



H.O.P.E.

HOLMAN **O**RGANIZED FOR **P**EOPLE **E**MPowerMENT

H.O.P.E. MISSION STATEMENT

“My body is the temple of the Living God.
God’s Spirit breathes life in and through me.
God’s life restores my health.
God’s joy gives me strength.
God’s energy renews me.”

The present mission of H.O.P.E. is to reach out to the Holman family and community at large by addressing issues that affect the well being of individuals. Our task is to offer an HIV / AIDS ministry that will raise awareness, educate the people as to the facts and empower them to join in the work at hand, and offer programs that will nurture and support individuals as they move forward in healing, thereby strengthening their hope and faith for the journey. As we commit ourselves to each other, let us remember the promise of God in Jeremiah 29:10-11, ...

*But then I will come and do for you all the good things I have promised,
and bring you home again. For I know the plans I have for you, saith the Lord.
They are plans for good and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.*

MEETING TIME:

Second Tuesday, 7:00 p.m. at Holman

H.O.P.E. Organized

Holman Organized for People Empowerment (H.O.P.E.) was established under the pastorship of Rev. James M. Lawson, Jr. as an umbrella ministry area of Holman United Methodist Church. The mission of this ministry area at that time was to coordinate with committee chairs of Religion and Race, Peace and Justice, Church and Society, Status and Role of Women, Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns to plan collective action to advance Holman’s social justice ministry.

The goals of H.O.P.E. were to (a) develop a list of social justice issues for members to pursue through the different committees with H.O.P.E.; (b) survey the congregation on issues of justice; (c) support each committee within H.O.P.E. to become operational; (d) implement program ideas of representative from the various committees; and (e) increase the congregations awareness of criminal justice issues and reform of the system.

HIV / AIDS Becomes Focus of this Ministry

In or about 2000, under the interim pastorship of Rev. Paul A. Hill, H.O.P.E. was reconfigured as a separate ministry area onto itself. George and Anna Gant were recruited to chair this ministry, with the plan of beginning a new work for H.O.P.E. The Gants participated in a special *Empowerment Journey* at Glide Memorial United Methodist Church in San Francisco, California. This event brought together congregations from across the country, and provided the opportunity to see and work in the various programs that Glide has to offer, including Housing, School, Meals are served seven days a week, three times a day, Recovery Groups, Anger Management Classes etc.

In 2001, after Rev. Henry L. Masters, Sr. became the new Senior Pastor, it was part of his vision that Holman should have a ministry focused on HIV / AIDS. The Gants enlisted the help of other members of Holman and together began this important work. At present there are over 15 active members of H.O.P.E., with Claudia Spears and Joni Arlain taking over the helm in January, 2006.

United Methodist Church Stand on HIV / AIDS

In the United Methodist Church, "*the **HIV / AIDS Ministries Network** and **Covenant to Care** program were launched in 1989 by Health and Welfare Ministries, General Board of Global Ministries.*

HIV / AIDS poses one of the most significant health risks of our time. Many United Methodists have been in the forefront of ministry with persons living with HIV and AIDS in the United States and around the world.

*A **Covenant to Care congregation** publicly declares that people with HIV / AIDS and their loved ones are welcome in all facets of the church's life, leadership and ministry. We show Christian hospitality. Hospitality to all of God's children is the message of the Good News which Jesus brought and challenged the church to live."*

Additionally, the UMC Social Principles, 162.S states: *All individuals living with HIV and AIDS should be treated with dignity and respect . . . We urge the church to be actively involved in the prevention of the spread of AIDS by providing educational opportunities to the congregation and the community. What greater testimony can we have than to point out in our Annual Conference reports in June that the Holman congregation sponsored an HIV / AIDS Testing Sunday.*

Goal of H.O.P.E.

Since 2001, Holman's H.O.P.E. ministry has been diligent in its work to bring awareness and education to the Holman congregation and the community-at-large on the issues of HIV / AIDS, and to help to create dialogue and action on the issues in order to reduce the spread of the Epidemic in the Black Community.

H.O.P.E. Relationship with OUTREACH MINISTRIES

H.O.P.E. is one of twelve (12) ministry areas under the Outreach Ministries umbrella. The Outreach Ministries at Holman exist “to bring to the people of Los Angeles community hope-filled, Christ-inspired responses with passion to urban needs.” H.O.P.E. is committed to that mission.

H.O.P.E. Activities

- a. First Sunday of the month – H.O.P.E. display table set up with educational and informational material regarding HIV / AIDS. H.O.P.E. committee members available to answer questions and/or provide resources that can address issues and concerns related to HIV / AIDS.
- b. Provide announcement in Bellringer (church newsletter), published 1st Sunday of every month, regarding current HIV/AIDS statistics / facts.
- c. H.O.P.E. spearheads observation at Holman of HIV/AIDS awareness days

HIV / AIDS AWARENESS DAYS

February 7	National Black HIV / AIDS Awareness Day
March	The National Week of Prayer for the Healing of AIDS – organized by Balm in Gilead (<i>first week in March</i>)
March 10	National Women and Girls HIV / AIDS Awareness Day
June 27	National HIV Testing Day
December 1	World AIDS Day