

# Friends of United Methodist University of Liberia

FUMUL Quarterly Update

Winter 2019

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A ministry of Memorial United Methodist Church of Clovis, CA and our partners throughout the California/Nevada Annual Conference *and beyond!*

## Department of General Education and Ministry

Liberia Annual Conference  
United Methodist Church  
12<sup>th</sup>/13<sup>th</sup> Streets, Sinkor, Monrovia,  
Liberia, West Africa

### The United Methodist School System in Liberia

Even before Liberia was a republic in 1847, the Methodist Church established its first school in Liberia, what is today College of West Africa (10<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> grade). The United Methodist Church continued to build schools and educate children in all 15 counties of Liberia and today, the Liberia Annual Conference operates 56 schools throughout the nation, and a school in Guinea. More than 17,000 students are enrolled in these schools.

In 2018 the two high school senior students with the best performance on the National Exam in Liberia were from the J. J. Roberts United Methodist School in Monrovia. The best performing senior student on the exam in Guinea was from the Diecke United Methodist School. These three students are currently studying in Morocco on government scholarships.

While we are making progress in renovating and building schools after 14 years of civil war, there are still many challenges. West African text books in line with the National Curriculum are now available for purchase, but most of our students cannot afford them. Qualified, competent teachers are needed in all schools to present lessons, answer students' questions, and spark interest in learning. During the current 2018/2019 school year, 5 out of 27 of our United Methodist High Schools have functioning



*Students at Tailor-Ta United Methodist School, Bong County*

science labs. Well-equipped learning environments would provide opportunities for students to engage in science experiments and discovery through reading books and using computer programs.

The five-year strategic plan of the Liberia Annual Conference (2019-2023) identifies the priority areas to improve teaching and learning in the United Methodist School System, including:

- To Equip 15 primary, elementary and secondary schools with text books, e-books, libraries and science laboratories
- To develop culturally relevant and contextually sensitive Christian text books
- To facilitate teacher training
- To employ principals with a minimum of a bachelor's degree in education in all the secondary schools of the church
- To include technical vocational education in secondary schools.

It is our hope that United Methodist Schools will continue to support the government in providing meaningful education for Liberian children while sharing God's love and the message of forgiveness and peace.

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College of West Africa, Monrovia, Liberia



Science lab at Harriette E. Bailey United Methodist School, Margibi County

## What is FUMUL doing "state side"?

Here are the current areas of focus:

### ***It is time to be prepping for the annual funding drive!***

We are hoping that individuals and local congregations are taking seriously plans to participate in the annual fund drive. This year's funds will go toward the top priority listed in the article above: buying text books

Each year we have ONE time in which we ask to receive donations from our partners. (We accept donations anytime! We will only ASK for them once a year.)

For 2019 we would encourage all our partners to make a donation during the month of May. This will give us time to get the funds to Liberia in a timely way for text books to be ordered for the coming year.

### DID YOU KNOW...?

It costs about than \$75 to buy ALL of the texts books needed for a high school student?! Not just one text book – ALL the text books! Can YOU sponsor the books for one student? Can you congregation sponsor a classroom? Could you make a goal to raise \$5000 to sponsor a science lab?

These are all attainable funding goals. Prayerfully consider how YOU can help change a nation – one student at a time!

**Donations can be made** by check to Memorial United Methodist Church (memo line FUMUL)

1726 Pollasky Ave., Clovis, CA 93612  
Or online on our website **mem-umc.org**

## It is time to make plans to host Mator's visit for Annual Conference Session! (ACS)

Dr. Mator Kpangbai, from UM University, Liberia, will be planning to visit our Annual Conference again this June, and will be attending the ACS in Modesto. He is available to visit congregations before and after ACS.

*Would you like to have Mator come talk to your congregation? Can your congregation help offset the expenses of this travel?*

> Airfare is about \$400 each way

> Or, an your congregation help cover his motel room while at ACS?

OR

> Is there someone who could share a room with Mator? (Folks who have sharrd a room with him previous have reported his is nice person and good roommate! ☺ )

> When he is not in Modesto, do you have someone who could house Mator, perhaps in the Bay Area, or in the Sacramento area?

**We would LOVE** to help Mator visit more congregations and personally tell of the accomplishments, the hopes and the dreams of our UM University in Liberia, and the work being done to improve our UM schools throughout the country.

***To consult about hosting Mator*** or helping with expenses contact

Rev. Janette Saavedra  
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(Janette will be in LIBERIA at the end of March! But go ahead and email her – she will respond when she has access to wifi.)