

# The Hannah Project

Sponsored by the Center for Clergy Excellence of the Florida Conference UMC

The Hannah Project celebrates local churches that, like Hannah (the mother of the prophet Samuel) dedicate and send people into God's service. Specifically, we hope that every local church would create a culture of calling that lifts up licensed and ordained ministry in such a way that our children, youth, and adults hear and respond to God's call. Therefore, each congregation is challenged to participate in this program. Churches that meet all six of the standards will be recognized at Annual Conference.

## 1. Celebrate a Call To Ministry Sunday.

Build a worship service around the call to licensed and ordained ministry. Invite people to respond to the invitation to consider ministry as a career. These worship resources may give you some ideas, but are not required.

Click Here for: *Resources for Ordained Ministry Sunday*

<http://www.cor.org/worship-sermons/sermon-archives/show/sermons/Whom-Shall-I-Send>

## 2. Adopt a Seminary Student.

Choose a seminary student from your congregation or contact the Center for Clergy Excellence to be matched with a student. Adoption activities may include sending greeting cards for birthdays and holidays, care packages during finals, financial contributions, etc.

Email Emily Oliver at [emily.oliver@flumc.org](mailto:emily.oliver@flumc.org) to be matched with a seminary student to adopt.

## 3. Conference Seminary Scholarship Endowment.

Receive an offering for the Conference Seminary Scholarship Endowment, either on your Call to Ministry Sunday or at another time. This offering will create scholarships for students from the Florida Conference who are in seminary and pursuing ordained ministry.

OR

## Sponsor a Young Adult to attend Exploration 2011.

Exploration is a national event sponsored by GBHEM, to help young adults ages 18-26 explore a call to ministry. The event is held every two years. Exploration 2011 will be on November 11<sup>th</sup> in St. Louis, MO. The cost to sponsor an attendee's registration is \$175.

*Checks for Exploration and for the Scholarship Endowment should be made payable to the Florida Conference Treasurer, and mailed to the Center for Clergy Excellence, 450 Martin Luther King Jr. Ave., Lakeland, FL 33815. List "Exploration" or "Scholarship Endowment" in the memo line.*

## 4. Focus on Calling in Children's Ministry.

Spend at least one session in your Children's Ministry (Sunday School or another program) focusing on the theme of calling, including ministry as a career as one possible calling. We have a sample lesson for use available from United Methodist Church of the Resurrection; email [emily.oliver@flumc.org](mailto:emily.oliver@flumc.org) to receive it.

## 5. Focus on Calling in Youth Ministry.

Spend at least one session in your Youth Ministry (Sunday School, UMYF, or another program) focusing on the theme of calling, including ministry as a career as one possible calling.

## 6. MEF Apportionment Paid 100%.

In order to be eligible for this award, your church must have paid the Ministerial Education Fund apportionment at 100%.

*If you have questions, please contact Rev. Emily Oliver in the Center for Clergy Excellence:*  
[emily.oliver@flumc.org](mailto:emily.oliver@flumc.org) or 863.688.5563 ext. 104