

Dear Bishop Oliveto,

You and the leadership of the Mountain Sky Annual Conference are in my thoughts and prayers as you prepare, again, for an unusual annual conference season. I realize that you will have a great deal to discuss at this year's gathering, whether you plan to meet in person or virtually.

As the new General Secretary of Global Ministries and UMCOR, I would welcome the opportunity to join you virtually or by video to share brief remarks about the work of the church in mission. It would be our pleasure, for example, to recognize the Mountain Sky Conference for its continued commitment to *Missio Dei*—God's mission with an Advance award. Your conference alone is credited with supporting 11 missionaries and contributing \$127,743 through the Advance in 2020, more than any other annual conference. This, indeed, is something to celebrate!

In addition, Global Ministries has available videos of varying lengths that can be shared at your plenary sessions, workshops, mission luncheons and during voting periods or breaks. These videos highlight the work of The United Methodist Church in global mission and humanitarian service.

Mary Lou Greenwood Boice, Director of Communications and the Advance, is coordinating our outreach to Annual Conferences this year. She or another member of our Senior Leadership Team will reach out to arrange for a speaker or videos that will enhance your Annual Conference session. If you wish to reach out to her directly, she can be reached at mboice@umcmision.org or 770-625-7795.

These are challenging times and I marvel at the church's ability to find new ways to be in mission and ministry together. This is truly evidence of God's transforming power!

In Service Together,



Roland Fernandes
General Secretary, Global Ministries and UMCOR