Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.
**The people of The United Methodist Church™**

**UNITED METHODISTS** speak many languages and live in many countries with many different cultures, ethnic traditions, national histories and understandings of Christian faith and practice.

**WE ARE** people dedicated to a life of participation, personal responsibility, generosity, sacrifice and self-restraint, responding to the call of Jesus Christ.

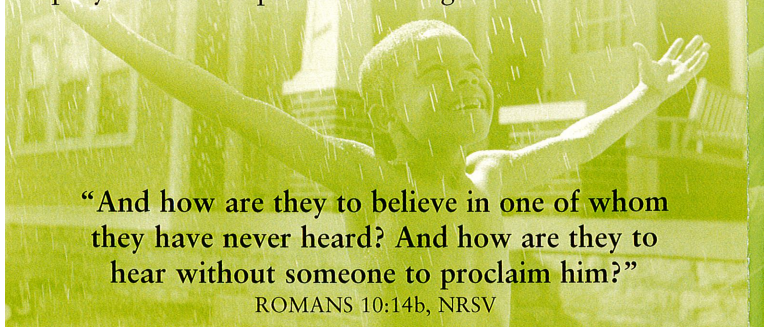
**WE ARE** a covenant community, concerned about God's children everywhere. In life's clouds of doubt and division, we see the sunlight of God's purpose bringing healing, harmony and hope.

**WE LOVE** worship, study of God's Word, music, potluck dinners and a sense of community, a sense of belonging.

**WE WELCOME** people of faith into our churches, and especially people who are searching for answers to life's tough questions, because we know what it's like to feel alone, unsure…to need a welcoming place with open hearts, open minds, open doors.

**WE ROLL** up our sleeves and say, "Let's get to work," as we answer the call of making disciples for Jesus Christ.

**WE LIVE** the promise we made the day we joined The United Methodist Church…the promise of our prayers and our presence…our gifts and our service.



**"And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him?"**
ROMANS 10:14b, NRSV

Won't you join us in this ministry to bring people to Jesus Christ?

To order copies of this brochure or other helpful resources, call 1-888-346-3862.

Or order on the web:
www.umcgiving.org

For more information about The United Methodist Church, go to www.umc.org

Or call InfoServ 1 (800) 251-8140
or email InfoServ at infoserv@umcom.

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# THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHU

## Who we are

# A COVENANT PEOPLE...DEDICATED TO GOD'S WO

## Igniting Ministry

When you join a United Methodist congregation, you become a member of the United Methodist connection—a covenant community dedicated to making disciples for Jesus Christ. Members make a solemn promise to God and the congregation to uphold the church with their prayers and their presence, their gifts and their service.

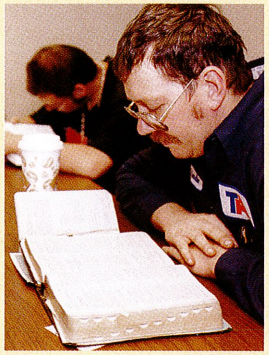
## A diverse community

All persons are welcome in The United Methodist Church—with open hearts, open minds and open doors. Celebrating a diversity of people, ideas and cultures, we are enriched by our history.

The United Methodist Church was formed with the merger of the Methodist Church and the Evangelical United Brethren Church in 1968. United Methodists trace their spiritual heritage back to 18th-century evangelical leaders John and Charles Wesley, Jacob Albright and Philip William Otterbein.

Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.
**The people of The United Methodist Church™**

## A NEW KIND OF CHURCH, IN A NEW KIND OF COUNTRY

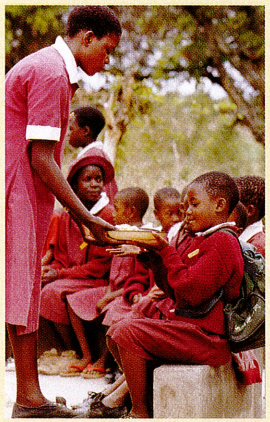


## Biblical in faith

United Methodists trust free inquiry into matters of Christian doctrine. Our faith is guided by Scripture, tradition, experience and reason. Of paramount importance is Scripture. For United Methodists, the Bible is the record of God's people living out God's promises.

## Evangelical, connectional

Today in the 21st Century, The United Methodist Church continues—and expands—its robust evangelical heritage. Each congregation is a vigorous center of biblical study and evangelical outreach. And each congregation is linked in a covenant community of faith across the connected congregations.



## Sharing God's gifts

United Methodists have believed, from the beginning, that each of us is called to participate in the outreaching ministry of Jesus Christ. John Wesley and our evangelical forbearers saw our work in the simplest, plainest terms: Do all the good you can, in all the places you can, to all the people you can.

## Sharing God's love

We support worldwide ecumenical and edu ministries. For generations United Method cooperated with other churches to spread t gospel, care for those in need, alleviate inju foster peace around the world. We reach b our own churches and communities to sha love with people of many faiths.

## Socially concerned, personally in

For more than 200 years, The United Method Church and its predecessors have worked to h poor, the sick, the orphaned, the aging, the op and the imprisoned. Our church participates i struggles of women, people with physical and challenges, and racial and ethnic minority pers ing them to attain equity and equality in the c in society through responsible social action.

United Methodism took form as an organized church as a new republic took form in America. The 1700s was a century of remarkable promise dom-loving people everywhere. The church's structures parallel those of an entirely new kind of government—for the people, by the people. Chur ership—across the connection—is shared by legislative, executive and judicial branches. The highest legislative body—the only unit that can s the church—is the General Conference, an assembly that meets every four years to chart the future missions and ministries of the church. It is co of delegates—equal numbers of laity and clergy—elected by annual conferences throughout the United States and around the world. Annual con respond to the missional needs of their regions by developing programs and ministries that carry out the work of Christ.