

UMVIM Awareness Sunday Q&A

Quick facts about United Methodist Volunteers in Mission

United Methodist Volunteers in Mission Awareness Sunday

Christian Love in Action

“God’s light shines in every corner of the earth, and God’s mission extends to all creation.”*

What is United Methodist Volunteers in Mission?

United Methodist Volunteers in Mission (UMVIM) is a grassroots movement within The United Methodist Church designed to provide an official channel whereby Christians, both lay and clergy, may offer their skills and talents for Christian service at home and around the world on short-term assignments at their own expense.

UMVIM exists to promote, encourage and enable Christians to exemplify “Christian Love in Action” through short-term mission service locally, nationally and internationally.

How long has UMVIM been in existence?

The UMVIM movement began in 1976 and is organized by jurisdiction. The General Board of Global Ministries networks with the jurisdictional UMVIM offices, which, in turn, coordinate with annual conference offices.

What is the ministry of UMVIM?

UMVIM teams work together to fulfill ongoing missional needs domestically and abroad usually serving for several days to several weeks.

Their work includes construction and renewing of mission facilities, teaching, witnessing, conducting medical clinics, holding Bible study or Bible school for children, and serving in disaster relief efforts around the world.

UMVIM offers teams a wide variety of opportunities to display the love of Christ in the world.

What is UMVIM Awareness Sunday?

The 2016 General Conference approved Volunteers in Mission Awareness Sunday (UMVIM) at its gathering.

“UMVIM Awareness Sunday calls the Church to celebrate those who have served in short-term missions and the work of UMVIM throughout the world. If the annual conference so directs, an offering may be received and used by the annual conference Volunteers in Mission program. (*The Book of Discipline*, 2016, paragraph 265.5)

When is UMVIM Awareness Sunday celebrated?

“Volunteers in Mission (UMVIM) Awareness Sunday shall be observed annually on a date to be determined by the annual conference or local church.

The observance of UMVIM Awareness Sunday shall be under the general supervision of the General Board of Global Ministries Mission Volunteers.” (*The Book of Discipline*, 2016, paragraph 265.5)

What can I do to support UMVIM Awareness Sunday?

- Encourage your local church to celebrate UMVIM Awareness Sunday.
- Ask your pastor or church leader to invite an UMVIM volunteer to share his or her experience with your congregation.
- Request time for a mission moment that lifts up the ministry of UMVIM during worship service.
- Recognize volunteers in your church or your annual conference.
- Create a display with pictures and videos that highlights volunteers.
- Pray that God will use every aspect of UMVIM as an instrument of His grace and mercy. Pray that this ministry portrays Christian Love in Action.**

Where do I find resources to celebrate UMVIM Awareness Sunday?

Visit www.umcmission.org/Volunteer.

How can I learn more about UMVIM Awareness Sunday?

Contact the UMVIM leader in your jurisdiction, your annual conference or the General Board of Global Ministries at www.umcmission.org/Volunteer.

Sources:

*A *Mission Journey: A Handbook for Volunteers 147*, copyright, 2013, General Board of Global Ministries of The United Methodist Church

**adapted from the SEJ/UMVIM

