



Annual Conference 2016 Mission Offering



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We're doing so well we can't stop now!



Holston churches are blessing the children in their neighborhood schools with partnerships and new books.

That good news is the reason this year's Annual Conference Missions Offering will once again bless the children in our midst as we support Ministry with Children in Poverty in Holston Conference. Through this past year, our congregations have given generously to change the lives of children in poverty with a total of over \$197,000 so far. Countless hours of service and outreach have been shared to develop relationships with these young lives and to bring new hope and possibility for their future. As Dr. Tammy Pawloski shared with us at the 2015 Annual Conference session, "Poverty matters. You matter more." Thank you, Holston, for assuring that poverty does not have the last word for the children in our communities.

Through April, the mission offering funds have supported 36 grants totaling approximately \$150,000 given to local churches for their ministry with children in poverty. As we continue working toward our goal of \$685,000 or \$10 per average worship attendance, we will have even more funds to support each other's efforts to reach these young lives. Partnerships with schools, with other conference agencies, and with neighboring churches have proven beneficial to expand our efforts.

Our goal of 10 hours of service per average worship attendance also continues into the next conference year. The relationships developed through reading, tutoring, feeding, and encouraging are beginning to bear fruit. As we move through this second year, Holston's churches will certainly continue

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to find ways to share of their time to connect with individual children and their families. You can learn more about our congregation's gifts of \$10 and 10 hours per worship attendance and find ideas for your church at waytogiveholston.org.

This year we will help more of our congregations take the first steps toward school partnerships. Each local church is asked to send a new children's book with every lay and clergy member to Annual Conference June 5-8. These books will be collected and made available for local churches to take home and share as an opening gift to begin a school partnership with their neighborhood schools. Eight award-winning children's books have been selected for us to provide. They will work well in any elementary school library. Your church is asked to choose their books from the following list:

- **Last Stop on Market Street**
– Matt de la Peña
- **Waiting**
– Kevin Henkes
- **Touch the Brightest Star**
– Christie Matheson
- **Finding Winnie: The True Story of the World's Most Famous Bear**
– Lindsay Mattick
- **Mango, Abuela, and Me**
– Meg Medina
- **Extra Yarn**
– Mac Barnett
- **Me, Jane**
– Patrick McDonnell
- **The Night World**
– Mordecai Gernstein



Each Annual Conference member is asked to bring one new book.

Remember, we only need one book per lay and clergy member of Annual Conference. These books will be collected at the Susan Todd Lounge at the Harrell Center at Lake Junaluska. If your church decides to collect more books, we invite you to keep them to offer as a blessing to your local neighborhood school.

Thank you, Holston.

Let's continue to bring it home as we engage in ministry with children in poverty in the Holston Conference.

Together, we share to bless our neighbors.



WaytoGiveHolston.org



Holston Conference of The United Methodist Church
P. O. Box 850 • Alcoa, TN 37701-0850 • 865/690-4080
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