



Grace Musuka
Zimbabwe



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Grace Musuka was commissioned in 2012 to serve as the Regional Missionary for women, children, and youth in Central Africa. A native of Zimbabwe, her assignment includes leadership training, skills building, and economic empowerment. Regional Missionaries are selected and supported by United Women in Faith women and placed in collaboration with the church's General Board of Global Ministries. Grace is based in Harare, Zimbabwe.

Grace engages in leadership training for women in Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Malawi, and Zimbabwe. The program's objective is to empower women to gain competence and skills through leadership development. She is especially proud of her work training women, a majority of whom are young adults. One of her primary goals is to provide opportunities and training to support young people and women as they gain confidence and skills to become leaders in their church and communities.

Grace served as leader for the global Training for Transformation seminars for United Women in Faith and is a member of the Zimbabwe country team working in collaboration with local women leaders. Grace believes strongly in women's empowerment and stated, "When women's leadership skills are improved, they are thereof enabled to inform and increase Christian love in their families, church, communities, countries, and even the world. I am committed to helping women grow through their experience in Christ. Through the activities supported by United Women in Faith, women are enabled to improve their family incomes, place food on their tables, send their children to school, and take leadership positions."

Beginning her professional career as a primary school teacher, Grace has worked for many years as a lecturer through the Zimbabwean ministry of higher education. She has also worked as the women's work coordinator for the Zimbabwe East Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church. Grace holds a certificate from Nyadire United Methodist Church Teacher's College in Mutoko, Zimbabwe, and a Bachelor of Arts degree in home economics and biology from Drury University in Springfield, Missouri. In 1998, she trained as food service supervisor in the Ministry of Health in Zimbabwe.

Grace says that her faith journey has been shaped by "... family, prayer, quiet time, reciting and memorizing Bible verses and reading the Bible, participating in community work, singing in the church choir, and teaching Sunday school." She believes, "Through Christ, all things are possible."

Grace and her husband Peter have two adult married sons and three grandchildren.



Andrea Reily Rocha Soares
Latin America



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Andrea Reily Rocha Soares was commissioned in October 2015 and serves as a Regional Missionary for leadership development with women in Latin America. Regional Missionaries are selected and supported by United Women in Faith women and placed in collaboration with the church's General Board of Global Ministries.

The Regional Missionary program was launched in 2000 to support leadership and organizational development of ministries among women, children, and youth in broad areas. Andrea serves as the main connection to the national office of United Women in Faith on empowerment and gender issues throughout Latin America.

Andrea is a native of Ribeirão Preto, Brazil. Prior to entering mission service, she was assistant pastor of the Central Methodist Church in Birigui, Brazil, and after November 2015, an elder in the Methodist Church in Brazil. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in religion and Spanish Cultural Studies from Emory & Henry College in Virginia, a bachelor's degree in theology from the Methodist University of São Paulo, and a Master of Divinity degree in mission studies from Boston University School of Theology. Andrea has worked as an English teacher and an interim pastor in Ribeirão Preto.

Born into a home with a Brazilian Catholic father and an American Protestant mother, Andrea was surrounded by Christian love, baptized as an infant, and became a member of the Methodist Church in Brazil at age 14. Her faith journey, she states, has been one of discovery of "who God is and who I am. It has been a voyage of learning to love, hope, and have faith—a journey of living out the extraordinary, of encountering the divine."

Andrea's journey included living in Brazil, Chile, Northern Ireland, England, and the United States. She is a citizen of both Brazil and the U.S. Her personal and spiritual search led to her discovery of mission. In college, she developed an interest in religious studies and in teaching. "After four years in college, my sense of inner call to mission service continued to be confirmed on a regular basis," she recalls.

Andrea says a "little spark of God's grace" led her to seminary. In those years, she worked with immigrant church communities and did internships with faith-based social organizations in London. For many years she prepared for mission service, taking in all the experiences she could in various settings and contexts, constantly searching for experiences to get her ready for new paths and doors to God's reign.

Andrea resides in her home country of Brazil with husband Heber Sanches Soares and young daughter.



Emma Cantor
East Asia and Pacific Islands



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Emma Cantor is an International Missioner with Women, Children, and Youth with the General Board of Global Ministries of The United Methodist Church. She is assigned to the East Asia/Pacific region to facilitate gender training and leadership development.

A native of the Cagayan Valley, Philippines, Emma earned a BA degree in Christian education from Harris Memorial College and an MA in women and religion from St. Scholastica's College/Institute. She completed further studies in feminist theology through St. Scholastica's Office of Formation and Religious Studies.

Following completion of her BA degree, Emma administered documentation for the library of the Institute of Religion and Culture in Quezon City, Philippines. She then became program coordinator of the women's desk for the National Council of Churches in the Philippines (NCCP). Most recently, she was executive secretary for the Board of Women's Work in Manila.

Growing up in a poor family with 10 brothers and sisters, Emma says she learned values of "communal living, sharing in the midst of poverty, listening, being honest, kind and sensitive to the needs of others" and the "value of perseverance to pursue an education." She adds, "The church played a deep role in my development." From her work in ecumenical organizations, she says she became aware of "social issues and struggles of different sectors of the Filipino people and the Philippine society as a whole." She also learned about the suffering of women in various settings, including victims of prostitution and other forms of trafficking.

Ms. Cantor is a member of the Church of the Risen Lord in Quezon City. She is married to Joselito Orate, and they have one daughter, Johanna.



Finda Quiwa
Liberia



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Finda Quiwa's work as a Regional Missionary with United Women in Faith began in 2008 when she created a pan-African youth network serving United Methodist youth and young women throughout Sub-Saharan Africa. Regional Missionaries are selected and supported by United Women in Faith women and placed in collaboration with the church's General Board of Global Ministries. A Sierra Leonean from the Eastern Region, Finda is based in Freetown, Sierra Leone.

Currently, Finda's work centers on the women and youth of Liberia where she works with local women leaders as a vital part of the Liberian country team. There, she heads leadership trainings, empowers women economically, and helps build skills for sustainability. "I've charged myself to take up the challenge of helping people," Finda says. "Leadership development identifies potential leaders who are capable of navigating through challenges... Leadership development programs have proven to be substantial in improving organizations... Women leaders make informed decisions and enhance positive engagement." Finda also serves as a liaison with regional and ecumenical partners. As such, she builds alliances and collaborates with local organizations developing trainings and supports for women, children, and youth.

As the first African to serve with the General Board of Global Ministries' Global Justice Volunteers (GJV) program, Finda was placed in Hong Kong working with migrant women workers from the Philippines, Indonesia, Nepal, and Sri Lanka. Finda saw firsthand the injustices of sexism, racism, and other inhuman treatment. "I returned home with the conviction and commitment to do my best in making sure women and children get a better place in Africa." In addition, she served as the coordinator for the GJV Africa Pilot Program along with working with youth and young adult programs in Africa with The United Methodist Church.

At Fourah Bay College at the University of Sierra Leone, Finda earned her Bachelor of Social Sciences and Law degrees, majoring in Accounting and Finance. She received certification in management and administration from the Graduate School of Management in London at the Ghana campus. Finda has also completed studies in design, management, and evaluation of community-based HIV/AIDS programs through Global Health Action. She has attended numerous seminars in Europe, Africa, and the United States addressing issues of equity and justice. She has been a leader for the global Training for Transformation seminars for United Women in Faith.

Finda is a member of Bishop Baughman Memorial United Methodist Church, Sierra Leone Annual Conference, West Africa Central Conference. She is married to Mr. Aiah Quiwa with whom she shares many children, both biological and adopted. According to Finda, doing God's work is what she always longs for and is always willing to do. She seeks to fulfill God's mission with God's people.



Frieda Mwebe Mofya
Democratic Republic of the Congo



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Frieda Mwebe Mofya is a United Methodist missionary serving as the regional missionary for Africa (Francophone) in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Regional missionaries are selected and supported by United Women in Faith women and placed in collaboration with the church's General Board of Global Ministries.

Frieda was consecrated as a deaconess (1998) in Kinshasa, DRC, and as an elder (2019) by Koinonia Ministries in Nairobi, Kenya.

Earning a Bachelor of Arts with honors in development studies from the University of South Africa, Pretoria, and a Bachelor of Arts in English and African culture from the National University of Applied Pedagogy, Frieda studied peaceful conflict reconciliation and participated in training required to work in humanitarian action.

Frieda's resume includes a variety of positions with World Vision International, beginning in 2000. Most recently she served as global child protection senior advisor.

Born into a Christian family, Frieda decided at age 14 to let Jesus Christ lead her life. "I got baptized the same year," she said, "just before I joined the boarding school. I started immediately sharing the good news among friends and other teenagers in my community. The joy of salvation made me serve the Lord among elderly people and youth. In school, I was sharing the word of God, singing in the choir, and particularly helping sick girls in the boarding school with laundry, and liaising with the school kitchen to ensure food was served appropriately while they were under treatment."

After completing secondary school, Frieda joined the university chapel in 1991 and served as a Sunday school teacher, as an evangelist trained through Campus Crusade for Christ and in the Hospital Biblical Group, the university chapel ministry, with neurology and psychiatric patients. "I was ordained deacon for the university chapel," she recalled, "and was among students sent to support Christian schools to facilitate Bible camps during school holiday."

After completing university studies, Frieda returned to her home church, where she taught Sunday school and participated in the young women's group. Then she joined Koinonia Ministries, serving God in Nairobi slums. "We ministered to caregivers/parents of children with special needs once a week as part of our outreach ministry," she said. Frieda shared God's word with young mothers and advised them on infant care and protection.

God's love, presence, and faithfulness, she said, have strengthened her faith journey. She finds hope in God's unshakable love in Christ, God's word, prayer and sharing God's love. Frieda first felt called to mission while on holiday with her husband in Zanzibar during Ramadan.

"We devoted some time every morning to seek God's direction in our journey," she said, "asking God to lead our next step and show us how we could better serve others. One morning, after we prayed and read the Bible, we were led to go out and to give money to someone. We saw a woman sitting along the road. I looked at her, she looked at us and my husband looked at me." After receiving the money, the woman said she had had nothing to cook for her grandchildren. Returning to the hotel, they praised God.

After the death of her husband, Frieda resigned from her job and sought new ways to help children. "I have a desire to support any work that would result in changing and empowering children," she said. "The Lord opened my eyes to the ministry to caregivers and parents of children with special needs and the one of young mothers. I found joy and satisfaction when working with these two groups, and Bishop Mande Muyombo (North Katanga Episcopal Area) advised me to apply for missionary work. It is with lots of excitement and with a grateful heart that I embrace God's call to do what God has been leading me to do."



Elmira I. Sellu
Sierra Leone



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Elmira I. Sellu is a United Methodist missionary serving as Regional Missionary with women, children, and youth. Based in Sierra Leone, Elmira coordinates United Women in Faith's leadership development programs for women in the West Africa Central Conference and the East Africa Annual Conference. She has been a United Women in Faith Regional Missionary since October 2000, when the program was initiated.

Regional Missionaries are selected and supported by United Women in Faith and placed in collaboration with the General Board of Global Ministries.

A native of Sierra Leone, Elmira and her family were forced to leave their home country during the civil unrest in 1997 and fled to neighboring Guinea. Her own experiences during that time had an impact not only on her own life but also on the women with whom she lived. She reflects, "As a refugee I was able to mobilize women refugees in Conakry, Guinea. Small-scale business enterprises were started and that changed the lives of many women."

Elmira has been coordinator of leadership development for women in the East Africa Annual Conference since 1999, based first in Nairobi, Kenya, and later in Kampala, Uganda. In Nairobi, she says, "I was able to cater for refugee school children living in Nairobi who otherwise would be out of school today. Also, during the practical session of one of my workshops we were able to detect three women who were living with breast cancer without knowing it. Treatment was given on time and danger averted."

Describing her work in Kenya, Elmira shared, "I hold workshops/seminars on leadership development and on current issues that affect the lives of women and children, such as HIV/AIDS, women and children's health, child survival and development, violence against women, the girl child in Africa, environmental issues, and peace education. I also work in the area of poverty alleviation for women through the initiating of and the ensuring of effective management and sustainability of income generating projects. Networking and advocacy with other women's organizations are also part of what I do."

Elmira earned a diploma in women's leadership in 1994 from the Mindolo Ecumenical Foundation in Kitwe, Zambia; a certification as a Higher Teacher in 1975 from Milton Margai Teacher's College in Sierra Leone; and a Bachelor of Arts in Human and Social Studies from the University of South Africa in 2013. She has also served as the vice president of the West Africa Area of the World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women.

"United Women in Faith's Mission Giving has over the years helped empower women economically and has helped them become good leaders," says Elmira. "Through Mission Giving, women have started their own businesses for self-reliance and many have been successful. Also, in times of distress, when the women are down and out, like during the Ebola pandemic and during the COVID-19 pandemic, Mission Giving has helped cushion the impact of these pandemics on women."

Elmira was married to the late Abraham Kai Sellu, and has three adult children: Wuyatta (deceased), Elmira, and Abraham, Jr.