

# The United Methodist Church

## Indiana Area

Indiana Conference

November 2010

Dear Hoosier United Methodists,

In my years with you as your bishop, I have realized your generosity when presented with a need to help others. Your generosity leads our jurisdiction in mission giving. I thank you for helping others in need, especially in helping children's ministries across Indiana and around the world with your faithful support to the Bishop's Christmas Offering. I invite you and your congregation to join me in this year's special Indiana Conference Bishop's Christmas Offering for Children.

In preparing for this offering, first, please pray for all the children of the world. With this recession here in the United States and a global economic downturn, children have been directly affected. Malaria across Africa, the continuing war in Afghanistan, natural disasters in Haiti, and civil unrest in many countries are extreme examples of children living in trying situations. Pray, too, for children here in Indiana who have a difficult time because of unemployed parents and an uncertainty about their future. As we pray, God's spirit goes before us and hears our requests on behalf of all the world's children.

Second, please match your prayers with action, by receiving the Indiana Conference Bishop's Christmas Offering for Children this Advent and Christmas season in your congregation. Earlier this year, the Christmas offering committee distributed \$100,000 from the 2009 Christmas offering to children's ministries in the form of Indiana Conference camping scholarships; grants to children caught in natural disasters in Haiti, Pakistan and Louisiana; grants to our conference-related homes for children and youth, and grants to children's ministries across the United States and around the world.

Christmas offering funds received this year will be allocated by percentages. The offering will be divided to help meet the needs of these children's ministries.

- Indiana Conference Camping program will receive 20 percent to go to first-time campers and children in need;
- Indiana United Methodist-related children and youth homes will receive 30 percent;
- Indiana Conference-related Operation Classroom will receive 10 percent;
- Local outreach projects will receive 20 percent;
- Bishop's funds for emergency children's projects will receive 10 percent;
- United Methodist Advance Projects (global and national) will receive 10 percent.

Programs supported by this offering are selected by the Conference Special Offering Committee. These ministries are among those endorsed by the United Methodist General Board of Global Ministries or on the Conference Advance Specials list.

As your congregation celebrates Advent and Christmas, please include in those celebrations the Indiana Conference Bishop's Christmas Offering for Children. On behalf of the children in whose lives this offering will make a difference, I thank you.

Grace and peace,



Bishop Michael J. Coyner

*Making a difference in Indiana and around the world*

Please send your Bishop's Christmas Offering for Children, payable to Indiana Conference UMC and mail to INUMC, Dept. 6089, Carol Stream, IL 60122-6089. Mark the memo: Christmas Offering. Thank you.



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