

## R#2024-5 L.C. 21 **Commitment to the People of Haiti**

### **Motion:**

Be it resolved that the Michigan Conference of The United Methodist Church enters into the following commitment, as described below, with the people of Haiti through our Haitian partners.

In thankful recognition and faithful allegiance to the call of the Holy Spirit who equips and enables the church community to be in ministry and mission together, we resolve to join in partnerships that demonstrate Christ's love to the communities and people of Haiti and empower them to improve their lives and thrive. We respond in faith and love reaching beyond our geographic boundaries in mutual servanthood by joining together our gifts and graces in a shared vision of ministry with Haitian ministry partners.

We commit to work with these Haitian partners through our learning, giving, and actions by:

1. Praying for each other on a regular and recurring basis.
2. Engaging in efforts to learn about each other, including our history and cultures, our blessings and challenges, our passions and needs, and our faith and life.
3. Engaging in and promoting opportunities for members of the Michigan Conference of The United Methodist Church to give of their prayers, presence, gifts, service, witness, and resources to Haitian ministry partners.
4. Engaging in actions that demonstrate Christ's love and empower the people of Haiti to improve their lives and thrive.
5. Advocating for the people of Haiti for peace, justice, hope, redemption, and transformation
6. Cooperating and coordinating with other agencies, organizations, and projects that share these and similar goals, especially UMCOR, UMVIM, the General Board of Global Ministries, and other conferences and churches to be determined using the process established by the Haiti Taskforce.

### **Rationale:**

This Commitment was developed by the Haiti Task Force with respect for the long history of partnership that Michigan United Methodists have with Haiti. While our partnership has historically been directly with the Methodist Church of Haiti (EMH), we and other United Methodist groups have experienced setbacks and issues of accountability in relations with EMH. The Haiti Task Force sees this new Commitment to the People of Haiti as a new way forward in our ministry partnerships with Haiti that will empower Michigan United Methodists to make a difference in Haiti by broadening our avenues to do so.

Our Initial Process for Identifying and Recommending Potential Partners

The Haiti Task Force resolves to evaluate potential partners using the following criteria:

Ministry partners and/or projects:

1. will be Christ-centered.

2. will engage in “ministry with” as opposed to “ministry to.”
3. will engage in programs that care for the spiritual, mental, emotional, and physical well-being of all involved.
4. will seek to empower participants and communities.
5. will value the inherent dignity of all participants and will benefit the community as a whole.
6. will demonstrate responsible accounting of all funds received.
7. may be current Advance projects, part of an Advance project, or be willing to become Advance projects, as determined by the Haiti Task Force.

Once the Haiti Task Force has established that a potential partner has met these criteria, that partner will be recommended for inclusion in the EngageMI listing.

The Haiti Task Force will report annually to the Conference Board of Global Ministries and the Conference Council on Finance and Administration regarding these partners; recommend accountability procedures with our Haitian partners who are not yet included in the Advance; evaluate the projects; and establish effective and regular communication with those partners.

Submitted by:

Haiti Task Force  
Rev. Tiffany Newsom, Co-Chair  
Deaconess Valerie Mossman-Celestin, Co-chair  
and others.

This resolution was passed in Legislative Committee: Yes—170 (95%) and No—9. Conference members then adopted it on May 30, 2024 as one of the items placed on the Consent Calendar.