

Report to 2020 Church Conference on the Friendship Fund

The Friendship Fund is a trust established in 1997 to support religious, educational, and charitable purposes. Only the income from the Fund can be distributed at the discretion of the Fund Trustees. That income cannot be used for 'the ordinary and usual expense' of FUMC.

The Fund authorized and distributed over \$1700 since the last church conference, benefitting both local and global organizations, charities, and individuals.

Recipients included, but are not limited to, the following: **Next Generation Ministry in Tanzania**, providing support to a school in Tanzania in an effort to recruit and equip young leadership for ministry and mission in a country with a youthful population and where United Methodists show promise of extensive growth; the **Northern Illinois Food Bank**, as part of the United Methodist Foundation of Northern Illinois Conference 'United Methodists Feeding Neighbors' program; **Midwest Mission Distribution Center** in its fight against the pandemic supporting indigenous peoples in Arizona.

Before year end, we will contribute to **Heart Haven Outreach**, a local organization that supports at risk youth; and **Northern Illinois Justice for Our Neighbors**, an organization that provides free high-quality legal services to low-income immigrants, engages in education and advocacy efforts and builds cross-cultural relationships.

In 2021, the Friendship Fund will strive to be more proactive in our giving, taking direction from the church to actively seek organizations in which to donate.