



World Communion Sunday

World Communion Sunday is one of six churchwide Special Sundays with offerings in The United Methodist Church. World Communion Sunday calls the Church to reach out to all people and model diversity among God's children. The special offering provides for three scholarships that are administered by the General Council on Finance and Administration. These scholarships include the World Communion Scholarship, the Ethnic Scholarship Program, and the Ethnic In-Service Training Program.

World Communion Sunday recognizes three truths. First, the reality of the global church. The Church is not limited to the United States. The Church is in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Turkey. The Church is in Russia, China, Bangladesh. The Church is Egypt, Liberia, the Congo, South Africa. The Church is in Germany, Switzerland, France. The Church is global. And in the midst of that global reality, Jesus ties us together.

Second, the reality that around the globe, countless gifted and qualified people who are being called by God for a particular vocation are hindered by one thing: financial obstacles. This is especially true for youth and young adults. For ethnic students who will be the first generation in their families to attend college, or for those people of color who haven't historically had access to resources that make higher education possible, the road toward education has often been unwieldy.

Finally, the reality that education is important to United Methodists. United Methodists have been instrumental in establishing schools on every inhabited continent of the world. We have provided financially, we have provided school uniforms, we have sent and paid for teaching staff and supplies. In addition we have established Africa University. This commitment to education is grounded in our understanding that education is required for equitable communities, just communities, and thriving communities.

On World Communion Sunday we ask the question, "what would it look like if the church today imitated Jesus' affirmation of the full dignity and God-given potential of all women and men – especially those who have historically been assigned to the world's margins?"

