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**ENCOUNTER WITH CHRIST IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN  
(Permanent Fund 025100 of the General Board of Global Ministries)**

**Resolution**

**Financial Implications: None**

**MARCHA (Methodists Associated Representing the Cause of Hispanic Americans)**

Whereas, Methodist churches of Latin America and the Caribbean have extraordinary gifts and opportunities for mission and ministry, with many experiencing marked numerical growth and renewed vitality in witnessing to God's redemptive work through Jesus Christ, our Lord; and

Whereas, many of these churches are struggling with severe financial problems rooted in the massive poverty that besets the majority of peoples of this region of the world; and

Whereas, Methodist churches from Latin America and the Caribbean seek to be involved more faithfully with the reality of each country where they are called to witness to the Gospel; and

Whereas, the churches represented by the Council of Evangelical Methodist Churches in Latin America and the Caribbean (CIEMAL) and the Methodist Church of the Caribbean and the Americas (MCCA) urgently need the solidarity of sisters and brothers who will be in partnership with them in supporting new church development, evangelistic initiatives, and programs that nurture justice ministries and respect for all persons; and

Whereas, interest monies from the Encounter with Christ Permanent Fund(025100 of the General Board of Global Ministries) has provided partnership funding for twenty-four mission outreach initiatives in fourteen churches of the Latin America/Caribbean region during the last two years; and

Whereas, many of these colleague churches are being led to make costly new commitments in order to strengthen their solidarity and faithful ministry, especially with children, women and youth;

Therefore, be it resolved that MARCHA petitions The United Methodist Church to continue to support the Encounter with Christ Permanent Fund, a designated giving channel providing a special means for current and deferred giving on behalf of mission partnership with the Methodist Churches of Latin America and the Caribbean.

**Submitted by MARCHA**

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