

**RESOLUTION 2021 - 04**

**RESOLUTION to the 2021 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 a change in the time period covered by a list of conference advance specials to 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, 2021 through June 30, 2022.

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

**AMIGOS COMMUNITY CENTER OF CASA DEL PUEBLO** ..... \$10,000

Applicant: Rev. Lilian L. Cotto  
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Program Director: Juan Suarez  
215-254-0225 (c)

Casa del Pueblo is the Latino ministry of Lehman Memorial UMC in Hatboro. Amigos Community Center has been a dream of Casa del Pueblo, and was granted the approval of the 501c3 status in 2020. Outreach programs include ANAWIM Music School, GED classes in Spanish, ESL classes, The Tent of Meeting Tutoring Program, housing referrals, translation, clothing bank referrals, food, diapers for mothers in need, medical and dental referrals with transportation for appointments, adoption of 10 immigrant families at a time as they arrive from the border and need everything for survival, family counseling, and immigration services. New programs include distribution of COVID Educational kits, bi-weekly distribution of food together with healthy information in each bag of food, and workshops for parents on how to navigate the school system.

**COKESBURY SUMMER READING AND LUNCH PROGRAM .....\$4,000**

Applicant: Sandra M. Cislo

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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. Recognizing that education can be the key to unlocking the chains of poverty, this ministry encourages children to read over the summer in order to avoid the educational setback associated with summer break. Because school lunch is often the only nutritionally sound meal that children in poverty receive, and because it is not available in the summer, a healthy lunch is provided along with education by certified teachers and trained instructional assistants. This program has been offered for 9 years and is partly funded by the PA Department of Education's Summer Food Service Program. Support from sister churches allows for the continuation of the program.

**LIBERIA EDUCATION PROJECT .....\$7,100**

Applicant: Dennis L. Fisher, Board of Directors Chairperson

13073 Bustleton Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19116

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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 renovating a small rural church into a one-room schoolhouse, the Ghenwein Mission School; building a 4- room school, and later enlarging it to 6 rooms; digging a well; and building a bathroom with flushable toilets. During the Ebola outbreak, when schools were closed, the teachers became Ebola trainers to educate people in rural villages, where no known Ebola deaths occurred. Now, LEP has about 180 students, from pre-K to 6<sup>th</sup> grade, and funds salaries for 5 certified teachers and 5 other staff members. The current need for funds is to build a multipurpose building with kitchen, dining room, food storage area, and two rooms for teacher lodging. The goal is to enable LEP to participate in Mary's Meal, an NGO feeding program, aimed at keeping children in school by providing meals. LEP/USA has committed \$7083 toward the total cost of \$11,643 for the building.

**LIGHT OF MARNIE ..... \$10,000**

Applicants: Jennifer and John Lafferty  
315 Municipal Drive, Thorndale, PA 19372

John: 610-470-1369 [JohnL@lightofmarnie.org](mailto:JohnL@lightofmarnie.org).

Jennifer: 610-766-0944 [JenL@lightofmarnie.org](mailto:JenL@lightofmarnie.org)

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 8<sup>th</sup> grade, in Lower Johnsonville, Liberia, West Africa. The school has provided education for children for 13 years, and presently has 205 students, who receive elementary Christian education. Building expansion and bathrooms are completed. Work continues with the government to bring clean piped water to the school. In 2020 a much-needed day care has been added for preschoolers. Rev. James Coleman, an ordained Wesleyan pastor, founded the school when he was serving in Liberia. He is currently appointed to two churches in EPC on North District, and he makes trips regularly to Liberia to take school supplies, supervise the water project, and oversee the Liberian Director. He also regularly sends bags of rice to be distributed to the village. The goal is for the school to become self-sustaining so that funds raised here can go to additional projects. Light of Marnie has a Board of Directors in the USA, 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 M. Russo

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LUMINA serves nearly 1,000 economically disadvantaged individuals in Lancaster annually with the help of volunteers from over 50 local United Methodist churches. The program now has 4 focus areas:

- Children’s Ministries: weekly Kids’ Night discipleship programs, summer day camp, field trips, scholarships for residence camps.
- 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: rehab of blighted city properties to become homes for low income families or permanent supportive housing for homeless families through a partnership with Manifest.
- Prison Meal Ministry: providing encouragement and hearty noon meals to inmates doing community service with our housing partnership.

**SPIRITUAL RENEWAL MINISTRIES, INC.** ..... \$10,000

Applicant: Rev. Sara Davis-Shappell

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This ministry celebrates almost 30 years as a growing and integral part of EPC, providing retreats, spiritual direction, seminars, prayer circles, and preaching. 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. Members of the conference clergy and laity make up the board of directors. Spiritual Renewal Ministries is honored to be offering retreats for persons in the ordination process as well as ordained clergy. The advance special status allows fund raising letters to be sent to churches in the conference reminding people of the significance of contributions that Spiritual Renewal Ministries makes to our spiritual lives.

**Note:** Church treasurers are advised to remit contributions through the monthly remittance. Funds will then be forwarded to the approved Conference Advance Special.