

1 **ADVANCE SPECIALS**

2
3 **RESOLUTION 2023 - 02**

4 **RESOLUTION TO THE 2023 ANNUAL CONFERENCE SESSION**

5 Resolution relating to Advance Special Applications

6 **Presented by** Eastern Pennsylvania Conference Global Ministries Team

7

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

11

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

14

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

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18 **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the following programs and ministries of the annual conference having
19 completed the appropriate applications, be designated as a list of Conference Advance Specials for the year July
20 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024.

21

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

23

24 **COKESBURY SUMMER READING AND LUNCH PROGRAM\$3,000**

25 Applicant: Sandra M. Cislo

26 307 Market Street, Marcus Hook, PA 19061

27 610-416-5112. smcislo@yahoo.com

28 This is a ministry of Cokesbury UMC, which provides FREE lunch and educational support, and educational
29 resources for children who live in the high poverty areas of Marcus Hook, Trainer, and Lower Chichester.

30 Research shows that while all students experience educational setbacks over the summer break, those setbacks
31 are more challenging and have a more devastating, long-term impact for economically disadvantaged children.

32 For many children in poverty, free school breakfast and lunch are their most secure and substantial meals during
33 the school year. The summer months, without school meals, leave children who are food insecure, hungry. Our

34 program provides 4 weeks of Monday to Thursday educational programming along with free lunch for children
35 from pre-k through grade 5, with older children welcome to attend as helpers. Participants also receive free

36 books to start or expand home libraries, and bookbags with school supplies at the end of the program.

37

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

39 Applicant: Graham Truscott, Chair of HEM Council

40 411 Main St. Conyngham, PA 18219

41 Program Director: Donna Burchess, 215-622-4066, donnaburchess@gmail.com

42 We seek to provide a safe environment for children to play, learn, and grow physically and in their faith. We
43 believe that many children in poverty and low-income situations may not see positive role models, may not
44 have a safe environment or access to nutritious food, and may not have the ability to grow in their faith because
45 of the economic condition of their parents, who may work multiple jobs and are unable to pay for childcare.

46 We seek to meet these needs through our 6 weeks of summer Day Camp that runs Monday to Friday from
47 8:30-3 for children aged 5-12 years. The charge to families is \$25 per week to help them maintain dignity, and
48 camperships are available for those unable to pay. The program includes games, crafts, nutritious meals, Bible
49 lessons, as well as community professionals teaching important lessons. The Day Camp seeks to counteract
50 the segregation bubble in which many live by having Caucasian, Hispanic, and African American children from

1 many ethnic groups come together and play, eat, learn, and grow together in faith. A clothing depot has been
2 opened in downtown Hazleton, and families can fill an 18 gallon bag with clothes for only \$2 each Wednesday
3 from 10-11 am. The Hazleton Enlarged Ministry also supports Your Sisters' Closet in nearby Ringtown to provide
4 women what they need to feel confident in themselves for getting back into the workforce. Because there is no
5 longer a United Methodist Church in the city of Hazleton, HEM brings together for ministry the various UMC's in
6 the greater Hazleton area to make Hazleton Enlarged Ministries programs our missionary presence in the city of
7 Hazleton.

8

9 **LIBERIA EDUCATION PROJECT\$10,700**

10 Applicant: Dennis L. Fisher, Board of Directors Chairperson

11 Liberia Education Project c/o Somerton United Methodist Church

12 13073 Bustleton Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19116

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

14 www.liberiaeducationproject.org

15 The Liberia Education Project (LEP) is a non-profit corporation bringing educational opportunities to the people
16 of Liberia, West Africa, especially the disadvantaged boys and girls of rural areas. The Board of Directors is
17 composed of members of Somerton UMC, primarily. LEP has been supported by other EPA congregations,
18 including St. John's Ivyland, UMC of the Redeemer, Frankford Memorial UMC, and First UMC of Germantown.
19 The volunteer Executive Director is Jacob Madehdou, from Liberia, who attends Somerton UMC. Activities since
20 2009 include renovating a rural church into a one-room school, the Ghenwein Mission School; building a school
21 with 6 classrooms, drilling a well, and building a bathroom with flushable toilets. The school has nearly 200
22 children registered from pre-K to 6th grade with 5 fully certified teachers and 5 support staff. The current need
23 for funding is \$7500 to complete a cafeteria and \$3200 to purchase locally manufactured student desks. LEP is
24 available to do presentations at churches in EPC.

25

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

27 Applicants: Jennifer and John Lafferty

28 315 Municipal Drive, Thorndale, PA 19372

29 John: 610-470-1369 JohnL@lightofmarnie.org.

30 Jennifer: 610-766-0944 JenL@lightofmarnie.org

31 SHALOCA Christian Academy is the perfect example of our Global Ministries "ABUNDANT HEALTH", Our Promise
32 to Children, Initiative. It is an elementary school with classes from Preschool to 8th grade, in Lower Johnsonville,
33 Liberia, West Africa. The school has provided education for children for over 13 years, and presently has 205
34 students. Building expansion and bathrooms are completed. Clean water continues to be a challenge. The
35 all-purpose meeting room is now being used for Sunday Worship. The school has been functioning on a budget
36 of about \$600 per month. Rev. James Coleman founded the school when he was serving in Liberia and receives
37 monthly reports from the school's Director. Light of Marnie has a Board of Directors in the USA which does
38 fund-raising, and SHALOCA has a Board of Directors in Liberia with United Methodist members in both locations.
39 SHALOCA receives support from several United Methodist Churches. In 2022, LOM made several shipments of
40 Bibles, school supplies, and athletic equipment to the school.

41

42 **LUMINA \$10,000**

43 Applicant: Correen Russo

44 20 E. Clay Street, Lancaster, PA 17602, 717-394-8412 (office), 717-808-8633 (cell), correen.lumina@gmail.com

45 LUMINA serves nearly 1,000 economically disadvantaged individuals in Lancaster annually with the help of
46 volunteers, financial support, and donations of food and clothing from United Methodist churches. The program
47 now has 6 focus areas:

48 Children's Ministries: cost-free discipleship programs, summer day camp, field trips, and residence camp
49 scholarships.

50 Clothing: new winter coats, pajamas, shoes, socks, etc. for children in need.

- 1 Nutrition/Cooking Education: free classes, food, and kitchen tools for low income adults, youth, and children to
- 2 improve their health and quality of life.
- 3 Affordable Housing: transforming blighted city properties into homes for low- income families (as part of the
- 4 Manifest Urban Alliance)
- 5 Food Box Distribution: providing over 4000 lbs. of food and Bibles each month at no cost to neighbors in need.
- 6 Tool Awards: providing \$200 in new construction tools to each local high school student doing a building trades
- 7 internship with Manifest.

8

9 **MINISTRY IN MOTION..... \$5,000**

10 Applicant: Rev. Dr. William Brawner

11 3259 North Broad Street, Philadelphia, PA 19140

12 Office: 215-225-2827, Cell: 267-530-8899, wbrawner100@yahoo.com

13 Ministry in Motion is reaching out to meet the needs of the disenfranchised people of this North Philadelphia
 14 community by providing food, clothing, and assistance in getting help with health screenings, mental health,
 15 and housing resources. The emphasis is on leaving the sanctuary and going to the streets to meet underserved
 16 people where they are and help them know they matter. Working cooperatively with a variety of community
 17 agencies, we aim to organize around the concerns of specific neighborhoods to advocate for improvements,
 18 while developing leaders, and building bridges block by block so that standing together we can bring about
 19 needed changes. Half of the funding will be for perishable foods for the many areas of food deserts.

20

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

22 Applicant: Rev. Sara Davis-Shappell

23 P.O. Box 724 Southeastern PA 19399, 610-873-3988 (O), 610-613-6253 (C) SpiritualRM@aol.com

24 This ministry is an unofficial Approved Agency of EPC, providing retreats, spiritual direction, seminars, and
 25 seminars for the past 30 years. Financial donations are used for scholarships to companion churches, groups,
 26 and individuals desiring to deepen their relationship with God in Jesus Christ and overcome racism, poverty, and
 27 injustice which are destructive to relationships with God, others, and self. During the last 3 years with COVID,
 28 more clergy are seeking spiritual direction to nourish their personal relationship with God, so they may be fuller
 29 vessels for others during these ongoing difficult times. Members of the conference clergy and laity make up the
 30 board of directors.

31

32 **WESLEY STUDENT FOUNDATION OF PHILADELPHIA..... \$10,000**

33 Applicant: Rev. Deacon Diana Esposito

34 3225 Arch Street, Office 012B, Philadelphia, PA 19014, 484-685-6347

35 opendoordrexel@gmail.com

36 This ministry serves the Drexel University campus and community and directly serves students through the Open
 37 Door Christian Community student organization, serving alongside students, faculty, and staff to meet physical
 38 and spiritual needs on campus and in the community. A free weekly healthy hot meal is provided to anyone on
 39 campus who is hungry. The meals are served in a variety of locations on campus to ensure student access and
 40 to build community among students, especially the international students. Students are invited to participate
 41 in community service by providing clothing and hygiene supplies to disadvantaged community members. Faith
 42 formation is offered through Worship, Wandering, and Wondering. Students are empowered through internships
 43 to run many of the ministries beyond the hours the chaplain is on campus.

44

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

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