

OFFERINGS AT ANNUAL CONFERENCE
Annual Conference Offerings 2008
New Mexico/Northwest Texas Annual Conference Joint Session

There will be four offerings taken at Annual Conference this year. Each offering will be counted and distributed to the recipients giving equal credit to both the New Mexico and Northwest Annual Conference for the donations.

Lydia Patterson Student Scholarships: Lydia Patterson Institute, located in El Paso, Texas is one of the institutions supported by the churches of the South Central Jurisdiction of the United Methodist Church, of which both the New Mexico and Northwest Texas Annual Conferences are members. Lydia Patterson provides excellent secondary school education for students in the El Paso/Juarez area. An increasing number of graduates of Lydia Patterson are going on for college/vocational educational opportunities. Our offering will provide needed funds for student scholarships at Lydia Patterson. This offering will be received at Tuesday's opening worship service.

National cause: United Methodist Committee on Relief – Domestic Disaster relief: When disaster strikes, the local church usually provides the first response. This basic understanding – that disaster response is local - helps form a foundation for UMCOR's national training and response. UMCOR has a corps of trained disaster response specialists who deploy quickly to reinforce local efforts. In addition to offering technical assistance, they provide vital support, and keep local responders from feeling overwhelmed. UMCOR is recognized nationally as a leader in disaster case management. UMCOR provides training and personnel to local communities to help define the need for a case management system within long-term recovery. UMCOR helps communities establish a case management system, providing forms and computer software that help local leaders manage individual cases. Given all the natural disasters that have touched the lives of so many in our country, our offering will go a long way to support recovery efforts. This offering will be received at the Tuesday evening worship service.

McMurry University Student Ministries: McMurry University in Abilene, TX is owned by the New Mexico and Northwest Texas Annual Conferences. The student ministries program has been enhanced greatly over the past several years by the work of the Rev. Tim Kennedy, a New Mexico Conference Pastor serving as Chaplain at McMurry. Funding through McMurry for Student Ministries has not grown with the program. The offering at Wednesday's Ordination Service will give needed assistance to the Student Ministries program at McMurry.

Nothing But Nets Campaign: Each year over 1 million children in Africa die from the effects of Malaria. The United Methodist Church has partnered with groups like the National Basketball Association, the United Nations Foundation, the Bill and Melissa Gates Foundation and others in a worldwide effort to deliver as many treated mosquito nets to families in Africa as possible. To date over 1.8 million nets have been delivered, but the need is still great. Because the United Methodist Church has a significant missionary base in Africa, we have been able to provide much of the distribution system for purchased nets. \$10 purchases a treated net delivered to a family in Africa. This offering will be received at the Thursday evening worship service.