How to support the Love Offering

Give to the cash offering through your church, and mark “Love Offering” on your check memo and/or giving envelope. Churches should bring a single check representing their Love Offering to the 2019 Annual Conference Session, taking place June 18-20 in St. Cloud.

The cards with names will be collected and brought to St. Cloud for Annual Conference, where they will be offered to God along with the cards from every United Methodist church across Minnesota.

OFFERING PRAYERS

All Minnesota United Methodists are invited to offer to God the name of one acquaintance, who does not know Christ, for whom they are committed to “dare to reach” through their prayers and their witness of compassion, love, and hope. Your church will provide small cards for you to write the name of the person you commit to praying for.

Each year, churches in the Minnesota Annual Conference take a Love Offering for missions. The offering is brought to annual conference session—a gathering of United Methodist clergy and laity from across the state.

Donations to the 2018 Love Offering totaled $106,000. They went to Puerto Rico Hurricane Recovery Trips (65 percent), Park Avenue UMC Children’s Defense Fund Freedom Schools Program (20 percent), and NUMAS Haus (15 percent).

The theme of the 2019 Annual Conference session—taking place June 18-20 in St. Cloud—is “Dare to Reach—Love Boldly!” This year’s Love Offering will include two parts—a financial offering and an offering of names.

The funds from this year’s financial offering will go to three projects: Lao Samphan Methodist Church, Volunteer Lawyers Network, and Volunteers in Mission Scholarships. The second part of the Love Offering will be an opportunity to offer our prayers, witness, and relationships to God in service to the Great Commission.
Lao Samphan Methodist Church

The United Methodist Church’s presence in Laos is growing through the Lao Samphan Methodist Church (“Samphan” means “united”). Rev. Daniel Yang, a Minnesota elder now serving as a United Methodist missionary in Laos, oversees new church development, training and equipping leaders, and pastoral support. Yang and other leaders are working to establish a Methodist presence in 17 provinces in Laos, develop committed church members and leaders, build relationships with national and local government, and build a resource training center and dormitory. They’re also creating programs to support the socio-economic development of both church members and communities in Laos, one of the poorest countries in the world. Love Offering funds will be used to further these efforts.

Volunteer Lawyers Network

Established in 1966, Volunteer Lawyers Network helps thousands of people each year by providing civil legal services to people living in poverty. It connects immigrants, single parents, the working poor, prior offenders, the LGBTQ community, and others with top lawyers in the state, who donate their time to support equal access to justice. All services are provided at no cost to clients, 7,300 of whom were served in fiscal year 2018. Love Offering funds will go toward the Immigrant Legal Services program, through which volunteer lawyers and staff partner with community organizations—including Northfield UMC—to provide culturally competent services to immigrant and refugee neighbors.

Volunteers in Mission Scholarships

Mission trips change the lives of participants by giving them an opportunity to grow in faith and gain a new perspective of the world. Through the United Methodist Church’s Volunteers in Mission program, teams spend up to two weeks working on mission projects domestically or abroad. Most teams from Minnesota are engaged in hands-on projects that build infrastructure to ensure that nutritional, medical, and educational programs in developing countries become sustainable and locally run. Team members pay their own way, and the Love Offering helps to offset the cost for first-time participants.