



Sister Conferences Connection
The United Methodist Church
Volunteers in Mission

Volunteers in Mission to Mozambique 2011

New York Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church August 6 - 22*

Dedication of Bishop's Residence and Conference Center In Beira, Mozambique Safari at Gorongosa National Park

WHO is a Volunteer in Mission?

A Volunteer In Mission (VIM) is a person who chooses to travel beyond the local church to help others in need as directed by the host United Methodist conference. The VIM movement is the fastest growing and most exciting mission program offered through the United Methodist Church today.

WHERE will we go?

Bishop Nhanala, of Mozambique, has continued the request for the New York Annual Conference to focus on the North Conference. The 2011 trip will be the 15th from our conference to Mozambique.

We will be living, eating, working and worshiping with the people of Mozambique, as we build a community of faith together. Mozambique was a colony of Portugal for centuries until gaining its independence in 1975. Their struggle for independence was immediately followed by a 16 year civil war over control of the country, which left the nation deeply scarred. Still recovering from the war and natural disasters, the people are in desperate need of schools, hospitals, churches and basic human needs.

WHAT will we do?

- Establish cottage industries such as doll making
- Work on construction of Gondola Training Center
- Teach English & computer skills
- Go on a safari at Gorongosa National Park
- Support the Lichinga Farm Project.
- Dedicate the Bishop's Residence and Conference Center

In 2005, we helped to begin construction of an Episcopal residence and conference center, needed because of the rapid growth of Methodism in Mozambique.

Most important is the sharing of ourselves with the Mozambicans. Our presence is more highly valued than our presents!

WHY do we go?

Because they need us, and we need them. The United Methodist Church of Mozambique has many needs, and we can help them. The United Methodist Church of the United States has many needs as well, and we can learn from this experience. All who have participated in this mission program have been changed by their experiences - there is so much to learn as we gather around a common table, to worship and work together. As requested by Bishop Nhanala, the New York Annual Conference and the Mozambique/New York Sister Conferences Connection will continue to focus on the North Conference for the next several years.

WHO should Go?

Whatever your walk in life, there are countless ways to share your time, talent and Christian love with our brothers and sisters in Mozambique. You may be members, lay or clergy, of the New York Annual Conference, or anyone else who feels led to go.

- Anyone interested in mission work.
- Persons looking for personal growth in a unique Christian community.
- College age students seeking career decisions.
- Persons of African-American ancestry who would like to learn more about the continent of their ancestors.
- Pastors wanting to ignite their congregations by learning how the Mozambique conferences have grown six-fold in 15 years.

Applicants must be willing to travel, live and work together side by side for two weeks, including an 18-hour flight from New York to Johannesburg, South Africa.

While a part of current mission project may be of a construction nature, applicants need not be skilled trades people. Everyone lends a hand, but also finds other avenues for their own God given talents. The project is a communication vehicle to show the depth of our commitment to our brothers and sisters in Christ, while our physical presence is a testament to God's love in the world.

All applications must include a \$200 non-refundable deposit, with a check made out to "United Methodist Frontier Foundation."

Team members **must attend team building sessions** scheduled by the Mozambique/New York Sister Conferences Connection to be held at the White Plains NYAC Center **regardless of prior VIM experience.**

Saturday, January 8, 2011 Team Building 1:00 – 3:00 PM (snow date Feb. 12, 2011)

Saturday, March 12, 2011 Team Building 1:00 – 3:00 PM (balance of trip payment due)

Saturday, May 14, 2011 Celebration Luncheon and Team Building 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Saturday, July 23, 2011 Team Building and Packing 1:00 – 3:00 PM White Plains UMC

You are welcome to attend Mozambique Connection meetings to learn more about projects with our sister conference.

WHEN Will We Go?

The 2011 VIM Team is tentatively scheduled to depart from JFK airport on Saturday, August 6 and return Monday, August 22. This is "winter" in Mozambique, with daily highs of 75° - 80° and night-time lows of 60°.

* **dates depend on final flight schedules**

HOW MUCH will this cost?

The cost will be about \$3,800 depending on fluctuation in airfare. This includes your deposit, airfare, housing, most meals, travel and other expenses. It does not include personal expenses. Participants can expect to spend \$400 more by the time you add the cost of immunizations, tips, and meals not covered. Pre and post trip options are available for an additional fee. After the \$200 deposit is paid, the balance of \$3,600 is due on March 12, 2011.

Application Due Date: January 15, 2011 with \$200 non-refundable payment

The balance of \$3,600 is due on March 12, 2011.

NYAC Volunteer in Mission to Mozambique Application 2011

Name _____ Phone _____ email _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Occupation _____ Skills, Hobbies, Talents to share _____

Circle Age Group: Under 18 18-30 31-50 51 and over Were you a VIM prior years? _____

Local Church _____ District _____

Pastor _____ Pastor's Phone _____

Health Limitations _____ Passport # and Expiration Date _____

Send a letter about why you want to go, and a \$200 non-refundable application fee payable to: United Methodist Frontier Foundation.

Mail to: **Annette Griffith, 35 Mountainside Dr., Monroe, CT 06468 on or before Jan. 15, 2011.**

Questions to: annettegriffith@earthlink.net

