

BUMC/ACPK District Mission 2012 to Costa Rica



February 2, 2012

ACPK District Family: Clergy, Lay Leaders, Evangelism, Mission, and Outreach Ministry Chairpersons

WE HAVE A MISSION...

Our churches have a mission and connection is key to understanding our mission. According to Matthew's Gospel, our risen Christ made it very clear that the church exists to *"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you..."* (Matt 28:19-20, NIV). Based on this "Great Commission," our United Methodist Church has stated its purpose: *"The mission of the Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Local churches provide the most significant arena through which disciple-making occurs"* (From *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church—2008*, p. 87). So the mission of all of our ACPK District congregations is to make disciples of Jesus Christ. In light of our recent call to action to focus our attention on developing vital congregations, we are reminded that disciple-making and world transformation occurs through vital congregations. Vital congregations, among other things, are those that have disciples who engage in mission and outreach, who give to mission, but most importantly, are led by the Holy Spirit in mission and ministry. What better way to be led by the Holy Spirit than to connect, partner, and engage in mission and ministry together as the ACPK District family to the uttermost parts of the earth!

In prayer and with God's guidance, Bethel UMC-Atlanta is hosting the first of its kind in the Atlanta-College Park District... **A District-wide foreign mission trip!** We praise God for his faithfulness to equip and prepare us for mission service and discipleship-making beyond our Judea and Samaria. Furthermore, we are very excited that our District Superintendent, Rev. Coy Hinton, has asked that Bethel serve as the host church for this connecting and partnering experience within our ACPK District.

Preparations are underway for travel to Costa Rica, **departing Saturday, July 28th** and **returning Saturday, August 4th**. This mission will serve the *Rice and Beans Ministry* in spiritual, medical, dental, and construction capacities in indigenous Indian communities of El Peje and Ujarras, Costa Rica. The spiritual and evangelism aspect of the mission will involve door-to-door delivery of five-pound food bags and prayer for families, and participation in worship and children's ministry. This mission project is categorized as a **"Level 1" Mission**. **"Level 1"** means it will be a great training mission for first-timers and youth*, with relatively

comfortable conditions (beds, toilets, screened facilities, bus transportation etc.). We will be traveling under the auspices of **United Methodist Volunteers in Mission (UMVIM)**. This mission is an eye-opening experience that we believe challenges the way we think about joining God in His work of making disciples of Jesus Christ, and how we perceive our quality of life in America.

Who can go? Anyone with a heart for God, a passion for His work, in good physical and mental health, required immunizations, and a valid passport. ***(NOTE: Interested youth must be at least age 17 and submit a 500-word (max) essay responding to: “Why do you wish to participate in this mission?” Tell about yourself, including local church involvement, hobbies, and any other information that might be useful during this mission. There are five available youth slots).**

How much does the trip cost? \$1700 with a \$300 deposit (due March 10th/non-refundable after May 12th). Trip cost includes air fare, housing, in-country food and transportation.

How do I get more information? All interested persons are invited to BUMC/ACPK District Mission Information/Orientation Saturday, February 25th, 10:00 a.m. at Bethel UMC, 1215 New Hope Road SW, Atlanta GA 30331 (404-699-0468), Rev. Lee Pendleton, Senior Pastor.

For questions prior to Orientation, please contact:

- Dr. Curtis Dilworth, Team Leader (770-713-8880)
- Vivian Yarbrough, ACPK UMVIM/Mission Coordinator (404-786-2498)
- Church Office (404-699-0468)

Perhaps your interest at this time is not to partner with Bethel in this mission experience. If this is so, yet you would like to know how to **form your own local church mission team for domestic (local) or foreign (international) service**, please **contact Vivian Yarbrough** to schedule a personal information session at your church with your evangelism, outreach, or mission ministry.

In Prayer,

Rev. Dr. Coy Hinton
ACPK District Superintendent

Vivian Yarbrough
ACPK District UMVIM/Mission Coordinator

**See you February 25th
Promptly at 10:00 a.m.!**