunday Worship. The school has been functioning on a budget of about \$600 per month. Building projects and school needs are separate. Rev. James Coleman founded the school when he was serving in Liberia and receives monthly reports from the school's Director. In October 2021, Rev. Coleman, who pastors 2 churches on the North District, traveled to Liberia to oversee improvements and support the staff in future planning. Light of Marnie has a Board of Directors in the USA which does fund-raising, and SHALOCA has a Board of Directors in Liberia with United Methodist members in both locations. SHALOCA receives support from several United Methodist Churches.

LUMINA \$10,000

Applicant: Correen Russo
20 E. Clay Street, Lancaster, PA 17602, 717-394-8412 (office), 717-808-8633 (cell), correen.lumina@gmail.com
LUMINA serves nearly 1,000 economically disadvantaged individuals in Lancaster annually with the help of volunteers, financial support, and donations of food and clothing from United Methodist churches. The program now has 6 focus areas:

- Children’s Ministries: cost-free discipleship programs, summer day camp, field trips, and residence camp scholarships.
- Clothing: new winter coats, pajamas, shoes, socks, etc. for children in need.
- Nutrition/Cooking Education: free classes, food, and kitchen tools for low income adults, youth, and children to improve their health and quality of life.
- Affordable Housing: transforming blighted city properties into homes for low-income families (as part of the Manifest Urban Alliance)
- Food Box Distribution: providing over 4000 lbs. of food and Bibles each month at no cost to neighbors in need.
- Tool Awards: providing \$200 in new construction tools to each local high school student doing a building trades internship with Manifest.

MISSION FIRST OF CEDARVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH..... \$10,000

Applicant: Jay and Susanne Meloy

1092 Laurelwood Road, Pottstown, PA 19465

Program Director: Clare Schilling

610-326-0560 (O), 610-733-6704 (C) clare@missionfirstpottstown.org

clare@cedarvilleumc.org

Mission First is an outreach ministry of Cedarville UMC with the following components:

- A clothing closet is open 4 mornings a week and provides year-round access to gently used garments for men and women.
- A phone-charging station is located on the Mission First premises and is available to all as a walk-up service to meet the needs of those who rely heavily on their cell phone for connection to support services.
- A book house provides reading materials of all kinds and suitable for all ages free for the taking. This includes Bibles for those desiring a spiritual resource.
- A food house and community refrigerator are stocked with food that is available 24/7 at Mission First.
- A weekly free community meal is provided for 60-80 people. It is currently a take-out meal due to COVID restrictions.
- Laundry supplies and coins for 2 loads of laundry plus a bagged lunch are provided at a local laundry facility on the 3rd Tuesday of each month.
- Household items such as sheets, blankets, pillows, dishes, flatware, pots and pans are provided to those moving into permanent housing through the Salvation Army placement service and Your Way Home.

SPIRITUAL RENEWAL MINISTRIES, INC. \$10,000

Applicant: Rev. Sara Davis-Shappell

P.O. Box 724 Southeastern PA 19399, 610-873-3988 (O), 610-613-6253 (C)

SpiritualRM@aol.com

This ministry celebrates 30 years of ministry as an unofficial Approved Agency of EPC, providing retreats, spiritual direction, seminars, and seminars. Financial donations are used for scholarships to companion churches, groups, and individuals desiring to deepen their relationship with God in Jesus Christ and overcome racism, poverty, and injustice which are destructive to relationships with God, others, and self. During the last 2 years with COVID, more clergy are seeking spiritual direction to nourish their personal relationship with God, so they may be fuller vessels for others during these ongoing difficult times. Members of the conference clergy and laity make up the board of directors.

THE CENTER-PHILADELPHIA AT ARCH STREET UMC..... \$5,000

Applicant: Deaconess Darlene DiDomineck

55 North Broad St. Philadelphia, PA 19107

Program Director: Kristi Painter

215-568-6250 kristi@archstreetumc.org

The Center-Philadelphia is a bi-location community center and a non-profit ministry born from the longstanding outreach ministries of Arch Street UMC. The largest program is Grace Café and its Daytime Services which offer life-giving services for our unhoused/unsheltered neighbors in Center City Philadelphia. Operating as a daytime drop-in center, the program incorporates home-cooked nutritious meals Sunday through Thursday; weekday showers, laundry, long and short term case management, a clothing closet, computer and internet access; and a weekly nurse-led wellness clinic. The Center-Philadelphia along with our partner Arch Street UMC facilitate the Serenity House Community Center, Intentional Community, and neighborhood community garden in North Philadelphia in the former Cookman UMC parsonage. Serenity House offers housing to students, ministry interns, and non-profit and mission workers committed to living in an intentional Christian community. Serenity House Community Center partners with community organizations to provide food, clothing, fellowship, and study opportunities as well as support for the People’s Garden, a neighborhood-led community growing space. The Board of Directors consists of members of Arch Street UMC and EPA UMC clergy. The Executive Director is a UMC Deaconess.

Note: Advance Special status allows fundraising letters to be sent to churches of EPC but does not guarantee that funding will be provided. Church treasurers are advised to remit contributions through the monthly remittance. Funds will then be forwarded to the approved Conference Advance Special.