

HPUMC UMW ANNOUNCES 2019 RECIPIENT OF SPIRIT OF MISSION GEORGIA BATES AWARD

United Methodist Women of Highland Park United Methodist Church is pleased to present Lisa Tichenor with the 2019 Spirit of Mission: Georgia Bates Award. Sponsored by HPUMC UMW, the Georgia Bates Award is an annual award honoring a woman from our congregation who has made a significant and lasting contribution to missions.

In 1988, Lisa Tichenor was introduced to a new initiative of the United Methodist Church: the creation of the first Methodist institution of higher learning on the continent of Africa. Lisa's interest in the initiative led her to join the founding advisory development committee of what would become Africa University. Throughout the 30 years since then, Lisa has been an advisor and advocate for AU and continues to serve on the university's Board of Governors.

Lisa was instrumental in spreading the word about Africa University to congregations in the South Central Jurisdiction (Texas, New Mexico, Louisiana, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Kansas, Missouri and Nebraska), connecting churches and members directly with the school. She has led a number of initiatives to raise funds for capital projects and scholarships. In 2007, Lisa co-chaired the North Texas Conference effort to raise funds for a health clinic on the campus of Africa University and scholarships for AU students. She has helped HPUMC support the construction of a large intramural sport court and annual scholarships. In conjunction with the "Beyond Campaign," Lisa is overseeing HPUMC's initiative to expand the campus by adding a new dorm and student center.

With support from Methodist churches and leaders like Lisa, Africa University has grown to become a premier university with over 1,800 students from 25 different African nations. AU now offers 50 cutting-edge undergraduate and graduate programs with a student body that is 54 percent female, a remarkable statistic for that part of the world. Its 6,000+ graduates are impacting the continent in the fields of education, agriculture, business, government and religion.

In addition to her work with Africa University, Lisa has served the United Methodist Church as a member of the Board of the Methodist Children's Home for 18 years, as chair of the HPUMC Church Council, and as a delegate to both the Jurisdictional Conference and the General Conference. Lisa and her husband Mac taught Sunday school from elementary to high school and served as Confirmation leaders. With their sons Taylor and Willie, they participated in many youth retreats and mission trips.

Lisa and Mac founded the QuadW Foundation in memory of their son, Willie. The QuadW Foundation provides support to people and organizations pursuing innovative ideas in the areas of higher education, sarcoma research, and personally transforming mission experiences. One of their programs, the QuadW Mission Internship Summer Program, places college students in charge of programs for high-risk children, assisting senior citizens, and helping refugee populations adjust and integrate into the U.S. The Tichenor family has been long-time supporters of Carpenters for Christ. In memory of Willie and as a reflection of his love for Carpenters for Christ, the Tichenors partnered with Carpenters for Christ to build homes in events known as the "WillieBuild" campaign. Families literally have homes due to the generosity of the Tichenors.

Please join UMW for the 2019 Spirit of Mission: Georgia Bates Award Luncheon on May 13, 2019 from 11:30am – 1:00pm in the Great Hall at Highland Park United Methodist Church, as we honor Lisa and celebrate Methodist women in mission.