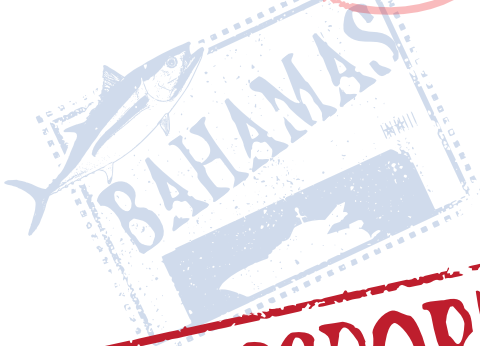


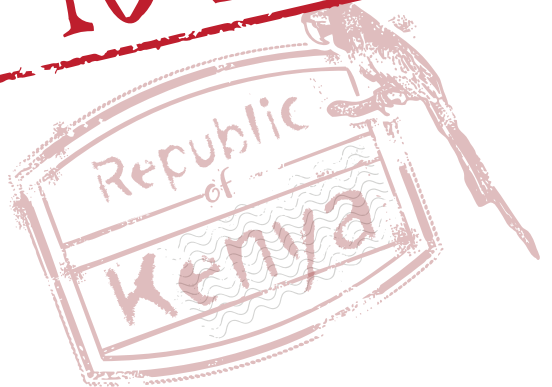
2016-2017



Bridges



A PASSPORT TO BRIDGES



Action Ministries
Leading people out of poverty



North GA
Conference
of the United
Methodist
Church

WHY BRIDGES ?



Each United Methodist congregation in North Georgia needs a mission portfolio which helps every church member stretch their faith in loving God and loving their neighbor as they do themselves. As we follow Christ we understand our neighbor to be defined as someone nearby in our community AND to the "ends of the earth." We should certainly have United Methodist partnerships as a way of knowing the larger Church and maximizing our efforts. What better way to know each other than to work together in God's mission?!

Bridges offer specific opportunities for us to join in missions with many North Georgia churches with established partnerships within the United Methodist family. Note that not every UMC possibility is represented. Nor is every potential mission partnership a Bridge. These Bridges are established by the North Georgia conference and offer a way to gather many of our congregations to work together in prayer, going and receiving, and giving and sharing together. Further, this may have the greatest impact for our congregations as we learn to follow Christ in other communities, and realize the best practices in mission which we can implement in our home congregation and community.

These mission partnerships are strategically powerful as they multiply giving by making use of church, conference, UMC Global Ministries, and the receiving Bridge partner. As many churches combine their energy and focus you can see the impact which is well beyond the typical approach in mission. You will find in this "passport" a brief overview of the variety of Bridge partnerships. As you consider your church mission portfolio be sure to have strong UMC connections and to join in with North Georgia connectional mission efforts. Whether you need to add an entry level or advanced partnership Bridges has something to offer your congregation!



Bridges is really about the mission of God and the impact in our lives, congregations, and communities. We have MUCH to learn from each other, and from sister Methodist conferences around the world. We also have much to learn about this better next chapter of mission where we partner well together.

Our approach in this is to employ some "best practices" in mission including:

- being in the mission of God as a spiritual exercise and as a form of discipleship
- using 50/50 partnership model with aim of partnering well to encourage a self-sufficient, indigenous Methodist movement
- focusing on relationships with Bridge partner, not funding, and ongoing Church experience rather than trip mentality
- redefining of mission for ourselves and our churches so that every member is engaged, has a place, and follows Christ in practical service
- using Bridge approach of study and pray, go and receive, share and give as the best way of Methodist Christian mission.



BRIDGES CONNECTING THE WORLD



1 Action Ministries

Action Ministries offers us a link to ministry across our own local communities. Areas of focus: Hunger, Housing and Education.

Contacts: **Rev. John Moeller** at jmoeller@actionministries.net
Shakura Conoly for hunger ministries at sconoly@actionministries.net
Virginia Spencer for education ministries at vspencer@actionministries.net
Marvin Nesbitt Jr. for housing ministry at mnesbitt@actionministries.net
Erin Barger for Regional Programs at ebarger@actionministries.net

2 Bahamas

Youth members from North Georgia have been working with the Bahamas Methodist Habitat for several years. We are expanding this bridge to new people, new churches and more mission groups of all ages as we work with the Bahamas Conference of the Methodist Church and need adult teams.

Contacts: **Rev. Richard Winn** at richard.winn@ngumc.net
Rev. Stephen Soulen at stephen.soulen@ngumc.net
Rev. Emily Bagwell at emily.bagwell@ngumc.net

3 El Salvador

Working directly with the 12 local churches of the young conference, we have been inspired by the ministry of the El Salvador churches despite the challenges of poverty and gangs. Partners needed in: Support of the School, Purchasing Property, Supporting Pastoral Salaries and the Methodist Medical Clinic.

Contacts: **Rev. Carol Cook** at carol.cook@ngumc.net
Rev. Juan Quintanilla at juan.quintanilla@ngumc.net
Rev. Amanda Lane at amanda.lane@ngumc.net

4 Kenya

The East Africa Conference is enormous by USA standards, incorporating Burundi, Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, Ethiopia, and South Sudan. The complexities of this conference are vast. The current focus is on the Kenya United Methodist Conference and Start With One Kenya.

Contacts: **Rev. Bernice Kirkland** at bernice.kirkland@ngumc.net
Rev. Tonya Lawrence at tonya.lawrence@ngumc.net

5 Middle East - developing

In this new bridge to the Middle East, the North Georgia Conference seeks to reach out to the people of the Holy Land through mission partnerships with Hope School, Methodist Liaison Office, and other partners in this developing Bridge.

Contacts: **Rev. Scott Parrish** at scott.parrish@ngumc.net
Rev. Allen Stewart at allen.stewart@ngumc.net

6 Portugal

The Methodist churches here are a minority group with ministry in the Lisbon and Porto regions as they reach out in witness to their secular context. Areas of focus: renewal of Methodism in Portugal through leadership development and encouragement, alleviating poverty through social ministry, partnering with existing Methodist churches.

Contacts: **Rev. Dana Everhart** at dana.everhart@ngumc.net
Rev. Joseph McBrayer at joseph.mcbrayer@ngumc.net

7 Russia

The NGUMC partnership with Moscow area churches and the Moscow Theological Seminary of the UMC provides a vital partnership making possible greater impact of the church in Russia and throughout Eurasia. This investment goes where we may never go. Join Candler Seminary and NGUMC churches on this Bridge. Partners are needed in these efforts as the challenges are many and the time is now.

Contact: **Rev. Doug Thrasher** at doug.thrasher@ngumc.net

8 The Philippines

This Bridge offers opportunity to witness a vibrant church despite the extreme poverty faced by many people of the Philippines. Areas of focus: medical and dental mission teams, establishing campus ministries on University campuses in Manila and continuing education for leadership.

Contacts: **Rev. Kenny Ott** at kenny.ott@ngumc.net

9 World Methodist Evangelism

World Methodist Evangelism seeks to enable the "People called Methodist" to "spread throughout the earth abroad the honors of Jesus' name." Areas of focus: to see the Methodist Movement vibrant and growing throughout the world, to provide evangelism training, and to develop new churches.

Contact: info@worldmethodist.org

For any of the Bridges you may contact **Rev. Scott Parrish** at scott.parrish@ngumc.net or 678-533-1399 at the North Georgia Conference of The United Methodist Church.

Not every community is alike. Action Ministries mobilizes communities to address the challenges of poverty by focusing on hunger relief, housing and education. The tools we offer meet specific needs in the local community. Programs are designed to be portable and customized to the communities we serve. Through regional locations focused around Athens, Atlanta, Augusta, Gainesville, Covington, Rome, Decatur, and our regional.

WORLD METHODIST EVANGELISM INSTITUTE



Forty-two years ago, World Methodist Evangelism was launched as a missional expression in the World Methodist Council. It is an evangelism ministry of the world Methodist family of 80 million persons in 155 countries. The vision at inception remains the vision today, "To see the Methodist movement alive, vibrant, growing, and yearning to spread the good news of Christ Jesus throughout the whole world through word, deed and sign that the world may know Jesus Christ." The ministry has grown and multiplied over the years and now includes several avenues of opportunity. WMEI is a key ally in our NGUMC international Bridge partnerships and beyond as they teach and empower church leaders- clergy and laity- in regions throughout the world. WMEI offers training, connecting, and providing opportunities for worldwide Methodist and Wesleyan clergy and lay leaders in evangelism ministries.

STUDY AND PRAY

Learn more about the global development and growth of the Methodist movement and the specific work of World Methodist Evangelism at www.worldmethodist.org. Find more details on the World Methodist Evangelism Institute at www.wmei.ws. WMEI may also offer training or a speaker in your church or district.

CONTACTS

Dr. Winston Worrell, winston.worrell@ngumc.net



ACTION MINISTRIES

STUDY and PRAY

Learn more about poverty in your own community, the resources available, and how to reach out in holistic ministry as part of a strong team of church and community.

Learn more at www.actionministries.net.

SERVE

Through locations in Athens, Atlanta, Augusta, Gainesville, Newton County and Rome, and through Breakthru House, a residential addiction facility for homeless women in Decatur, and our regional housing programs and hunger initiatives Smart Lunch, Smart Kid and Feed the Hungry, Action Ministries exists to lead people out of poverty. Our hunger relief, housing and education programs offer many opportunities to engage.

GIVE

With an extensive volunteer base, local expertise and 50 years of experience helping neighbors in need, Action Ministries has a unique ability to make your dollar go further in your community.

CONTACTS

Rev. John Moeller, jmoeller@actionministries.net



Action Ministries
Leading people out of poverty

**RAISE
the
ROOF**

BAHAMAS BRIDGE



This Bridge includes the Bahamas Conference of the Methodist Church (BCMC) and their outreach arm called Bahamas Methodist Habitat (BMH). BMH is a great partner for youth, college students, and adults of all ages with focus on construction and children's ministry. BMH has focus on Disaster Management and Sub-standard Housing Repair. Through their local and international volunteer network, they improve the living conditions of families in need. High school youth, college and adult teams are welcome to serve throughout the year. Early Response Teams are encouraged to be 'on-call' during hurricane season. Learn about BMH at <http://www.methodisthabitat.org>.

This Methodist conference is made up of 36 churches scattered throughout the islands. They offer a variety of opportunities to be in partnership with the churches, children's homes, and community outreach. This is a great entry level opportunity! Qualified pastors are desperately needed primarily on the islands of Eleuthera, Cat, Inagua, Andros, and Grand Bahama for 1-3 year appointments. Learn more at www.bahamasmethodist.org.



GIVE

Your funding could help with construction, social ministry, sending teams, training clergy, or similar support of BCMC or BMH. In addition to being popular with youth and college groups we do have Griffin and Augusta districts active on this Bridge.

Contact

Rev. Richard Winn, richard.winn@ngumc.net
Rev. Stephen Soulen, stephen.soulen@ngumc.net
Rev. Emily Bagwell, emily.bagwell@ngumc.net



EAST AFRICA BRIDGE



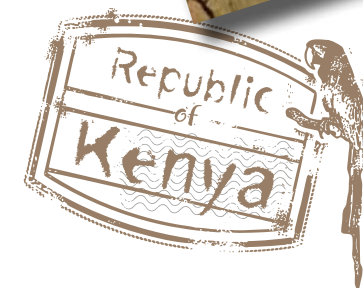
The East Africa Annual Conference (EEAC) encompasses Burundi, Kenya, Uganda, Ethiopia, and South Sudan. The complexities of this partnership are as vast as the geography and people groups in these diverse countries. Further, due to serious accounting irregularities, which have never been satisfactorily addressed by EEAC, all funding into this conference has been suspended since 2012. This all combines to focus this particular Bridge partnership more in a learning context as we seek to encourage and support without funding. This missional approach in itself is a useful exploration to broaden beyond our American "fix it" mentality as we go deeper into God's mission with a priority on spiritual experience and building relationships in the global Church.

In January 2017 we expect to have a team in Kenya learning about that context with a special focus on ZOE ministries. ZOE originally started in 2004 as a relief ministry in Zimbabwe. Since then, ZOE has moved into other countries in the region as an outreach to orphans and vulnerable children in a group-based three-year empowerment program that provides the resources and skills children need to overcome poverty. Please be in study, prayer, and consider giving or going as part of this ministry.



Contact

Rev. Bernice Kirkland, bernice.kirkland@ngumc.net
Rev. Tonya Lawrence, tonya.lawrence@ngumc.net



EL SALVADOR BRIDGE



Nestled among the hills and valleys of this pretty country called El Salvador are 13 Methodist Churches with about 1,000 members, half of which are children. El Salvador has suffered from a tremendous resource drain caused by the country's civil war (1980-1992), natural disasters, and a lack of economic development. Thus, outside partners are vital to the development of this autonomous Methodist church.

Partners are needed in: Support of the School, Purchasing Property, Supporting Pastoral Salaries and the Methodist Medical Clinic. \$45 per month would sponsor a child in the school. \$300 per month would support a pastor. A \$10,000 North Georgia gift, or combination of funds to meet that target, would purchase property which would allow an existing church to be placed in a visible location outside neighborhood control of one gang. Such gifts, by a person, class, churches, or district, would have profound impact upon the ministries in El Salvador.

Teams can be received for construction, medical clinics, education or children's ministry, feeding ministries or a combination of these options in their churches ministries.



Contact

Rev. Carol Cook at carol.cook@ngumc.net. The LaGrange District has done a great job of joining together as a district in partnership on this Bridge. We also have a number of

NGA Churches and LaGrange College involved in this partnership.



PHILIPPINES BRIDGE



The United States of America and the Philippines have had a close relationship with one another for over a century. Yet, the Manila Episcopal Area of the Philippines Central Conference (MEA) did not have a relationship with any Annual Conference in the United States. In January of 2012, Bishop Watson led a small group from North Georgia to Manila to meet with Bishop Arichea, the pastors and the deaconesses of the MEA to prayerfully explore how God could bind us together in ministry and mission.



United Methodism is a dynamic movement in this country despite the many challenges. LaGrange College "J-term" classes, and our NGUMC teams, have found this to be an exciting place of partnership with Bishop Rudy Juan and the congregations and ministries of the Manila area. This

vital partnership produces big results with little funding! The United Methodists there are doing dynamic ministry with significant results. See for yourself ministries with the poor and vulnerable, and be transformed for ministry in your own community.

Contact

Rev. Kenny Ott at kenny.ott@ngumc.net



PORTUGAL BRIDGE

The Methodist church in Portugal is 16 congregations in a region of the world where they are a minority movement. The history of the Methodist church in Portugal is quite long and includes a former connection to the British Methodist Church. Today they are an independent Methodist church seeking a way forward in a complex time.

Why Portugal for a mission partner?! It is not a place of poverty, like a developing country, though they do have serious economic challenges and high unemployment. It has over 2000 years of Christianity as Roman rule brought roads, peace, and religion. Yet, as is true with much of western Europe, as well as many places in the United States, the country is also very secular despite a cultural religious orientation.

In such a context the Methodist churches need encouragement and support from the larger Church. Clergy and laity training, church development, social ministries, young adult ministries, or similar outreach and mission partnership would all be partnership possibilities. Many of the congregations are in the northern part of the country around Porto though Lisbon also has some Methodist ministry. With many Portuguese speaking Angolan immigrants the Methodist congregations have added vibrant ministries to an African population with United Methodist background.



Contact

Rev. Dana Everhart at
dana.everhart@ngumc.net or

Rev. Joseph McBrayer at
joseph.mcbrayer@ngumc.net.



RUSSIA BRIDGE

The Russia UMC faces a number of hurdles as they continue establishing a Protestant presence in a predominately Orthodox culture. A Protestant church can seem rather foreign to the majority of Russians.

Moscow is an urban city of over 13 million and the capital city for a country spanning 11 time zones. Moscow is the door to Russia, and Russia is the door to all Eurasia. There are 185 ethnic groups in Russia alone. The efforts of the United Methodists in Moscow are a reflection of the opportunities, challenges, and importance of the work of may have far reaching consequences. These realities highlight the focus of the partnership as we encourage and support the Moscow Theological Seminary of the United Methodist Church and as we partner with the churches of the North and South Districts of Moscow.

Current priorities for this partnership include:

- Moscow Theological Seminary of The United Methodist Church:
 - 1) Scholarship Support (\$5,000 per student per year).
 - 2) Professor Chair Endowment (working toward \$1,500,000 by 2018).
 - 3) Establishing English as a Second Language School out of the Moscow Seminary as an outreach project.
- Moscow Pastors:
 - 1) Annual seminars for pastors held prior to their annual conference.
 - 2) Support for developing a church
 - 3) Assistance with church building loan.

Contact

Rev. Doug Thrasher, doug.thrasher@ngumc.net.



THE NEXT STEP



Help your church take the next step of faith in following Christ in connectional mission with other North Georgia churches:

Study and Pray

Learn more about Methodist Christians in other contexts and pray for the ministry of the Church in that place.

Go and Receive

Practice hospitality by getting to know our Bridge partners or even receiving a team in your church and community. Or perhaps you can send a team from your church or join a district or conference team to experience Methodist ministry in another country. Learn about dynamic ministries in other places and join in by partnering well.

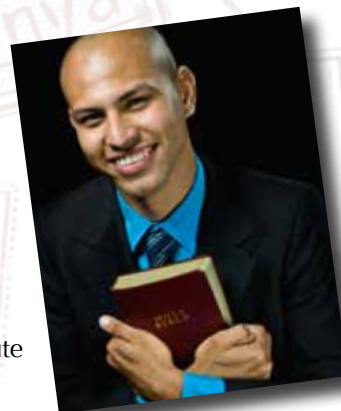
Share and Give

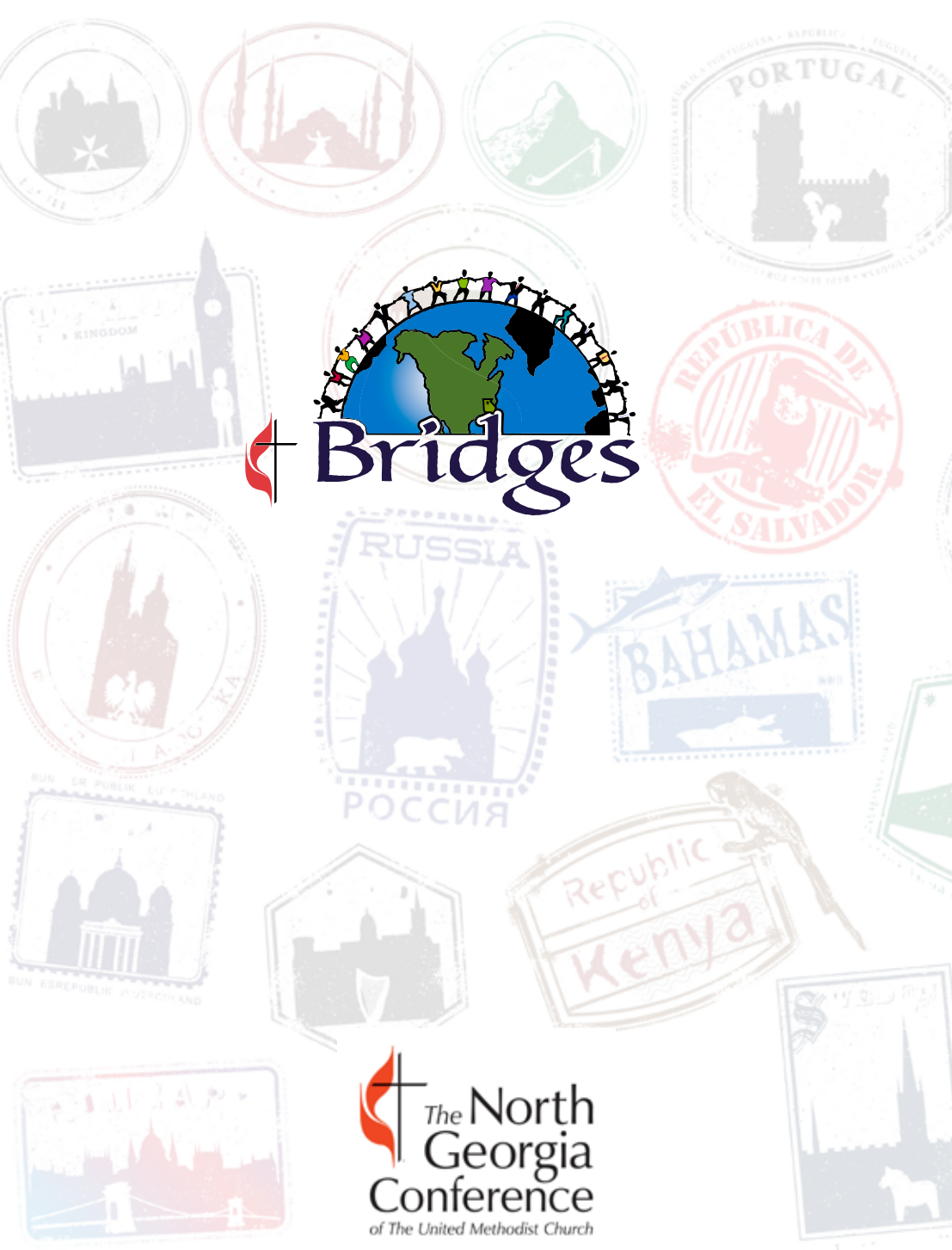
To make a donation toward the Bridges initiative general fund or to a particular Bridge, you may donate through your local church and designate the gift with the information below or mail a check made out to North Georgia Conference to:

Conference Treasurer's Office
PO Box 102417
Atlanta, GA 30368-2417

Designate gifts using the fund numbers below:

- 1078 Bridges - Action Ministries
- 1068 Bridges - Philippines
- 1070 Bridges - Bahamas
- 1065 Bridges - Portugal
- 1060 Bridges - El Salvador
- 1072 Bridges - Russia/Moscow
- 1045 Bridges - General
- 1050 Bridges - East Africa
- 1055 Bridges - Israel
- 1077 Bridges - World Methodist Evangelism Institute





North Georgia Conference of the United Methodist Church
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