August 28, 2020

Dear Clergy and Laity,

Volunteer in Mission Awareness Sunday is October 18, 2020. In order to help your congregation celebrate, I've attached a FAQ bulletin insert as well as a link to a "Thank You" video. Donations can be made to Volunteers in Mission (VIM) Advance #4055 to support our Conference VIM efforts or more specifically to VIM Materials Advance #7010 that provides teams with funds for project supplies. To add a personal touch, ask your Volunteers in Mission to stand and be recognized or have a mission moment with personal accounts right from your congregation. I'd love to celebrate your missions on our VIM Facebook page, our website or in the LINK. Send your photos and stories all year round, even your VIM Awareness Sunday celebrations. The world has been looking differently this past year, but Volunteers in Mission is remaining steadfast by putting their love into action!

This link is straight to the video: https://youtu.be/6WqpOjpCiG0
This link is to our website where you can download it: http://www.susmb.org/index.php/vim/videos

Peace to you,

Michelle

Michelle Y. Schwartzman
Director of Volunteer in Missions and Outreach
Susquehanna Conference United Methodist Church
What is United Methodist Volunteers in Mission?
UMVIM exists to promote, encourage and enable Christians to exemplify "Christian Love in Action" through short-term mission service locally, nationally and internationally.

How long has UMVIM been in existence?
The UMVIM movement began in 1976 and is organized by jurisdiction. The General Board of Global Ministries networks with the jurisdictional UMVIM offices, which in turn, coordinate with annual conference offices.

What is the ministry of UMVIM?
UMVIM teams work together to fulfill ongoing missional needs domestically and abroad usually serving for several days to several weeks.

Their work includes construction and renewing of mission facilities, teaching, witnessing, conducting medical clinics, holding Bible studies or Bible School, and serving in disaster relieve and recovery efforts around the world.

What is UMVIM Awareness Sunday?
The 2016 General Conference approved United Methodist Volunteers in Mission Awareness Sunday (UMVIM) at its gathering.
“UMVIM Awareness Sunday calls the Church to celebrate those who have served in short-term missions and the work of UMVIM throughout the world. If the annual conference so directs, an offering may be received and used by the annual conference Volunteers in Mission program.” -The Book of Discipline, 2016, ¶ 265.5

What can I do to support UMVIM?
- Invite the Conference Director of UMVIM to speak at your local church during the year.
- Contact the Conference Director of UMVIM about grants available to your volunteers/projects.
- Have volunteers attend a UMVIM training.
- Have a Sunday celebrating the UMVIM volunteers in your congregation.
- Create a display in your church reflecting your UMVIM efforts, send photos to Conference Director, too!
- Pray for UMVIM volunteers.
- Give to the Susquehanna Conference VIM Advance #4055 or VIM Materials Advance #7010.

Where do I find out more on UMVIM?
Visit our website at susmb.org
Contact Michelle Schwartzman, Susquehanna Conference Director of Volunteers in Mission
vim@susumc.org
717-766-7441 ext. 3105

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