

RESOLUTION to the 2023 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, 2023 through June 30, 2024.

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

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, and 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. Our program provides 4 weeks of Monday to Thursday educational programming along with free lunch for children from pre-k through grade 5, with older children welcome to attend as helpers. Participants also receive free books to start or expand home libraries, and bookbags with school supplies at the end of the program.

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

Applicant: Graham Truscott, Chair of HEM Council

411 Main St. Conyngham, PA 18219

Program Director: Donna Burchess, 215-622-4066, donnaburchess@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 to help them maintain dignity, 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. The Day Camp seeks to counteract the segregation bubble in which many live by having Caucasian, Hispanic, and African American children from many ethnic groups come together and play, eat, learn, and grow together in faith. A clothing depot has been opened in downtown Hazleton, and families can fill an 18 gallon bag with clothes for only \$2 each Wednesday from 10-11 am. The Hazleton Enlarged Ministry also supports Your Sisters' Closet in nearby Ringtown to provide women what they need to feel confident in themselves for getting back into the workforce. Because there is no longer a United Methodist Church in the city of Hazleton, HEM brings together for ministry the various UMC's in the greater Hazleton area to make Hazleton Enlarged Ministries programs our missionary presence in the city of Hazleton.

LIBERIA EDUCATION PROJECT\$10,700

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, especially the disadvantaged boys and girls of rural areas. 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 rural church into a one-room school, the Ghenwein Mission School; building a school with 6 classrooms, drilling a well, and building a bathroom with flushable toilets. The school has nearly 200

children registered from pre-K to 6th grade with 5 fully certified teachers and 5 support staff. The current need for funding is \$7500 to complete a cafeteria and \$3200 to purchase locally manufactured student desks. LEP is available to do presentations at churches in EPC.

LIGHT OF MARNIE \$10,000

Applicants: Jennifer and John Lafferty

315 Municipal Drive, Thorndale, PA 19372

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

Jennifer: 610-766-0944 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 8th grade, in Lower Johnsonville, Liberia, West Africa. The school has provided education for children for over 13 years, and presently has 205 students. Building expansion and bathrooms are completed. Clean water continues to be a challenge. The all-purpose meeting room is now being used for Sunday Worship. The school has been functioning on a budget of about \$600 per month. Rev. James Coleman founded the school when he was serving in Liberia and receives monthly reports from the school’s Director. 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. In 2022, LOM made several shipments of Bibles, school supplies, and athletic equipment to the school.

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.

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

Applicant: Rev. Dr. William Brawner

3259 North Broad Street, Philadelphia, PA 19140

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

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

MISSION FIRST, POTTSTOWN.....\$10,000

Applicant: Diana Wrisley

Coordinator: Clare Schilling

C/O Cedarville United Methodist Church

1092 Laurelwood Road, Pottstown, PA 19465

Office: 610-326-0560 clare@missionfirstpottstown.org

Mission First is an outreach of Cedarville UMC and provides support for people in need regardless of circumstances. Services include a clothing closet, a phone-charging station, a book house of reading materials, a food house and community refrigerator, laundry supplies and coins for washing machines, household items, a free community meal, and a Sunday afternoon fellowship with snacks and a worship service.

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 is an unofficial Approved Agency of EPC, providing retreats, spiritual direction, seminars, and seminars for the past 30 years. 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 3 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.

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

Applicant: Rev. Deacon Diana Esposito

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

opendoordrexel@gmail.com

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

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.