

accountability and quick delivery of pastors' salary funds. Funds that covenant churches may be able to send to their partner churches in SL are transferred through the Susquehanna Conference office.

As a member of the SLI, churches have the opportunity to partner with a UM church in Sierra Leone. As this relationship grows each congregation covenants to pray for and correspond with each other, allowing a personal bond to form between the two churches.

Each covenant church is encouraged to have a liaison person to facilitate the Initiative, send a volunteer to Sierra Leone, and support needs identified by correspondence with their SL partner church.

VIM-guided tours from the Susquehanna Conference visit Sierra Leone one to more times each year. Join a team and visit accessible churches to see the need in Sierra Leone. Location permitting, visit your partner church. Perhaps this visit will lead to persons from your congregation desiring to go on a work team or to raise funds to help your partner church.

Each year two individuals from Sierra Leone visit the Susquehanna Conference. These visits represent an excellent opportunity for establishing personal knowledge of Sierra Leone by inviting the visitors to your church.

These trips provide the most effective opportunity to send and receive letters from a partner church.

Please pray for the Initiative's work with pastors and congregations in Sierra Leone and prayerfully consider being in mission together with our brother and sister pastors and their congregations to help develop one of the poorest countries in the world.



Susquehanna Conference
the United Methodist Church
303 Mulberry Drive
Mechanicsburg, PA 17050

Pamela Penna
2084 Paxtonville Rd.
Middleburg, PA 17842



Sierra Leone Initiative
Helping pastors be in ministry



Susquehanna Conference
the
United Methodist Church

The Initiative

On September 12, 2006, Bishop Middleton, of the Central Pennsylvania Conference and Bishop Humber of the Sierra Leone Annual Conference, West Africa formally signed the dual conference approved contract beginning the work of the Sierra Leone Initiative. This Initiative represents another stepping stone in the over 100-year relationship that exists between our two countries' churches. We continue to send short-term missionaries, build and remodel churches and parsonages, build and support primary, secondary, technical, and theological schools, build and supply medical clinics, and drill or dig wells for safe drinking water.

The eleven year war devastated the infrastructure and destroyed churches. As a result of this war, congregations find it difficult to support pastors and their families. Although progress exists, the Ebola outbreak during 2014 and 2015 caused a setback.

As part of the Susquehanna Conference the Sierra Leone Initiative [SLI] provides a unique opportunity for Susquehanna Conference churches to keep pastors in full-time ministry in Sierra Leone.

When a church chooses to become part of the SLI, the congregation signs a covenant agreement to provide the financial support necessary for pastors to stay in full time ministry to make disciples for Jesus Christ.

The covenant amount a church agrees to provide annually can be \$1,200, \$1,500 or \$1,800 with a commitment term of 5 or 10 years. Most of the amount supplies the pastoral support with \$200 from each covenant used to offset the disbursement of these funds and help pay for the delegates to travel once a year to the respective countries. SLI partners with the General Board of Global Ministries to ensure full



Sierra Leone Initiative Covenant Commitment Card



Conference Name: Susquehanna Conference District: _____
Church's Name: _____
Church Address: _____
Pastor's Name: _____ Church Telephone: _____
Church email: _____
Mission/Sierra Leone Contact: _____ Contact's Telephone: _____
Contact's Address: _____
Contact's email: _____ (If contact person changes, notify SLI chairperson)
Covenant Start Date _____

___ Tier One: \$1,200/year

___ Tier Two: \$1,500/year

___ Tier Three: \$1,800/year

Commitment Term:

___ 5 years ___ 10 years

Begin relationship with a partner church:

___ Yes

___ No

COVENANT SUPPORT FOR SIERRA LEONE

ADVANCE CODE #8030

Give your gifts to your church treasurer, who will send them on the remittance form to the conference treasurer.

Mail completed Acceptance agreement to:

Pamela Perna
2084 Paxtonville Rd., Middleburg, PA 17842
pam04sierra@gmail.com
570-837-9062