



2013 Healthy Families, Healthy Planet Ambassador Advocacy Training Information and Application

The Project

Started in 2010 through the support of a grant from the United Nations Foundation, the Healthy Families, Healthy Planet project, an initiative of The United Methodist General Board of Church & Society, works to mobilize U.S. United Methodists on the importance of **maternal health and international family planning**. Through grassroots education with targeted annual conferences and advocacy efforts with policy makers, the goal of the initiative is **to achieve higher levels of foreign aid for international family planning through the U.S. government**.

Why family planning? Every two minutes somewhere in the world a woman dies from complications during pregnancy or childbirth. More than 222 million women desire to practice healthy birth spacing, but they lack access to the information and services that would empower them to do so. Family planning is critical to saving the lives of women and their children, and creating sustainable families and communities.

The Training

In response to God's call to care for the least of these, the *Healthy Families, Healthy Planet* Ambassador Advocacy Training is designed to bring together advocates from across the United States mobilize for a healthier world for mothers and their children. Since 2011, we have trained more than 75 Ambassadors across the United States. This year we will host our fourth advocacy training **October 27-30, 2013 in Washington, D.C.**

Together with health professionals, policy makers, and grassroots organizers, advocates will:

1. Learn the statistics and stories of global maternal health, maternal mortality, and the unmet need for family planning worldwide;
2. Train in effective grassroots and legislative advocacy from a faith-based perspective;
3. Develop advocacy skills and strategies for maternal health and international family planning within their communities;
4. Implement legislative advocacy with key policy makers on Capitol Hill;
5. Design action plans for at-home advocacy upon completion of the training.

All faith leaders in the continental United States are eligible for participation. An application can be found at the end of this document. Travel and lodging costs will be paid for by the project.

Selection Process

Healthy Families, Healthy Planet staff will review all applications and notify applicants of their acceptance by August 15, 2013. Strong preference will be given to applicants who demonstrate passion for maternal health advocacy, experience with organizing, thoughtful theological reflection, willingness to serve as a volunteer Ambassador for the project after the training, and strong communication skills.

Want to be a voice for women and children around the globe? Please visit www.umchealthyfamilies.org or send an email to info@umchealthyfamilies.org for more information.



Healthy Families, Healthy Planet Advocacy Colloquium Application

Title	_____	Name	_____
Annual Conference	_____	Church	_____
Mailing Address	_____		
City, State	_____	9-Digit Zip	_____
Phone (Home/Office)	_____	Cell	_____
Email	_____		

Ambassadors who attend our advocacy trainings serve as key volunteers out in their states, communities, conferences, and churches. After attending the training, each Ambassador will be expected to do the following:

- Participate in bi-monthly Ambassador check-in calls
- Hold at least one in-district meeting with either one's Representative or Senator within one year;
- Hold at least one letter-writing advocacy campaign within one year;
- Plan at least one educational event within six months.

Please check here if you understand the responsibilities of being an Ambassador and are willing to carry out the tasks outlined above.

Why are you interested in advocating for global maternal health and family planning?

Why do you think global maternal health and family planning are important issues for the Church?

Skills and Experience

With what issues are you familiar? Please check all that apply.

Global Health
Women's Health
Maternal Health
Family Planning
Obstetric Fistula

United States Federal Budget
U.S. Foreign Assistance
Global Gag Rule (Mexico City Policy)
United Nations
United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)



United Nations Commission on Population and Development
Millennium Development Goals
Structure of The United Methodist Church
General Board of Church & Society

General Board of Global Ministries
United Methodist Committee on Relief
United Methodist Women

On a scale of 1-10 (1 being not at all experienced and 10 being extremely experienced), how would you rate yourself on the following skills and experiences?

Speaking/preaching
Writing
Teaching
Strategic Planning
Event Planning

Movement Building
Legislative Advocacy
Relationship Building
Online Organizing
Social Media

We seek to train advocates who will help deepen and grow the movement for maternal health and family planning in The United Methodist Church and in the world. What groups could you mobilize around this issue? What other partners could you bring to the table?

What are the issues/priorities of your church and/or community, and how might you connect maternal health and family planning to them?



Do you have connections with any of the following? Check all that apply.

Conference Leadership of United Methodist Women

Conference Media/Communications

Bishop's Office

Conference Board of Church & Society

Please list one reference who can speak to your experience and interest in this training.

Name

Relationship

Phone

Email

Please attach resume, CV, or a short description of your work history, volunteerism, and leadership positions.

Completed forms should be sent via email to Project Director Katey Zeh at kzeh@umc-gbcs.org no later than July 15, 2013. Selections will be made by August 15.