

June 7, 2006

Dear Friends:

The 2006 session of Annual Conference was one filled with great joy and excitement. As a conference, we are launching out into new directions and seeking new opportunities to serve the world and be better disciples of Christ. One initiative that I want to draw your attention to is the creation of The HOPE Fund. The HOPE Fund is an endeavor to raise \$1 million by Annual Conference 2008 to bring hope to three areas:

- Rebuilding Gulf Churches
- Supporting the Global AIDS Fund
- Fortifying our Zimbabwe partnership

As disciples of Jesus Christ, it is morally imperative that we do all we can to help those in need. The HOPE Fund, is our concrete response to addressing some of the most poignant issues of our time. To date individuals and lead churches have contributed in excess of \$260,000 to help us get started. It is only with your help that we can achieve our goal. I want to challenge you to consider going the extra mile with me personally and as churches and joining one of the circles of giving:

**Bishop's Circle**

A donation of \$30 or more per worshiper

**Circle of Hope**

A donation of \$20 or more per worshiper

**Circle of Caring**

A donation of \$10 or more per worshiper

Enclosed you will find a brochure describing in more detail the projects that The HOPE Fund will address along with a pledge card for your church. Please return the postage paid reply card to the conference center by July 31<sup>st</sup>.

I want to challenge you to stretch for hope. It is important that we all participate in this historic effort to bring hope to a suffering world. The only way to reach our goal is **100% participation**. Let's go the extra mile together and show the world what true disciples do for those in need.

**HOPE LIVES AS WE GIVE!**

**JOIN THE HOPE FUND!**

Stretching with you,

John R Schol  
Resident Bishop  
Washington Episcopal Area

Daryl L. Williams  
Director of Investments  
United Methodist Foundation